

Research to Understand Systems of Housing (RUSH): Feasibility & Acceptability of Aligning Systems for Fathers

Strategies to Achieve Alignment, Collaboration and Synergy across Delivery and Financing Systems

Research-in-Progress Webinar
April 10, 2024
12pm ET

colorado school of
public health

Welcome: Carrington Lott, Systems for Action

Presenters: Dr. Latrice Rollins, Thomas Cotton, & Lease Youmans

Commentary: Chris White

Q&A: Systems for Action

Presenter: Latrice Rollins, PhD, MSW

Dr. Rollins serves as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the RUSH Project. She is the PI and Co-Investigator for several Federal, State and locally-funded research, training, and service initiatives, with 15 years of research and evaluation experience.

Dr. Rollins is an Assistant Professor at Morehouse School of Medicine in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and Prevention Research Center. She is also the lead convener for Fathers Matter ATL.

She is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader and seeks to advance health equity for African American fathers. Dr. Rollins is also the editor of a book on engaging and working with African American fathers.



NAACFRC
National African American Child
and Family Research Center



Presenter:

Thomas C. Cotton III

Thomas Cotton is a trailblazer dedicated to disrupting the cycle of incarceration and poverty, with over 25 years of supporting people to overcome life barriers to thrive. As the visionary behind two influential entities, Redemption & Advancement Alliance, Inc. and Next Level Freedom, LLC, he continues to leave a lasting mark on the field.

Mr. Cotton is a leader and an author, having penned the transformative curriculum known as Rethink Lyfe, which nurtures the individual. His core belief centers on emphasizing the capacity for growth when the mindset is reshaped and strengths are developed.

Mr. Cotton is a sought-after expert in institutions, including universities, churches, and boards. He graduated from Morehouse School of Medicine with a master's degree in Justice-Involved Care.

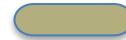
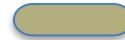
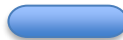
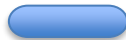


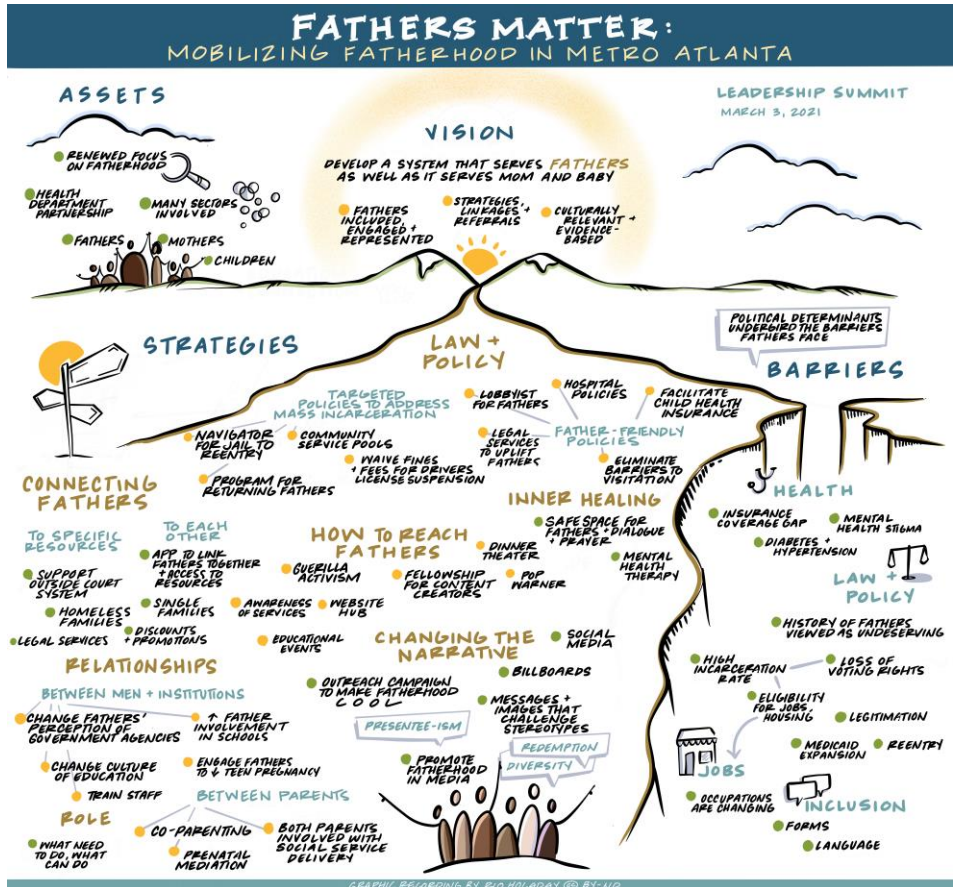
Presenter: Lease Youmans



Lease Youmans is the Founder and CEO of Our Change Gon Come & Administrative Assistant for RAA. She serves as the Project Coordinator. Lease Youmans is a Life Evolution Coach, mentor, author, business consultant, artist, and speaker.

She is a graduate of the MSM Justice-Involved Care Life Coach Certificate program. She is a co-lead for the Addressing Mass Incarceration Strategy of Fathers Matter ATL. Ms. Youmans also has a background in accounting.



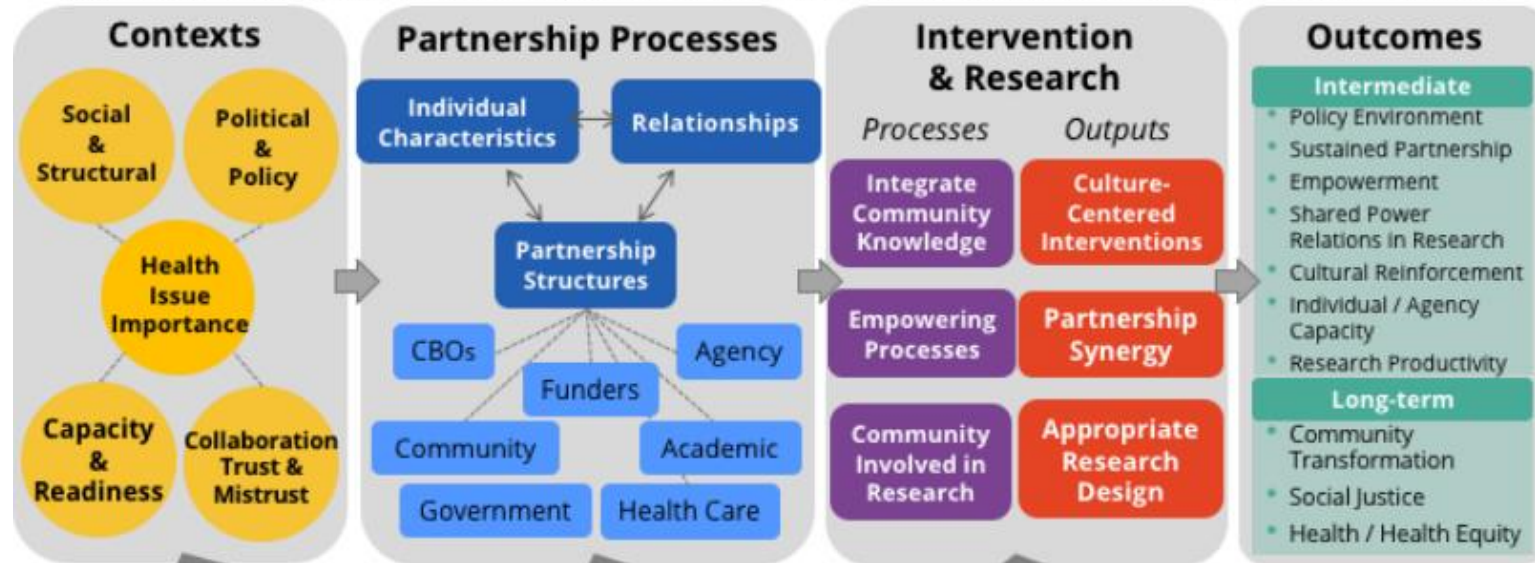


- African Americans make up 13% of the general population, but more than 40% of those experiencing homelessness.
- Although services and policies addressing homelessness in the United States continue to expand, fathers experiencing homelessness remain an underserved subgroup.
- Research shows that most of the homeless population are men, and 41% of men who are experiencing homelessness are in fact parents.
- Only about 16% of sheltered families include a father.

- Single fathers are one of the fastest-growing populations in the country
- The number of single fathers in the United States grew from approximately 1.7 million in 1990 to 3.3 million in 2020
- There is only one shelter in Atlanta that accepts fathers with their families
- In 2022, 15% of active clients in Atlanta HMIS were fathers
 - Most (53%) were single fathers and Black/African American/African (93%)

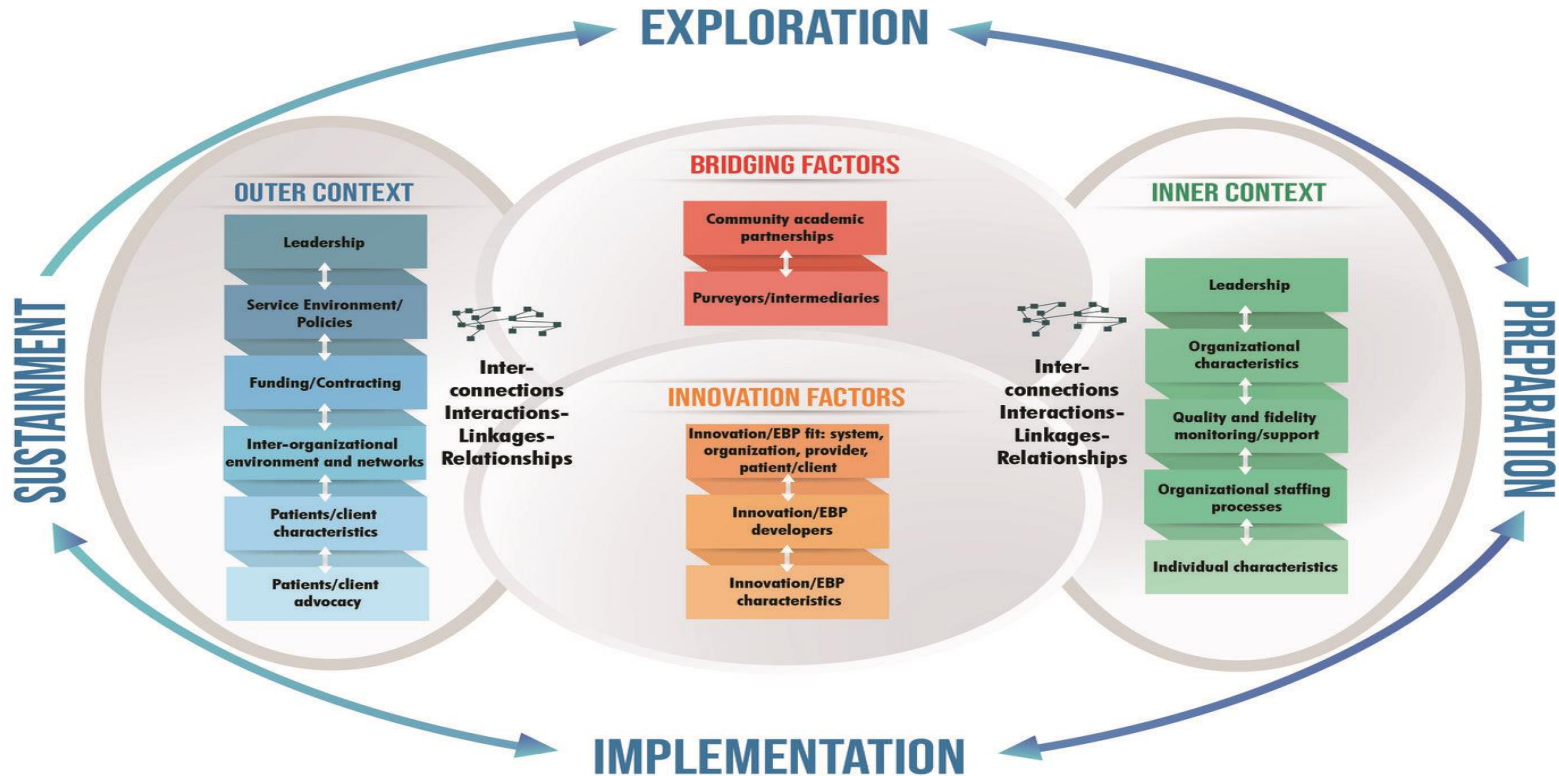
CBPR Conceptual Model

Adapted from Wallerstein et al, 2008 & Wallerstein and Duran, 2010, <https://cpr.unm.edu/research-projects/cbpr-project/cbpr-model.html>

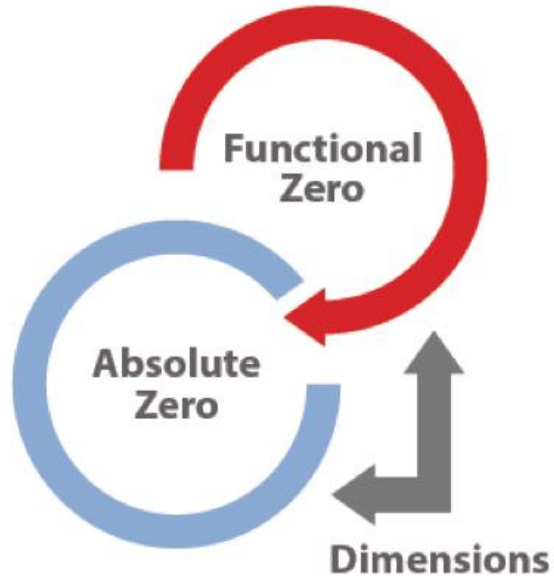


Visual from amoshealth.org 2017

Key Frameworks



Systems Alignment Approach



A **Functional Zero** end to homelessness means that communities have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness (unsheltered homeless, sheltered homeless, provisionally accommodated or imminent risk of homelessness) is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

Absolute Zero refers to a true end to homelessness, where everyone has access to supports and appropriate housing so that no one becomes homeless (unsheltered homeless, sheltered homeless, or provisionally accommodated) or at risk in the first place.

Dimensions: Lived Experience, Homelessness Prevention Systems, Public Systems.

Rather than opposite concepts, Functional Zero describes progress towards an Absolute Zero end to homelessness.

Functional Zero

Person-centered and data-driven approach, which, to date, has seen seven communities achieve Functional Zero for veterans' homelessness, and four communities functionally end chronic homelessness, as part of a national end homelessness campaign known as 'Built for Zero'.



By Name List

A real-time, person-specific list of all people known to be experiencing homelessness in your community.

It includes a robust set of data points that support Coordinated Access and prioritization at a household level and an understanding of homelessness inflow and outflow at a systems level.

Systems Alignment Approach

Step 1: Learn About the “What” and “Why” of By-Name Lists (BNL)

Step 2: Form a Local Team and Clarify Scope

Step 3: Engage with Providers and Build Community Will

Step 4: Develop your Data Infrastructure and Implement Data Sharing Agreements

Step 5: Create a Common Consent Form and Intake Questions

Step 6: Develop Key BNL Policies and Protocols

Step 7: Complete a Registry Event or Build on an Existing List or Client Data

Step 8: Use the BNL to Coordinate Access to Housing Resources and Support Individual-Level Outcomes

Step 9: Achieve a Quality By-Name List and Continue to Sustain and Improve It

Step 10: Use the BNL for System-Level Monitoring and Improvement

Coordinated Access System

- Integrated system that provides all the key services someone who is experiencing homelessness needs for as long as that person needs them
- Way for communities to bring consistency to the process by which people experiencing or at risk of homelessness access housing and related services within a geographic area.

Core components of a strong Coordinated Access System include:

- Housing First approach
- Real-time data about the supply of and demand for housing resources
- Streamlined service delivery approach with access points to service, a standardized workflow for triage and assessment; prioritization; and vacancy matching and referral

Goal: End homelessness for fathers in metro Atlanta

Objectives:

- Identify strengths and gaps in the existing homelessness response system to improve service coordination and screening and linkage to housing, health, and social services for fathers and explore barriers to accessing safe housing for fathers
- Adapt our existing systems to facilitate the identification of fathers experiencing homelessness (BNL) and linkages to housing and services in the homelessness response system
- Examine the feasibility and acceptability of the adapted system and alignment approach through a pilot study with fathers experiencing homelessness served by our medical, public health, and social service partners

Medical	Social Services	Public Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morehouse Healthcare• Good Samaritan Health Center• Care Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atlanta Housing Authority• Partners for Home• Fathers Matter ATL	Fulton County Board of Health

- **Sundjata Aya**, *MEF Associates/Rising Sun*
- **Richard Cook**, *Intown Cares*
- **Caleb Platel**, *Fathers Door*
- **Carl Route**, *Reaching Our Brothers Everywhere*
- **Ladji Ruffin**, *GA Dept of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities*
- **Chris White**, *Father Movement*

- Lack of father data
- Lack of intention around serving and documenting fathers
- Need for comprehensive referral and tracking system

Definition of Homelessness

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence.
- An individual or family with a primary residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including places like cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, airports, or camping grounds.
- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, which includes hotels and motels paid for by government programs or charitable organizations.
- An individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and is exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

- Identify as Black/African American
- 18 years of age or older
- Residential/custodial fathers (children w/father; father w/partner & children)
- Live in the City of Atlanta
- Meet the definition of experiencing homelessness

- UNITE US Georgia
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Intake Form

- Personal information
- Homeless information
- Parenting status
- Support resources needed
- Consent form signed

www.fathersmatteratl.com

African Americans make up 13% of the general population, but more than 40% of those experiencing homelessness

Research shows that most of the homeless population are men and 41% of men who are experiencing homelessness are in fact parents.

R . U . S . H

RESEARCH TO UNDERSTAND SYSTEMS FOR HOUSING

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE WITH HOUSING?

ARE YOU WILLING TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH HOMELESSNESS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH MEDICAL, SOCIAL OR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS?

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE RESEARCH STUDY

Fathers should:

- Identify as Black/African American
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be residential/custodial fathers (children w/father, father w/partner & children)
- Be in the City of Atlanta
- Meet the definition of experiencing homelessness

TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE

OR VISIT:
tinyurl.com/rushatl

HOMELESSNESS DEFINED

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including places like cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, airports, or camping grounds.
- An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements, which includes hotels and motels paid for by government programs or charitable organizations
- An individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and is exiting an institution where they temporarily resided

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CONTACT US

Latrice Rollins | Thomas Cotton | Lease L. Youmans
trollins@mmsm.edu | tcotton@redeem-advance.org | ourchangeoncome@gmail.com
833-424-6463 EXT 701

- Experience seeking help
- Time spent seeking housing
- Housing barriers
- Separation from children
- Helpful resources
- Reasons fathers avoid seeking assistance

- Medical care and social services partners using Unite Us
- Partners agree that the Unite Us system is better than previous referral process and user-friendly
- 100% of coalition members agreed the project will be successful

R.U.S.H ...is the only [system] of its kind that is tailored towards active fathers, fathers who choose to be the head of the family. A system that will help Black fathers have the courage to ask for help

As a healthcare partner, I look forward to identifying / testing novel methods to identify fathers experiencing homelessness in our healthcare facilities, and once identified, having effective resources with which the client can be connected.

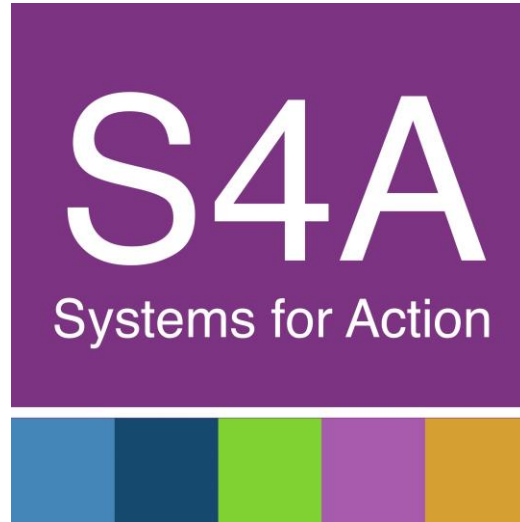
- **25th International Families and Fathers Conference**
“Housing is Medicine”, April 24, 2024
- **Journal Article** – Family Relations (in progress)

Commentary: Chris White

Chris White is a dedicated husband, father, and passionate advocate for father involvement pivotal role in fostering stronger communities. His diverse personal experiences as a non-custodial father, step-parent, and married father, helps Chris intimately understands the multifaceted nature of fatherhood. He is the Executive Director of Father Movement, overseeing crucial father-serving programs through partnerships with Morehouse School of Medicine, The Center For Black Woman's Wellness, and Georgia Division of Family and Children Services Prevention and Community Support Section. He provides vital parenting and relationship classes to families and offers unwavering support to fathers seeking access to their children.



Questions?

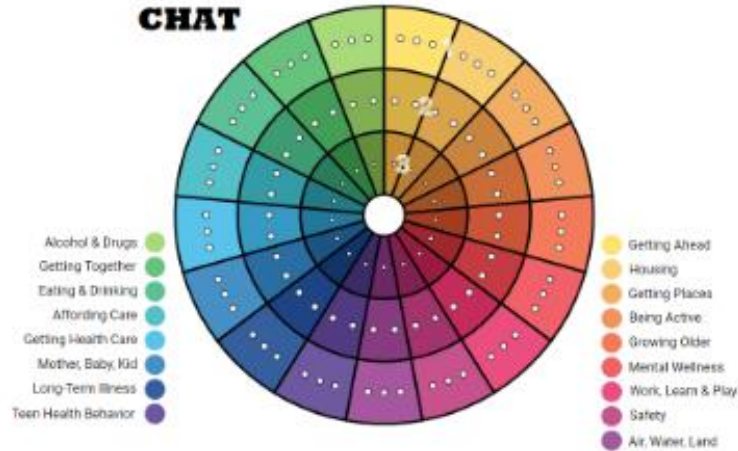


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 [@Systems4Action](https://twitter.com/Systems4Action)

If you would like to receive a **certificate of completion** for today's ResProg webinar, please complete the survey at the end of the session.

One will be emailed to you.



Community Health Benefit CHAT, 2019

Engaging Communities in Setting Priorities for Health: Disseminating a Successful Method

Wednesday, May 1 | 12pm ET

Register at:

<https://systemsforaction.org/research-progress-webinars>



FAAITH (Faith-leaders Allied and Aligned to Institute Trust in the Home) and HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) for Equitable Systems

Wednesday, April 24 | 12pm ET

Register at:

<https://systemsforaction.org/research-progress-webinars>

Systems for Action is a National Program Office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a collaborative effort of the Colorado School of Public Health, administered by the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO.



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