

Dennis Barbour ([00:01:38](#)):

Good afternoon, everyone. This is Dennis Barbara. We are going to be starting shortly. I apologize for the technological difficulties. Um, I'm going to ask, um, in the interim for our guests, we've got a great panel of guests this afternoon on, on the subject, and we're looking forward to getting, going with the, the, uh, webinar. In the meantime, what I would like to do is to ask each one of our presenters to introduce themselves, and we will start with, uh, Dr. Miller.

Liz Miller ([00:16:45](#)):

Hello. And, um, I apologize. I am not, um, able to undo my video, but, um, Liz Miller, she hear pronouns, um, from U P M C children's hospital of Pittsburgh. I have the incredible joy and privilege of directing adolescent in young adult health here in Pittsburgh. Thank you for having us today and believe. Yep. And I'll bounce it to Ken.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:17:11](#)):

Good morning or afternoon. Uh, my name's Ken Ginsburg. I'm also an adolescent medicine specialist at the children's hospital of Philadelphia. Um, my work is really on supporting adults to be the kind of people that young people deserve in their lives. Um, clinically the most important context in which I work is with, um, young people who are enduring homelessness and marginalization, and I'll bounce it to Elena.

Elena Giacci ([00:17:42](#)):

I'm Elena Giacci. And I have been an advocate, excuse me, for 33 years, for those who have been suffering, um, sexual violence, domestic violence, or child sexual abuse. I am honored to be here. I come from the Taney and Chiney Bahi, uh, nations and am a proud Dine woman,

Liz Miller ([00:18:14](#)):

Thanks Elena. How about Latrice?

Latrice Rollins ([00:18:18](#)):

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Latrice Rollins. I'm an assistant professor at Morehouse school medicine in our prevention research center. And a lot of my research is around father engagement and how they contribute to positive outcomes, particularly with, um, their sons. So pleased to be here.

Liz Miller ([00:18:38](#)):

Excellent. And then as part of our wonderful, um, discussions today, uh, we have, uh, three, um, young people. I'm gonna start with Jared Bailey, if you had introduce yourself.

Jared Bailey ([00:18:51](#)):

Hello everyone. Uh, my name is Jared Bailey. I am a master of public health student at Morehouse school medicine. Um, a lot of my research is currently with the city of hope comprehensive cancer center, uh, focused around breast cancer and hair products.

Liz Miller ([00:19:07](#)):

Wonderful. Jared, thanks for being here. And then, uh, I believe Devin Gidner, uh, is, uh, using Jose Garth. One of our wonderful, um, youth workers, laptops, Devin.

Devon Givner ([00:19:21](#)):

Uh, my name is Devon Givner. I'm from Pittsburgh, PA. I'm a ninth grader at urban pathway school. This summer. I'm taking a job skills class as part of Summer Places and Thank you Doctor Miller for having me hear today to share my experiences.

Liz Miller ([00:19:41](#)):

You're here dev. Thank so. And then Luciano Lanz is also joining us from

Luciano Lanz ([00:19:50](#)):

Yeah, Luciano Lanz I'm I'm a senior actually in, uh, the Pittsburgh high school. I live in Pittsburgh as well. And this summer I'm a drum major for my MC peace marching band. Sorry. I'm like outside. <laugh>

Liz Miller ([00:20:08](#)):

We're good. We are good. And, uh, and then Parrish Davenport, um, is one of our, um, community mentors here in Pittsburgh, um, and deeply engaged, um, in our healing partnership work here. Parish,

Parrish Davenport ([00:20:29](#)):

Can you guys hear me now? Sorry about that, I work with Liz. Um, I'm the executive director of family and friends initiative here in Pittsburgh, where we focus on holistic transformation within the community I've been working, um, with Liz and her team for about maybe six to seven years. It's been great experience with the manhood 2.0 program, the jump start program and strengthening connections. And I look forward to learning a ton of information today and sharing.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:21:06](#)):

Wonderful. I'm guessing that David Bell may be having some trouble getting on if that's correct. We'll get started. Could someone tell me if David's gonna be getting on? All right, then let's get started. Um, so, you know, uh, I'm having

David Bell ([00:21:26](#)):

Hey Ken, sorry, I just, oh, there you're David. Thank you. Um, sorry for the delay. And, um, thank you guys for moving forward with the introductions. Uh, could I just do a short, uh, introduction to the symposium and, uh, so good afternoon, everyone, uh, sorry for the technical difficulties. Uh, welcome to the partnership symposium on young males, healing partnerships and promoting resilience. I'm David Bell, the partnerships co-founder and board chair. In addition, I'm the medical director of the young men's clinic in New York City and the pro professor of pediatrics and population and family health at Columbia university medical center. I also serve as the immediate past president of the society of the society for adolescent health and medicine. So thank you for joining us in our symposium. Uh, one of nine, we will be sponsoring over the course of the next three months. We are honored to have this panel who's already, uh, who are nationally recognized experts in healing from hardships.

David Bell ([00:22:24](#)):

Join us today. Uh, after their presentations and discussions, we will take, they will take questions from the audience. So if you have any questions, make sure to send them along in the questions function, uh, by way of background, the word about the partnership and why we exist. The partnership is a consortium of over 12, 20 national organizations that have a stake in young men's and young male

health and wellbeing. As our mission states, we work with and on behalf of adolescent and young adult males to optimize their health and ensure that they thrive, I will stop there and let the panelists go. And I just wanna say, thank you all for doing it. And Liz and Ken, our dear, dear colleagues. And I, uh, would say that we've had many projects together and I thank them, uh, for being a part of this. And I was going to be somewhat, uh, casual and say, uh, Ken and I have always said, we're, uh, brothers from another mother and father, and I'll turn it back over to you guys.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:23:26](#)):

Thank you so much, David. Um, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the work that you do at the partnership on behalf of young men. And speaking on behalf of Liz, I can tell you that we are honored to be here, and we are honored to be here with the real experts who are the people who do the community work and the young people from the community who can always teach us more than we might imagine. Um, with that said, you know, I've been an adolescent doctor now for 35 years. And, um, I was taught to listen to folks to ask some questions and to find a problem. And once I found a problem, the goal then was to fix that problem. But we have to reject that model because brokenness is not a framework with which we can approach human beings. We cannot approach human beings as a problem to be solved. We have to do better.

Liz Miller ([00:24:30](#)):

I told you, Ken starts with the mic drop moment. Um, and it is truly, um, you know, incredible joy to spend time with you all this afternoon and with our young people and community members who just do such extraordinary work, that I've had the privilege of being a part of, um, over now almost three decades as well. And, um, you know, Ken has also been one of my teachers in this process of reimagining recreating what it means, um, to be a healer, um, in this space, right? And when both Ken and I went through and David went through medical school, all we are taught to do is focus on disorder to focus on problems and to focus on sort of extracting information from our patients and, um, which I have really come to just bristle at because as Ken is really emphasizing for us, regaining an understanding of our common humanity and regaining the importance of relationships.

Liz Miller ([00:25:38](#)):

And most importantly, that young people are in control of their own stories and they are not to be extracted. And, um, and so in many ways, um, you know, Ken and I are starting this symposium off a little bit of true confessions of how much our own training in the healthcare system, um, has devalued and taught us how not to be. Um, and in many ways that we need to in work like this, where we really center our young people center, the wisdom of the community partners that are here to be really thoughtful about the role of healing partnerships. And as Ken was noting that we really reject the sense that our young people are broken Ken,

Ken Ginsburg ([00:26:30](#)):

Yeah, you know, our goal is not to obtain a history. We obtain a history so we can know we obtain a history and we join with a human being. So we can use the power of loving human connection to, to have them begin to move forward. But disclosure is not the goal. The goal neither is being problem free to quote Karen Pittman. One of the, um, really mothers of the positive youth development movement, which is, um, problem free is not fully, fully prepared. Our goal, thriving, flourishing, launching into adulthood, fully prepared to participate and even to lead and ultimately to repair our world, that is a goal worth striving for Liz.

Liz Miller ([00:27:20](#)):

And we're really, really going to be emphasizing, um, thriving and not surviving, right? Flourishing wellness, focusing on strengths. And, um, and we're doing so why at this particular moment, right? The last two and a half years have been ones that none of us could have ever wrapped our heads around. Um, in terms of the, um, profound inequities that have been laid bare, the intense trauma suffering and loss that so many young people, families, communities have experienced. And, um, we need to understand and always center the margins in our work recognizing right, that equity is at the core, um, of our work and that we start from a place of healing. Um, and that there is the possibility of healing and hopefulness and recovery, um, that we have the opportunity to learn together on how to chart that pathway and that journey. And one of the ways to do so is emphasizing resilience. So Ken, you are indeed the international expert on this,

Ken Ginsburg ([00:28:35](#)):

Um, way too generous, but thank you. Um, so let's begin with some, uh, really basic definitions. You know, when we speak about resilience, we speak about, um, getting past something about, um, uh, overcoming adversity. But I think it's really important to understand that when we're speaking about resilience, our goal is not to overcome adversity. Our goal is to absorb the lessons that come from adversity and can thrive and become your very best self resilience is partially a mindset. It's partially how you think to understand this. It's important to understand that depending on where your ancestors came from, um, you know, we were always praying no matter where we came from and whether we were looking for the bear, the tiger or the Wolf, we always had to be prepared to react quickly. And if you don't believe me, your bodies tell you the story.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:29:32](#)):

Why is it that as soon as you're nervous, you get butterflies, because that is literally the genius of the human body, shifting the blood from your belly to go to your butt. So you can jump and your legs so you can run. I happen to think that's exceptionally cool, then your heart beats fast, right? So you can pump that blood you sweat. So you can cool off while you're running your pupils, get baked. You can jump over the log and the Wolf can't get you. But most importantly, you can't think clearly during times of maximal stress, why? Cause you're not supposed to turn to the tiger and say, let's work this out and you can't feel fully, cuz you're not supposed to say to the Wolf, help me understand why you want to eat me. So resilience begins with the mindset of being able to tell when we are truly in danger versus just triggered to believe we might be the greatest challenge to human resilience is not.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:30:30](#)):

When we see the Wolf tiger bearer type lion, it is when we don't know if it's looking in the grass, cause we have to be ready to jump at any moment, we have to be hypervigilant at all times wondering it could be there, there, or anywhere. It's a different set of hormones. When you are always on guard, always wondering where the attack might be. We are living through a time of profound uncertainty now. And we also understand that so many of the isms like structural and systemic racism are tigers lurking in the grass, meaning it is always there as a stressor that you don't know when it's ready to attack and yet, you know, and feel it's ever presence. When we speak about resilience, it's critical to understand we are not talking about in vulnerability. I could move into your house. I could raise your kids.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:31:25](#)):

And I couldn't raise in vulnerable human beings, nor would I want to because the power of being alive is to feel and to experience and to tell someone to suppress their emotions. As we do with too many young men is poison. I speak as a man who was suicidal when I was 17 and who hated everything about me and the things that I hated about me were all the best things. My hyper intuitiveness, the compassion that just made me experience too much pain. All the things that I wanted to turn off are actually the best things about me. So our goal is not to shut down emotions, but to leverage and elevate them. And the final point I want to make is, um, actually I'm gonna go one step. Anyways. The final point I wanna make is resilience is exhausting. It's not our goal. It takes a huge amount of work and we have to stop treating resilience as if it's a runner up prize.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:32:30](#)):

Well, you didn't win the lottery, but you're resilient. Then resilience just becomes one more chain in the link of oppression where we can oppress and give people permission to rise above the oppression and congratulate them for doing so. No resilience is exhausting. And our goal is to build a world in which people need be resilient because they have the resources they need to navigate the world. How does this begin on a one on one level? And then after me, Liz is gonna talk about what it means in community. The first thing we gotta do is we've gotta leverage love. Love is about seeing someone as they deserve to be seen as they really are not the labels they might have received. And most certainly not the behavior that they might be displaying. And too often, we sit there and we listen for answers about the behavior.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:33:24](#)):

They might be displaying and lose the opportunity to hear all that is good and right in the human being, their survival, their tenacity, their compassion, their insight, their honesty, their, their caring about other people. We can only address problems when we address them in the field of strength of the human being so that they can use their own strengths to move beyond. And we could only hear strengths when we stop talking and looking for brokenness and start listening intently for what we love about the human being, because there is nothing that leads to resilience more than a human being, connecting to another human being, Liz,

Liz Miller ([00:34:11](#)):

That power of love, right? Ken and our ability as adults who have the incredible honor and privilege of working with young people, that our level of comfort actually saying that is what we are doing, right. We are really working on strengthening our relationships and leading with love. And it certainly, you know, will not surprise you that, you know, part of what keeps me going in this work is this extraordinary. What I, you know, my colleagues call vicarious resilience. That sense of just absolute awe when I sit with a young person, um, and you know, Luciano knows, right? I mean, like as, as a young person, who's participated in our programs and so forth that I am just extraordinarily excited about the work that young people do and their strengths and their dynamism. And, um, it is constantly feeling like we're pushing up against this sense that our young people are broken.

Liz Miller ([00:35:15](#)):

That they're the problem they need fixing. And part of this conversation about resilience that we need to be so thoughtful about. And so careful about is while of course, each of us can really benefit from mindfulness and pausing and appreciating the beauty of trees and appreciating, um, and doing gratitude activities at the end of the day, right? What we also, as adults who have the privilege of working with

young people need to acknowledge that the systems have been unjust and that there are ways in which some of that narrative around, you know, you just need to have more grit and more growth mindset, um, can actually be harmful and hurtful for our young people. So what does that mean for us? We know, as Ken was just pointing out that relational healing, the strength of connection is one of the most important things that we can do.

Liz Miller ([00:36:22](#)):

And, um, my ability to lean on my dear friend Parrish today to say, Hey, can you come and join this panel? Because actually your perspective of doing this with the incredible magic of a community leader, um, who connects with young people in really, really deep and meaningful ways. And, um, that is really what we're gonna be talking about is strategies to think about building those connections and the more connections that we help build. Um, we really do help young people get on a pathway that feels hopeful and optimistic about their future, which is what every young person deserves. Ken.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:37:00](#)):

And when we're thinking about resilience, we have to understand, again, I care deeply about the concept of resilience, but I also acknowledge that the aspirational tone can do harm. In other words, when you say to someone, all you need is an adult in your corner and you'll be fine. You potentially lead them to harm because if they're not ready to navigate the isms and navigate undermining messages and they go, well, gosh, my mom loves me. My uncle loves me. The problem must be me. So we have to really prepare them to have the consciousness, to understand and reject undermining forces in their lives. And I just don't wanna mention a couple of them. And then Liz will close out this section and give it to, um, Latrice. The first thing we have to reject as I've also mentioned is toxic masculinity. As long as we tell men to set aside their feelings, that that's not a sign of being masculine, we will never have men who will be whole.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:37:58](#)):

We will never have men who will take their full part in families as loving individuals. So we have to reject that entirely next. All of the isms we have to call out, you know, Liz talked about the fact that the last two and a half years have laid bare problems. I agree, but let's be clear. Thank goodness Right? The problems have been existing for hundreds of years, if not millennia. So the problems are not new, but we have to leverage the fact that lots of folks are just waking up to them, right? And we have to name them and fight them. We have to, as we've said, said over and over again is break that concept of brokenness and move towards opportunity and potential. And then I'm going to say what I always say. Whenever I have a forum that's willing to listen to me, to reject labeling people who have suffered will sometimes act out in a protective fashion in order to stay safe.

Ken Ginsburg ([00:38:57](#)):

People who have suffered have protector brains, they are hypervigilant. They may be reactive unless they understand that they're authentically safe society then labels their behavior with poisonous terms, too many of my young, um, people I serve have been told, they have an anger problem. I reject entirely a child being told that they're a problem, cuz what they hear is you are the problem. And then they're given labels like oppositional conduct disorder. That further change the way they see themselves in the way society interacts with them. We have to reject these labels and face the truth. These are kids who have been made sad. They are not bad. These are kids who have been treated badly and therefore have learned to be highly protective. We need to recognize and celebrate their protector's brains and double

down on their sense of safety. And when these young people feel safe, why do I get vicarious resilience from my work? Because I work with the best human beings on earth because when people of protector's brains feel safe, they have protection to spare. And that is the definition of human compassion.

Liz Miller ([00:40:14](#)):

And it is truly one of the most powerful things in the world, right? Ken, um, and the, what we're going to hear from now, um, Latrice Rawlins followed by Elena Giacci are ways for us to really think about authentic engagement and healing partnerships and um, in the interest of time Latrice, I think I'm gonna turn this over to you to, um, and I believe that Sean is giving you the ability to share your slides so that you can really share with us some of the magic that you have learned along the way about the vital importance of male adult caregivers in young men's lives.

Latrice Rollins ([00:40:55](#)):

Sure. And Sean, if you can share the slides, that would be great. This has been amazing even so far. I'm like I don't, I just wanna sit and listen to, uh, what you all have shared, but um, thank you again for this opportunity. Um, Dr. Miller and Dr. Ginsburg also, um, as a mother of a male youth, I thank you. The partnership, uh, for male youth and your leadership and staff for the work that you are doing to bring awareness and action for our sons. So thank you so much. Um, as I said earlier, I am an assistant professor at Morehouse school of medicine and have researched father engagement, um, as it relates to, um, young men and a number of other different areas, but really passionate about father engagement, just because there hasn't been a lot of attention, um, on that despite a lot of great research that shows positive outcomes. Um, but as I said, I am a mother, um, of a son. And so I do have personal interest in the focus on male youth. And so my work focus focuses on engaging African American fathers and supporting their involvement with their sons as a protective factor. As we heard earlier, just making those relational connections, um, fathers and sons, they have those relationships that can be, um, protective factors and also a resource in promoting their healing. You can go to the next slide.

Latrice Rollins ([00:42:26](#)):

So it's important to understand and work with black male youth within the context of community and within, um, also the context of their family supports rather than isolating them as if they exist or thrive as we've been saying outside or despite their communities and their families. So there has to be this integration of community school and family efforts to support their healing. Um, and typically though, when we say family and think about family engagement, we usually are thinking about mothers and the female caregivers and not fathers. And this is also true. Um, not only in practice, but also in research when we do see different studies that want to look at family engagement or family interventions is typically, um, mothers or female caregivers who are engaged. You can go to the next slide we take, think about fathers. Um, just a broad definition. We're thinking about the males or males who, um, are identified as the most involved in caregiving and who are committed to the wellbeing, um, of their children or youth, regardless of living situation, regardless of marital status or biological relation. So a father can be biological can be a foster father, an adoptive father, um, a stepfather or a grandfather. And he may or may not have legal custody and may or may not be living, um, with their child, um, at the time. Next slide.

Latrice Rollins ([00:43:56](#)):

So understanding how to promote resilience is crucial. Um, given black male youth are exposed to risk factors that compromise healthy development, such as racism that we talked about earlier, the labeling, um, the dehumanization. And so generally support from parents has been found to build and an enhanced youth resilience. Um, but there is more research that's needed specifically on father's role in promoting resiliency. Um, but we do know that there are some benefits of, um, partnering with fathers studies have shown that father involvement is associated with the decrease in the likelihood of adolescent risk behaviors. Um, it also predicts less adolescent depressive symptoms for, um, both genders. So sons and daughters also prevents bullying behavior among, um, youth. And there are so many other academic social financial emotion on behavioral outcomes, um, that are associated with positive father involvement. Next slide <laugh> in recent years, we have become more familiar with, uh, trauma informed or trauma sensitive approach approaches.

Latrice Rollins ([00:45:05](#)):

And so in the context of this conversation around healing, I wanted to lift up the term, um, healing centered engagement or approaches. And I, yeah, I was gonna say, I think you gotta click. Um, so healing center engagement or approaches that shifts the focus from an individual specific experience of trauma onto a more holistic one that focuses on culture, civic action and collective healing. And so Dr. Sean gin, gen, right, he states that a healing centered approach, views trauma, not simply as an individual isolated experience, but rather highlights the ways in which trauma and healing are experience collectively. And so we can see father son relationships as healing mechanisms, um, fathers prepare their sons for surviving in a racist society by teaching them how to cope. Um, with racism in 2020, we saw many fathers marching with their sons, um, against police brutality and against racial injustice.

Latrice Rollins ([00:46:03](#)):

Um, they were exposing their sons to civic action and a positive response to collective trauma. And so community leaders, faith-based organizations, teachers, and other youth providers can also help fathers support their children as they heal. You can go to the next slide, but despite these benefits and research, there are several, um, youth and family serving areas that remain slow to incorporate these findings into practice. So there are several barriers to father engagement, which include, um, some systemic issues such as just having inconvenient, um, hours where they're kind of operating a lack of time off work from, um, for the father, um, as well as any individual issues as it relates to employment or housing. Um, there can also be interpersonal issues, um, such as the relationship quality with, uh, the mother or female caregiver, um, which may result in, um, maternal gate keeping. It could also be kind of a lack of parenting confidence that can occur next slide.

Latrice Rollins ([00:47:10](#)):

And so typically another issue, um, that serves as a barrier is bias. And typically when we think about bias, especially now, we usually think about it in a racial bias sense, especially, um, today, but gender bias also exists and it's usually focused on women, but in this case, especially when we're thinking about female dominated professions or services and programs that are heavily focused on, um, girls or women and mothers, there is an unconscious gender bias against men and fathers, um, or against male youth. So for providers across all sectors, it's important to address their unconscious bias, um, or explicit bias to, um, and their disparate treatment of black male youth. And so this must include education, professional development and, and monitoring really to, um, address some of these biases. And so I like to use this graphic because, um, a lot of times before we start to talk about, um, strategies and things, it won't really do much to talk about evidence based strategies. If we don't address some of the biases that we have. And really, um, if we don't even feel that it's important to engage fathers, if it's important



to help male youth in that sense, then it, it really won't do much good to talk about evidence based strategies. So, um, we can go to the next slide.

Latrice Rollins ([00:48:34](#)):

So moving back from the individual, but to some organizational or institutional, uh, strategies, there are multiple levels of father engagement that a system or organization can embrace. And so the first level, which is at the bottom, um, of this pyramid per se, um, is father awareness. And that's just, you know, making sure that there's awareness of the benefits of father involvement and that any negative stereotypes about father involvement are addressed. Um, the second level, um, which we really spend a lot of time, um, here recently is around father friendliness and it involves practices that consider fathers in the environment. So in the practice environment, and there are several free tools that you can use to assess the father friendliness of your, um, organization or of your practice. And those are listed there on the left. Um, I use the national fatherhood initiatives, father friendly checkup like frequently, um, and it assesses four domains.

Latrice Rollins ([00:49:34](#)):

It looks at leadership development, um, which includes the attitudes, the beliefs and values that are held by an organization to employees. It looks at the culture of the organization and their impact on the delivery of services and programs. Um, another domain is organizational development, which focuses on some of the policies and procedures. Um, some of the processes, as well as the physical environment. Um, the third domain is program development and that really is focused on whether there are services and programs that the organization offers and how it engages the staff, um, and offering them and how it promotes and markets them to engage fathers. And then the final, which we've been talking about has to do with community engagement. And so it's the ability of the organization to engage its community in the delivery of services and programs.

Latrice Rollins ([00:50:31](#)):

And so the third level, which is, um, kind of the ultimate and optimal level is around father inclusion. And so that's really looking at whether there are specific services that are provided that meet, um, the father's needs. And, um, also it occurs when the needs of the father are responded through planning, development and delivery of the services. So working with the fathers to, um, again, address their specific needs and working with them to plan and kind of deliver those services together. Next slide, I won't go over all of these just for the sake of time, but there are a number of different strategies that can be used for, um, father engagement. So that's, you know, presuming, um, that fathers have high interest in, um, their sons, uh, wellbeing and want to be engaged as opposed to assuming that they do not, um, recognizing and reinforcing their contributions.

Latrice Rollins ([00:51:30](#)):

So looking at their assets, really looking from a strength based approach, um, and also I'll emphasize, again, collaborating with other providers, if you don't specifically have services or work with fathers directly, there are others, um, in your community that do. And so, um, collaborate with other providers who can provide some of those services for dads, um, as they kind of work with their sons as well. And then the final slide, um, is just a framework for understanding father engagement, which, um, also identifies factors and strategies at different levels of influence. So, um, this is an ecological model or systems model where it looks at, um, father engagement from individual family, um, service provider program, community, and policy levels. So there are things that can be done across each, um, level of

influence that can really support, um, father engagement. And some of those I've, I've mentioned already with, you know, addressing provider bias, um, working with the fathers around, um, their self-confidence and, and efficacy, um, looking at work hours, just different things, uh, that can be done to make sure that we are partnering, um, with fathers and their, their work with their sons.

Latrice Rollins ([00:52:46](#)):

So, um, I believe that is it for me and turn it over to our moderators to facilitate discussion.

Liz Miller ([00:52:59](#)):

Thank you. Thank you so much for, um, for that presentation, Latrice also just packing so much in there. And, um, as we wait for questions, um, to come in, you know, just, um, wanna say how much I appreciate your lifting up a healing centered approach, um, and the work of Sean Ginwright and healing centered and CA engagement, um, right. And what that might look like for, um, our programming. And I'm wondering Latrice, if you can, you know, maybe share some thoughts in terms of, um, even the image that you showed as you were talking about, um, uh, Dr. G Wright's work, um, around, you know, civic engagement, um, as perhaps one strategy, but I'm curious to know, you know, your thoughts in terms of, you know, many people on this call are really thinking, well, how do I take all of that and put it into action,

Latrice Rollins ([00:53:59](#)):

Right. Yeah. And I think it, it kind of goes back to, to how I started with that integration, you know, just making sure that we are all working together and not really looking at, um, again, like he says that individual and the trauma that they experienced by themselves, but a lot of the things that have happened, especially, you know, in the past, um, as Dr Ginsberg said hundreds of years, but more recently exposed in the past two years, we have experienced collectively. And so how can we work together? Um, like here in Atlanta, we've had, um, healing circles. So, um, coming together and not in any particular, um, prescriptive way in terms of talking about the type of trauma that you experienced or what, but having the community come together to support one another and have a place to share, um, and get that kind of support from your community, um, where folks are kind of going through some similar issues, but knowing that they're not alone in their experience, um, you know, and that we've had those healing circles for fathers, um, as well as in schools, you know, healing circles have also taken place in school so that parents and their children can be involved.

Latrice Rollins ([00:55:12](#)):

So it has been really, um, that's one example that comes to the top of my head when I think about a healing center approach.

Liz Miller ([00:55:20](#)):

Love that, David,

Liz Miller ([00:55:23](#)):

Hi thank you, Dr. Rollins, very enlightening and I would love to ask one or two questions and one would be, is there any observation or research that there's a generational change of being a father? So some of our young fathers, are they, are they engaging differently than their parents are or have been?

Latrice Rollins ([00:55:48](#)):

Absolutely. And I think that's why my work has gotten a little easier in these more recent years because people are seeing fathers in, um, a new light. They're not seeing them just as, um, the providers who just go to work and what, but they're seeing them, um, in their full range of caregiving responsibilities, um, and nurturing responsibilities, all of the things. And so it, it is the new generation of fatherhood, which is all the more reason to engage them. And in more spaces where we typically wouldn't, um, you're seeing more fathers go and take their children to well care visits. You're seeing more fathers at, um, ballet practices and, um, cheerleading practices and things like that. You're seeing fathers at, at always see fathers at sports events <laugh>, but, you know, it's just that, that extra, um, effort that it takes now to really engage them because they are more engaged they're, they're more out. And, and what, and I said earlier, it's, regardless of whether they live in the home or not, you know, we see particularly around African American fathers, they are the most engaged, um, non-residential fathers among all races. And so we can't, um, continue with stereotypes that, you know, particularly, um, black fathers who don't live in the home are not engaged. Um, they are. And so we just have to, um, really get with the times <laugh> and get with the reality, um, and meet fathers where they are.

Liz Miller ([00:57:22](#)):

Yeah. I think there's someone in the chat that has a Q and a, so I'll reserve my questions. <laugh> do you want me to take the, uh, ask the question? So, uh, it's from Jennifer Hughes, uh, Dr.

Latrice Rollins ([00:57:37](#)):

I see it, but I think there's a comment that we are gonna wait until the end.

Liz Miller ([00:57:46](#)):

Yes. We'll take all the, um, audience questions, um, towards the end. David, do you wanna ask your final, your, your second question?

Liz Miller ([00:57:54](#)):

My second question was, um, I'm trying to pick between the two, uh, next ones. What would be your top three policies that would make the biggest impact, uh, for fathers in the US?

Latrice Rollins ([00:58:08](#)):

Yeah, I think the, um, top one that has been mentioned has been the paid, um, paternal leave that, that has been the top. We do have that in Georgia for, uh, state employees. Um, but what about the rest of the dads? You know, so, um, I think, um, parental leave is, is key. Um, also, um, shared parenting. So when we do have a lot of fathers, again, that are not in the home are not with, um, the mother of the child, making sure that they have that, um, equal time. Unfortunately, here in, in Georgia, we have something called legitimation, um, where fathers are not considered the legal father of the child, unless they go through this additional, um, legal process. And so they have no rights specifically if they're not married to the mother, to the child. So, um, that is a, a major barrier, um, to father engagement here in Georgia.

Latrice Rollins ([00:59:09](#)):

Um, and then as far as maybe a third one, um, child support seems to be a big issue for sure, but as it relates to kind of this conversation probably, uh, like Medicaid expansion, um, just to make sure that fathers have access to a number of different health services. So they can also, you know, include their children, you know, on, on these different plans as well, make sure that their needs get met. Um, we

know that a healthy father also leads to, you know, a healthy family, healthy children. So we wanna make sure that he is also being assessed and, and taking care of himself, um, so that he can be there to support his children.

Liz Miller ([00:59:50](#)):

Thank you so much.

Latrice Rollins ([00:59:53](#)):

Thank you.

Liz Miller ([00:59:56](#)):

Thank you so, so much for your presentation. And now it is absolutely my delight to turn the podium over to, um, Elena Giacci. We've had the privilege of working together for a number of years, and it is truly, Elena has taught me, um, a deeper level, deeper understanding of resiliency. And I'm so grateful for your sharing your wisdom with us today, Elena.

Elena Giacci ([01:00:21](#)):

Well, thank you. And thank you for allowing me to be here. I think for me, my foundation is that one of the biggest components is that our relatives, our circles, our communities and society definitely are not gonna be free to experience the higher levels of connections until you know, our most vulnerable people are able to access resources, full human rights, to live a self-determined life, without fear of discrimination or retaliation. We must continue to scrutinize and dissect power systems because as we start talking about all of these different things that are going on, they're all about these power systems, workplace, organizations, schools, healthcare systems, politics, in the United States is so based on gendered, sexualized, racialized acts of authority on an hourly and daily basis. So sometimes we go, why are we so tired? Why haven't we been able to make those next steps to resilience?

Elena Giacci ([01:01:31](#)):

And it's really hard to do that when we feel all of these flames on either side of us, um, getting bigger and bigger, we need to remain steadfast. And I know this panel will be doing that to eradicate dynamic power systems. Our people are not protected. Our underserved communities are not protected and free until the most mis-served disserved people are able to accept, to get cultural resources, full human rights, to live safe, um, without fear of retaliation. Um, one of the things that I appreciated about Audrey Lord was that she said that there is no such thing as a single issue struggle because we do not live single issue lives. And I think when we start taking things into the totality of how we operate and what we do is very much taking a look at the bigger picture and how we make those connections and what we need as a native woman.

Elena Giacci ([01:02:40](#)):

I can tell you, my native people are born and bred with resilience. If we didn't have that resilience, we would not still be walking on this mother earth. So many structures have tried to remove us from this land in a pretty significant way. Whether when we start taking a look at historical trauma, walking that road of being removed from our lands, re being re removed from our agriculture and still having so many of those scars that what we need to do is say, how do we make that? And during those processes, one of the things, whether it's the, you know, a trail of tears or the long walk or some of the major components that have occurred to our, our community, uh, one of the things that my grandma said, I

always remember that as my great, great grandmother walked that she said it was so important to hold her mother's hand to hold, you know, her sister's hand.

Elena Giacci ([01:03:49](#)):

So that, that physical connection, no matter what was happening, the physical connection was there. When we look at historical trauma, I so wish that I could say, yeah, that's way back then, but it's not. We are running through this current trauma as always the historical trauma things that may have had that happened in the past, but still have horrific, um, parts that affect our heart and scars. So then it leads us to how do we walk that journey of healing? How do we walk that journey of resilience? How do we find we can do this while being attacked from all sides in so many different ways. And sometimes I find, and one of the things I often see with young people is they're pretty pissed off. And I think that they have a lot of right to be able to be pissed off. Um, when you're minimized, when you're people are not listening, listening to your voice, when you feel your voice does not have weight, it's at that point in time, where you say, how do I get out of this?

Elena Giacci ([01:05:12](#)):

And they, you know, I admire anyone who can walk through the journey, the things that life throws at you and still be living and breathing and taking a step forward. And I often think that all too many times that we as people and especially our males don't believe that they have courage because they're fearful or because there's nothing that they're doing in a big, you know, Spider-Man way that is making it, that they feel weak. And I hear that all the time from my, um, nieces, my nephews and my nieces is we're not strong. And yet every day they get up in the morning, they raise their children. They go find, you know, we have to oftentimes go find water, bring water back. We have all of those components. And then they don't realize the courage and strength that they have every single day. When we look at some of the lessons that have been given to us, one of the lessons is in a very significant way.

Elena Giacci ([01:06:28](#)):

When we looked at family structures is the lessons of the Buffalo. And if you've ever been in the South Dakota of snowstorm, ju you know, um, you realize that the only way to survive is together. And when you see those buffalos at the very core at that very center, one of the best pieces is that those that's where the young ones are because they're so sacred. And that's where I think in some ways we've so lost that because we forget to remind our young ones, our youth, how incredibly they sacred they are, because the words they speak, because the way they think, because the ideas that you have. And so in that very core of those Buffalo, what we have is those young ones. And then they're surrounded by the mothers, the aunties, um, and they are also there to protect. And then they look at the fathers and the grandfathers and the great grandfathers, and they're surrounded, they're surrounding the mothers and the aunties and the sisters.

Elena Giacci ([01:07:40](#)):

And when you look at the temperature in that core, that temperature in that core is warm enough that oftentimes you see melted snow, because the idea is that the protection, the connection is so critically important that it saves our most treasured. And that is our youth and our youth going, and, and as I get older, youth become younger. Um, but I've noticed that that's one of the things that occurs is that the ideas that you have may be thoughts that in someone else has never been able to articulate the value of your heart. The value of your spirit is just immeasurable because you have the power of the sacredness of being young. And I always am saddened to see someone who doesn't recognize. And so often it's

because they've been attacked by all ends. And no one has said, we appreciate you. We, we love you because you're different.

Elena Giacci ([01:08:50](#)):

We love you because you come up with these ideas that people either haven't thought about in a long time, or didn't ever think about. And it's like, oh my God, this is what it's about. And to be honored for all of those things. One of the components, when we look at these structures that oftentimes lack in appreciation for young ones is sitting there thinking that we as elders, um, know a lot. And I remember there's this period of time where I thought I knew everything as I was growing up. And I thought then I knew nothing. And then as I'm becoming older, I think I have a long way to go. And one of the things my grandma always said is, you know, don't be so hard on yourself. You know, you, if you grow up this much, that's good. And if you get more knowledge and more spirit, that's better.

Elena Giacci ([01:09:52](#)):

And then walking through that pathway that is put out there for you and understanding all of those components, walking through fire. And we never give ourselves enough credit for walking through fire every single day, in many meaningful ways. If you're a person of color, you end up having to fight little tiny fights. And then in so many ways, there's so much bigger. I'm not a big fan of microaggressions because it sounds like it's teeny tiny. And when I walk through those, uh, they're not tiny. They're not tiny. So part of it is saying, how do we operate through that? And my advice is you reach out, I'm adopted, and so the family that I had was not one that I chose, but I think that was my, one of my most valuable lessons as I started walking with my elders or my grandmas. Is that the knowledge that you get, the things that are given to you along the way is the honor that you walk with and the things that you have and the connections that you make, they don't have to be blood family.

Elena Giacci ([01:11:17](#)):

And I think the most valued in some ways of many of my relations is to sit there and know full well that the person I might be reaching out for might not be related, might not be, you know, the, the king or queen of, you know, knowing everything, but they support me and they love me. And they honor me. And I'm saying that when you are in that place to be able to just reach out and say, I need help. And I will tell you that those words here is the pot calling the kettle black, because I know how difficult it is and how much my pride has gotten in the way for doing that simple thing of saying, I really, really, really, really need help. Um, and thought I can do it myself. And, oh my goodness. It's it's I forget the connections. I forget that there are a lot of good human beings who may never have met me, but might be able to give me that help recently at a blown up tire.

Elena Giacci ([01:12:30](#)):

And I was like, what am I gonna do? I can call my partner. I can do all of these different things. And then the next thing I know I had a crowd around me. I had a crowd of people who were helping and supporting me, and, oh, I got, you know, some free bottled water off of the freeway. I I'm telling you that the part of it is the connections that we can make. And we can't do think when we walk in the way of family, when we walk in a way of, I'm gonna support you, one of the big lessons, and especially our native community got hit hard during COVID. And we lost a lot of my relatives and a lot of good people and grandmas and grandpas and mothers and fathers and aunties died during that period of time. But what we did remember and learn really quickly was the importance touch, of making the connection, the importance of just seeing each other, because zoom, isn't making it.

Elena Giacci ([01:13:43](#)):

I mean that you can talk and you can laugh and you can do all of those things. But ultimately I think we all found out that we missed that connection. And during that period of time, I had someone who needed advocacy and many people passed her on to other people. And during that process, um, I spoke to her and I said, how can I, I help? What can I do to support? And she said, all I need is a hug. It's all I need. And she's has tears in her eyes and they're falling. And I said, we'll find a park and will meet. But I think sometimes we forget that importance of all I need with our community, with the lessons that we have been given with the things that we can honor our men with and knowing the strength of our men and knowing our strength of our woman and how we do that.

Elena Giacci ([01:14:53](#)):

Now, I, um, have a, um, one slide. And if we could see that slide, that would be great, uh, or not I had sent it. And, um, anything slide, no slide. We don't have the slide. Ah, just a moment. You got it. Well, one of the things that came out of me working with native communities was the idea of, um, making connections and also honoring connections that have not yet been made or failed connections. And I had the honor and privilege of working with Dr. Miller, who is my researchy person as I call her because there's so many things that I do not know about research that makes no sense. But what I do know about is making connections and we were able to join forces. And we did this research that I'm very, very, very proud of. And probably one of the best components of this research was really looking at, um, the, uh, the parts where we looked at reproductive coercion and why it was happening and all of the bad things about what was occurring.

Elena Giacci ([01:16:22](#)):

And so what we did was we had the opportunity to listen well, and part of what we did was when we spoke to these women, they gave us their stories. I cannot tell you as a young person, as someone who is growing up, the importance of your story, the importance of the lesson in your story is invaluable. Nobody else is gonna have that. So we developed this, what we call the violence disruptor model. And in that violence disruptor model, we didn't sit there and say, oh well, it's because of poverty. It's because of alcohol. It's because of drugs. And this is why this is, is happening. Instead, we took a look at the systems that people kept on mentioning during this research. And as you can see at the very bottom there's current trauma, colonization, historical trauma, and up from that ground starts coming of the cultural of silence, because I will let you know that my, the men in my life and the men in our communities have learned that lesson all too well, is the culture of silence with not saying what has happened, not being afraid of how it would react, because it might influence the way people think of you to look at systemic institutional responses, even to that and how we are not paying attention to the, the listening of true listening, not only with our little ears, but with our hearts and our spirits to sit there and listen well to the types of things and the storytelling that you all have is immeasurable because the one who comes along, if we did not have storytelling in our communities, so much of our culture, so much of our language, so much of our way of life would have been lost.

Elena Giacci ([01:18:34](#)):

But through those storytelling, and I have a grandma who tells a long story and, and there was one time I got up and, and she goes, do I look like I'm finished? And it's like, no, what a fool I am, because the thing was is that every bit of that story was sacred and each and every one of you have that when we look at it rising in the coercive and involuntary, excuse me, alcohol use the absence of prosecuting crimes. So if you have been failed by a system and you consistently get failed by a system, then you say,

well, it's not working for me. And nobody's caring. And in some ways the systems have failed, but what hasn't failed is your relationship to those who stand next to you in front of you behind you and those sacred ones who are up, um, watching over us.

Elena Giacci ([01:19:41](#)):

When we look at what that violence disruptor component is. And in that center is the strength of family, an open communication, tell your story, culturally accessible treatment and hope for positive change, hope our people, our hope. We walk with courage and healing and endurance. And that's how we strengthen our ways inside that heart of yours, disrupts violence, disrupts those lonely pieces. If I had one word to say is when we look at the OGO LA Lakota way of saying all my relations, all my relatives, that's who we are all relations. It says Matak wi assay. And thank you very much.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:20:44](#)):

Thank you, Elena, for what I would best categorize as a lesson in what it means to be human and what it means to be alive, honest to goodness, you talked about the most essential truths, um, that children are sacred beings and that they don't develop well when our goal is independence. And one of the things that I think is worse about our broader culture, not the culture of our indigenous nations, but our broader culture is that our goal is independence. And that's what defined as strength. The truth is that our goal is interdependence across the generations. And I think that you just put this so beautifully and so passionately that my better path would've been silence. And to have just said, hear that rather than commenting. I wanna make one other point before the other panelists might also say something. And that is that we are so lamenting, uh, these young people who have gone through the age of COVID and the age of uncertainty, and we are painting the generation with a broad brush of brokenness.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:22:07](#)):

And I believe that so much of this generation has learned the very lesson that you're pointing out, Elena, the lesson of what it means to hug. When you can't hug your grandma for a year, you suddenly learn to venerate the elderly to listen to their stories. When you can't, uh, worship together, you suddenly learn the power of elevating prayer. When you can't learn together in school, you learn how meaningful education is. I believe that this generation will hear what you describe as the essential truth of humanity. And it will make sense to them in a way that previous generations it may not have because they couldn't get off the treadmill. Mm-hmm, <affirmative>, mm-hmm <affirmative>, this generation has learned, the treadmill has a stop button and that stopping and looking at our relations is a way to elevate all of us. So thank you. Thank you for that wisdom. Is, is, is there any other panelist that would like to comment?

Jared Bailey ([01:23:14](#)):

Uh, yes. I, I definitely enjoy, um, both the speakers and their perspectives, um, on the holistic standpoint, um, when it comes to fatherhood, when it comes to family and community, um, especially of, um, how to deal with certain life events. Because a lot of times as kids, I see kids as a seed and as that seed is planted, um, over the years that fruit grows off of that, uh, tree that it came from the seed. Um, all of this fruit may not be the best bearing fruit. It may be rotten fruit, and that's because of the trauma that came, um, early on in that life as that tree was a seed. And so I think what's really important is to understand that generational trauma is something that many people don't understand how to deal with. Um, people don't necessarily realize that it's important to have these community circles or even social circles, um, in safe spaces to, to be able to discuss certain things with people, um, and life events



that have affected, um, a lot of individuals, um, and the way we think the way we, uh, speak the way we interact with people all comes from how our life started early on.

Jared Bailey ([01:24:31](#)):

Um, so, you know, great. Um, definitely great standpoints and perspectives from the speakers. Thank you.

Parrish Davenport ([01:24:39](#)):

I do. If I can add, I do believe more of these conversations need to take place. A big takeaway that I'm taking that I received is the culture of silence. And I believe that, and I really thank you for sharing that the culture of silence is what I believe is birthing more trauma. No one wants to really discuss that issue and what happens. Um, and I keep forgetting, I actually wrote a book, um, removing the mask and it's for men, um, teaching men how to deal with, um, choose healing versus coping. And from my experience from teaching, uh, with Dr. Miller studies, it's a culture of silence, no one wants to speak. So we are conditioned to go with the flow of what your pair thinks you should go with and keep in mind that pair is birthed off of, um, a generational piece of trauma and so on and so on.

Parrish Davenport ([01:25:42](#)):

But when do we ever get to the place where we can create an atmosphere to break the silence, to break that culture of silence. And, um, with young, especially with the men that I work with, the young boys, it's like, it's a mask and the mask is dominating their behavior. So it's not truly who they are, but based from the trauma, the trauma produced that mask. And they're becoming a character that's nowhere close to who they're, who they really are. So, um, more of these conversations, I really enjoyed being a part of this and hearing from, um, every presenter and then a healing circle, Dr. Miller. I was thinking about maybe something we can really, um, launch in our communities because you don't really hear too much about a healing circle. You hear everything else, but let's get down to what's really going on in our community. And we are in desperate need. You know, we're talking about the pandemic of, um, COVID 19, but we have a horrible, a worse pandemic of trauma. So I think that this is a start. So thank you guys for sharing,

Liz Miller ([01:26:58](#)):

Ken. I think we're ready to also bring Devon and Luciano into the conversation. Let's see if we can do the, the tech piece Devon Luciano are your camera's working?

Luciano Lanz ([01:27:13](#)):

Yes, my camera is working.

Devon Givner ([01:27:15](#)):

Hello, my camera. Isn't working. Oh,

Liz Miller ([01:27:18](#)):

Your camera's not working. That's a, okay. I'm just so happy. You both are here and incredibly grateful for the gift of your time today. Um, that was a lot of information and, um, Luciano, maybe you could share with us what, you know, there were, you know, there was so much in what Dr. Rawlins is Ms and

Ms. Gill shared. Um, and also what you heard from Dr. Ken around, um, you know, resilient and, um, but what are, what is some, you know, one, one thing that really resonated for you as you were listening,

Luciano Lanz ([01:27:57](#)):

Um, I'll try to speak as clearly playing right behind, I really getting like that, our body physically manifests anxiousness and nervousness. And I really love like, getting to know why it does that. I was like towards the beginning of the meeting,

Liz Miller ([01:28:30](#)):

I love the fact Luciano. You're just like so incredibly responsible with being band major this year and, uh, take taking time away to, to join us today. So thank you for that. And I think, you know, Ken, maybe you can comment on that in terms of the right, like just helping young people learn about their bodies and, um, and what's going on, you know, when confronted with stress.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:28:56](#)):

Yeah. So, um, Luciano, thank you for, um, commenting on that. Uh, you know, our bodies send us signals and when we learn to listen to our bodies, it allows us to know what action steps we need to take. There's a reason that the blood leaves our belly and runs to our butt so that we can jump before we think. And the reason is you shouldn't be thinking if you should be running, but sometimes your body sends you these signals that says I'm in trouble, I'm uncomfortable. And our body gives us the opportunity to first get to safety, but then to look within ourselves and say, Hm, I'm feeling deeply stressed. And even though my brain wasn't ready to say it, my body is sending a signal. The biggest mistake we make in medicine is that people separate the body from the mind, right. And people will, um, you know, separate the psychology from the biology. It's understanding that we are integrated as beings. That is a first step to be able to heal. All right, it's beyond the scope of this. Talk for me to talk about what it means when I work with kids with chronic pain, with all sorts of ways that their bodies are sending them signals about the stress in their life. And you heal both simultaneously, I'll leave it at that for now.

Liz Miller ([01:30:24](#)):

So Devon, as you were, um, listening to, and, um, you know, again, Devon, thank you for the gift of your time. You know, this, um, Devon has been attending one of the youth programs downtown Pittsburgh, um, and has carved out time to join us this afternoon, um, as well. So thank you. And as you were listening to, um, what Dr. Rawlins as Ms Giacci were talking about in terms of the importance of, you know, male caregivers, um, you know, male and father figures in our lives, as well as kinda the community supports. Was there any of that that was, um, kind of really spoke to you

Devon Givner ([01:31:09](#)):

I Mean, I couldn't really hear anything cuz it was like kind of buffering, but the one thing I, uh, I, uh, heard was that like, you know, some father figures are like not there in your life. Like mine, I don't really know who my, uh, real dad is, but uh, my adoptive dad was like there to like, you know, impact and like put me on the right path. So like, yeah.

Liz Miller ([01:31:38](#)):

Yeah. Devon, thank you so much for sharing that. And I'm wondering too, Dr. Rawlins, I had seen a question in the, in the chat related to this as well. I'm wondering if you can speak to broadly, right. Um,

for people who are male male identified in, in society and um, how they can be more involved in supporting our young people?

Latrice Rollins ([01:32:00](#)):

Yeah, absolutely. I think that's the reason why I put that definition at the very beginning. We're talking about male, male, identifying stepfather, adoptive foster <laugh>, however, um, fathers that are, um, in the community and they play a role in supporting, um, all the young men. Um, not only as, um, you know, being able to identify with their, um, gender, um, also being able to identify with them race, but different things that they're going through. It really, you know, brings together that idea of the village, right? Just all of us kind of being able to come together and support, um, as Dr. Ken was talking about that interdependence. And so, you know, men and, and our male caregivers are a part of that, um, village as well and, and have that role to play. So, um, so definitely, uh, appreciate that point. Um, by Devon

Liz Miller ([01:33:02](#)):

It's always a little harder to moderate a group discussion over zoom, but I will do my best <laugh>. Um, so one of the things, you know, that Elena, you know, Ms. Giacci Is you were speaking about history and really underscoring that it's not like, oh, that was like, you know, a hundred years ago. Like that was that, and this is now right. Um, which is a pretty dominant narrative, um, in our us society and, you know, Perish, I'm gonna bounce this one to you in terms of, you know, as we think about healing circles, as we think about that, how do we bring in conversations of history, right. Which is in fact really current, um, right. Like the historical trauma is very much part of our story. And, you know, Pittsburgh's overrepresented in this particular symposium, partly because I just love pulling in people. I love.

Liz Miller ([01:34:02](#)):

Um, but also because one of the things to point out is the city of Pittsburgh. When we compare ourselves to 89, other cities in the country are the worst, um, on maternal health indicators, infant health indicators on the number of, um, black students who are suspended and referred to the police. Um, we are actually at the bottom compared to 89 other cities. And so learning the history and why the systems and structures are like this for us in the city of Pittsburgh and what we need to do to start dismantling that as we create pathways for healing. Um, so Parrish, I'm kind of curious to know from you, as you've been listening along today, where does history fit in?

Parrish Davenport ([01:34:51](#)):

I think, um, especially for what we're dealing with, it's a major piece. I think that's, to be honest, that's where I was start first, um, to get the interest, to get the, uh, participants, not only just the participants, I think we need to go a step farther. Um, whoever their caregivers are, right. Bridge that gap. Because I feel like a lot of times if we're educating the participants about the history piece, and let's say if they're parents or the caregivers, not even anywhere closely interested in that, we still have a gap, right? Because they gain what they, they receive the education they get from us, but then they have to go home. And nine out of 10 sometimes it's flush down the toilet, right. Because of what they're returning to. So I think we need to get the whole village together and educate them on the historic piece of trauma, the historic piece of where we are. And then we can develop a plan to move forward and identify the variables or the areas of where we need healing at the lack of understanding and historical of view of trauma and what has occurred. Um, I think it sets us up to keep repeating that cycle,

Liz Miller ([01:36:04](#)):

Curious to know Jared, what you might add to that.

Jared Bailey ([01:36:09](#)):

Yes. I, I do believe that a part of that history, um, is people not understanding how to cope with their trauma and what they've been through, um, and how to correctly find ways to cope with it. Uh, because a lot of times people may cope, um, with certain, you know, I think unhealthy habits, I would say. Um, and as Dr Rawlins mentioned having programs, uh, available for parents, um, for them to understand how to work together as partners to create a healthy lifestyle for their children. Um, because I think one of the most, I think one of the most, um, anxious times in any male's life is becoming a father because there are so many things he's probably thinking I'm not a father I'm in my early twenties, but even when I think of fatherhood, I think of, okay, how am I gonna raise this child?

Jared Bailey ([01:37:04](#)):

How will, what, what would this child learn from me? How can I be the best example for this child? Um, who can I go to if I have questions about a child and, um, depending on, you know, certain, um, depending on certain ways that people grow and learn from others, um, it, it directly affects, um, that, that child's development. So I think community and the community is a big piece. Um, the community matters and the culture that we perpetuate matters upon mental health, upon, um, tearing down those groups of trauma, um, and understanding how people can be, um, very attentive and can listen to their child's needs, um, when they express something, because a lot of times the youth and sometimes many men in older age don't know how, how to express how they feel, because they never have been taught how to express how they felt. So, um, I think one of the bigger pieces is just to remember, um, that there are circles and that there are opportunities out there. They just meet must be made available to those who need them.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:38:15](#)):

I'm loving this conversation because it's centering on the healing of human connection and on the power of human expression, right? To be able to talk to others about what you've been through. I just wanna make one comment as someone who's deeply involved in, um, trauma, um, and discussing a national really that, that is that it, the message backfires badly, not the conversation we're having, we're having the full rich conversation, but the conversation in simplistic terms is trauma predicts blank. It predicts a behavior, it predicts a health outcome. And I think that that is actually potentially very dangerous. And we as healers and as community folks have to, um, uh, change the message to trauma may make you more likely to, and therefore you are deserving of focused attention and human connection, right? So the key is you deserve more, but you can like, you know, while trauma may make you more likely to have X disease or Y behavior, it is not determined.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:39:31](#)):

There are many things human beings can do. And most importantly are the two that have just been mentioned, the power of human connection and of expression of what you've been through. So you're not, it's not determined, please make sure this message gets out there. Otherwise I have seen it do tremendous harm and really literally paralyzed people thinking they can't do anything about it because, and that's not the message we want. We want the message of healing and of action. And of course, getting rid of the problems in the first place. Let's be clear about that as well.

Parrish Davenport ([01:40:10](#)):

Can I ask a question? Um, so trauma predicts that fill the blank is what's out there. How do we turn that corner though? Yes. We just talked about the historical aspect, introducing that to the community. But to me it feels like, okay, when we mention the word trauma, it's a diagnosis and it's the end. All right? Okay, they're dealing with trauma and then this is, what's gonna be the result of it. But as a community, especially in the urban communities, um, what are your thoughts on how we can turn that corner?

Ken Ginsburg ([01:40:44](#)):

Are you asking

Parrish Davenport ([01:40:46](#)):

Just, yeah, I'll start with you, Ken.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:40:49](#)):

I didn't know,

Parrish Davenport ([01:40:50](#)):

I was just putting it out there.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:40:52](#)):

I'm not sure that I have the wisdom and I would defer to other people. What I feel really strongly about is that they not think it's the end all be all. And rather that they understand the truth. They understand the history. They understand that empowerment needs to happen to dismantle the systems that perpetuate trauma, but they also understand that people are capable of healing and that we do so past one, by one, you know, joining with the person next to us, and then with multiple people next to them, here's what we know for a reason that has something to do with physics and everything to do with spirituality. When we joined together as human beings, we are more powerful than the sum of our individual parts. That's the message. And while we have suffered, while you may have suffered, the solution also resides within us by going to each other. That to me is the message. And I have to tell you, frankly, it's not the message of the simple trauma talks that come into a community to inform them. And I believe those simple talks do tremendous harm to communities.

Elena Giacci ([01:42:04](#)):

Things that I have found successful is that I make a presumption that everybody often in our community understands the historical consequences, or even acknowledges the historical component that has occurred in our community and the damage that has been done because during the process of understanding historical and current trauma, all too often, I see my community, um, except, and the blame that was pushed on them. And everybody saying that it was their fault, this happened. So I think in the telling of the historical trauma is really acknowledging the blame that people feel because it was solely pushed on them and start removing it little pieces at a time. And part of that comes from the storytelling from telling not just your story, but other people's story that has been laid before you and given to you in a sacred way, because those often help. And I cannot tell you just the simple act of saying this was not your fault, not your making.

Elena Giacci ([01:43:32](#)):

You are not to blame taking that. What seems to be a small message. And when I sit there and deliver it, I watch this blossom. I watch tears come because they're saying, but no, I did this. And it's like, no, this did not, not have anything to do with you, but everything to do with others. And so taking that piece, walking it around the corner, but really sending that message because as people who are in trauma, it's really hard sometimes to hear it with the ears at first, you might feel it in your heart, but you have been living with this trauma, perhaps all of your life trauma is very sticky and it sticks to our spirits and it sticks to our heart. And it sticks to our brain, which prohibits sometimes thinking in a way that is going to be positive for yourself. So it's taking it little bits at a time, pulling it back and let, and you, you go, of course, people should know they're not to blame for, you know, the trauma and this displaced lens. And instead it's saying you are not to blame for this pain.

Liz Miller ([01:44:57](#)):

I love that Elena. And it's, it's both, you are not to blame and you are beautiful, right? You have strengths that you, you know, that, that, that you are loved and you know, that emphasis on young people's strengths. Um, you know, the very first time that I heard my friend Ken, speak about this, it was really mind blowing cuz I, as I had shared at the beginning, it's not the way in which many of us were trained right. In the health professions to lead with strengths. And Luciano before your, your phone dies, cuz I know you're also out on the field and can't plug your phone in. I'm wondering actually from your perspective, right. Where, um, you know, I know, you know, a number of the, the adults who who've, um, been a part of, you know, supporting you through high school and what is it felt like when, you know, adults actually lead with strengths and I really get you to, you know, to talk about the things that you're good at. What does that feel like for you?

Luciano Lanz ([01:46:02](#)):

Wait, I don't, I don't under, I quite understand the question. Yeah. Could you ask that again?

Liz Miller ([01:46:06](#)):

Well, just like kind of the, you know, the, the, you know, you, you know, I mean every time I see you, I'm like, you're so amazing. Right. And um, but like that, you know, the, what is the difference when you think about a teacher or a coach who really emphasizes your strengths versus, you know, those teachers who are like, why didn't you like do X, Y, and Z, right. You know, what, what are, what are, how does it feel different for you as a young person? Like, what's your message for us adults,

Luciano Lanz ([01:46:35](#)):

Whenever I'm faced with a teacher who like acknowledges my progression and doesn't set me back by giving me words of negativity, it makes me feel like connected. And I feel that when you form connections with people, you feel more strength within, it's basically building a community when you feel more connection and there is strength in numbers. So I don't really know where I'm going with it, but <laugh> uh,

Liz Miller ([01:47:08](#)):

No, it was almost like that was like scripted, right? I mean, that's, that's the point of these, like the whole point of like leading with strengths, right? Is that you feel more connected, right. You're being seen as a human being. And that I think is so much of what we're talking about here, right? This is not, you know, this is not rocket science. And yet at the same time, we struggle so much as adults. And especially as youth serving professionals, um, kind of in this space of like just allowing us to really

emphasize, um, you know, how fabulous they are and you know, Devon too, you heard miss Giacci use the word sacred to refer to young people as sacred. And I'm wondering how that feels to you, you know, as a young person, who's like, you know, attending job readiness training, doing all of these kind of amazing, amazing things that you are?

Devon Givner ([01:48:15](#)):

Can you repeat the question again?

Liz Miller ([01:48:17](#)):

Huh? Yeah, yeah. Some, you know, let me rephrase it to say from your perspective, Devon, when you know, adults focus on things that you're good at when adults have and recognize like how awesome you are, how does that feel to you?

Devon Givner ([01:48:36](#)):

Well, it feels to me that like when adults, when adults like show, show that I'm awesome. Like if I feel good about myself finally, and like, you know, cause sometimes I draw and then like in class and my teachers, my teachers sometimes compliments like all my drawings and I feel good about myself. I feel like I should be an artist or something, you know?

Liz Miller ([01:49:04](#)):

Okay, it's gonna make me cry. <laugh>.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:49:20](#)):

And Liz remember though, when we're talking about strength based communication, the end goal is to have our young people understand that they're awesome, but we don't lead with you are awesome. We lead with profound and deep listening so that their stories unfold so that their awesomeness rises and so that we can reflect back to them what we've heard. And when we then say, this is what I heard, this is what I saw. Do you agree? They know that we think they're awesome because we've actually pointed out their inherent strengths. And that's what so few people do. So, so many people will notice what they've produced, how they performed on a test, all of which is worthy of praise, but there's so few adults that really see that, you know, again, to quote Elena that sacred spark within the human being. Right. Um, and uh, that, uh, that's what we're really looking for and that's active, active listening, and then sharing what we heard.

Liz Miller ([01:50:33](#)):

So Ken, we have a few, um, questions actually in the Q and A that we might want to get to as we have like nine minutes left. Um, and one of the questions, um, is what are some of the gender specific factors, um, that are militating against boys and young men feeling resilient, connected, confident, optimistic, and you know, Perish. I think this was also what you were reflecting on from Elena's comments about the culture of silence, right? As being one of them. Um, and certainly one of the many harmful masculinities, um, that, that we need to address.

Parrish Davenport ([01:51:19](#)):

Yes. And if I can just reflect back to, we have the, uh, manhood 2.0 program, which is a curriculum based program for men to, uh, discuss masculinity. I believe that, um, I'm going back to that culture of silence

cuz it's in my notes. Um, with men it's very, very difficult to, if you dealt with trauma and I appreciate Kim, um, putting it out there on what the saying is fo uh, trauma predicts, blah, blah, blah. Because if we got to actually see that in the classroom, um, as far as another piece with them masculine, uh, piece is just embracing who you are being authentic, right? That's a challenge because if you are authentic as a male, especially, um, I'll just say in my community, right, as an African American male, if you're authentic and if it doesn't copycat, uh, let's just use this for, if I don't copycat, what, how Jared is, then I'm already put in a whole nother category separate then Jared, instead of accepting the fact that we're two African American men that are authentic in our own specific way. So I, I believe that our boys really have a challenging time and being free and embracing who they truly are. Um, and have been conditioned that I have to go, I have to roll with the flow. I have to walk and talk and act like Jared versus just being Parish. So that's something that we have experienced numerous times, um, during the manhood 2.0 program identity is what I'm trying to say,

Ken Ginsburg ([01:53:12](#)):

Liz, I I'd like to thank you so much for that Parish. I'd like to go back to one of Latrice's earliest slides when she was talking about engaging men in fatherhood, she said that we had to move past the assumptions that they were uninterested in fatherhood. Can we just listen to that statement and be deeply offended by it? She's doing the right thing. I don't mean being offended by what Latrice said, but let's take a pause and be deeply offended that there are men who receive a message that we assume they would be uninteresting. How dare us as a society. Let's like raise that up the flag hole and call offence that such stereotypes exist.

Parrish Davenport ([01:54:02](#)):

Ken. And I'm glad you mentioned that is going back to that whole generational piece. And I think Jared mentioned that earlier, a lot of adults are bleeding, their trauma on young people, especially men. I can recall a man telling me about getting married, get married for money, not for love. That's what he said to me. So I'm like, I'm only at that time. I think I was like 21 or 22. So I'm glad you mentioned that Ken, I feel like part of the healing piece is we have to have some adult literacy to help, um, take the layers off of the adults because I feel like a lot of times they're infecting the men. They're infecting young people period with their trauma.

Liz Miller ([01:54:53](#)):

Oh, go ahead, Jared. Sorry.

Jared Bailey ([01:54:55](#)):

No, uh, I definitely agree, uh, with the statements being made because even something that I noticed was that the notion of fatherhood is never shown in advertisements. It's never shown in store, uh, products when it comes to, uh, children's products, they may be a woman in her child, but no father in the picture. Um, and that type of thing subconsciously affects us. I don't think too many people realize that, um, especially look even looking on sites that cater to helping children. There's no representation. And I'll always say that representation matters and mentorship matters because even though, um, you may have a father figure, but I think it's also great to have a mentor who you can also have a safe space with, um, and be able to unpack, um, certain things that they're able to talk to you about. So, um, representation and mentorship matters.

Liz Miller ([01:55:51](#)):



So grateful for that. For sure. Now we have one, um, question here actually, um, that Ken goes back to our, what we were kicking off with, right, which is disclosure is not the goal in healing centered approaches. And at the same time we have recommendations for screening for things like depression, anxiety, substance use, and all of these things that require a lot of disclosure. And, um, while it serves the purpose of allowing for quick identification, you know, where, and how do we sort of really balance, um, you know, some, you know, outside of this universal screening and, um, what I will, I'm gonna start by saying that one of the things that, um, I've learned from Ken is the importance, um, for those of us who are health professionals and doing assessments about a young person's health is explaining why we're asking the questions, but always leading with the strengths, right? Always leading with, tell me more about you. What are the things that you're good at? Um, and I insist with every one of my learners that they must come out and tell me like three strengths, um, that they were able, you know, that they really listened to, um, the young person, um, while they were in the exam room. Ken, do you wanna add a little bit more to that?

Liz Miller ([01:57:20](#)):

You're muted.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:57:23](#)):

Sorry about that. First. I agreed with you Liz. And the second thing I said is that there can be truths that occur simultaneously. I work with youth enduring homelessness who are like wor you know, on the streets, suffering, being exploited. I have to learn about risk. I have to learn if they're safe in the moment I have to ask if they're in danger of hurting themselves. But while I ask, I understand that there's something else going on in parallel, which is I'm forming relationship. And that, that is actually more important because I will not know the full truths until I am in relationship with a young person. And I think one of the biggest mistakes we make as adults is commenting too early, positively or negatively by what someone says, even if someone says Dr. Ken, I got straight A's. My instinct is to go look at you.

Ken Ginsburg ([01:58:18](#)):

I'm so proud of what you accomplished, what you did, what you told me in the minute. And when we push that as the end goal, then what happens is that when that young person is suffering, cuz their father goes to jail or, or their mom dies and they suddenly have to become the parent in the household. They don't come back to us because they learned that we applauded what they told us. When instead we get disclosure, we ask about key questions, but we make it clear that what we value most is relationship. Thank you for always including me in your life. Thank you for sharing your truth with me. Thank you for knowing that I'm someone who cares. We always talk about relationship because then when the kid needs us the most, when we need to have their back, when during backward movement they'll know that they can turn to our relationship. So yes. To screening for risk, but yes, bigger to forming relationship.

David Bell ([01:59:30](#)):

So hi all. Uh, did you wanna say anything Liz before we close?

Liz Miller ([01:59:37](#)):

No, this is just, I'm just grateful. Really, really grateful to be able to spend time with all of you.

David Bell ([01:59:43](#)):

Thank you. I appreciate the huge hearts. All of you have thank you for sharing your collective expertise. We had an end of a such an awesome panel discussion on young males, healing partnerships and, and promoting resilience. A reminder to our audience, to complete the survey. As you leave the symposium, it will take less than five minutes. So picking up on the theme of connection and love that we have discussed today, hugs to you all personally, and on behalf of the partnership for male youth, I wanna deeply thank all of the panelists. I came away with so many pearls of wisdom and thank you to our audience for taking the time to participate. And I hope this symposia has been an enlight as enlightening for you as it has for me. Thank you all.