

E8 The Facets of Family Engagement: Promoting Accessible Paternity Establishment

Amy C. Peters, MSW and Alison C. White, MS
Iowa State University Child Welfare Research and Training Project
Pataff@iastate.edu

In this session, we will explore how we use data-driven strategies and digital tools to target outreach to parents, hospitals, and pre-natal and community providers. We will also discuss how states can collaborate to share great ideas and resources.

Table of Contents

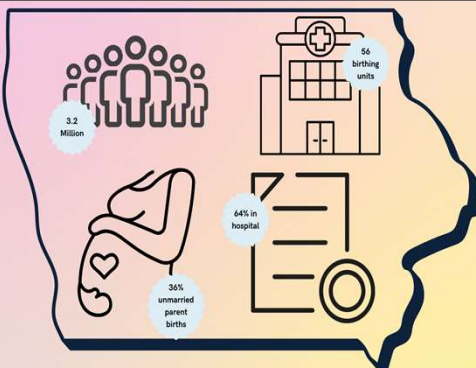
Cut Who are we?
Color What informs our work?
Clarity How do we conduct outreach?
Carat What is the weight of our work?

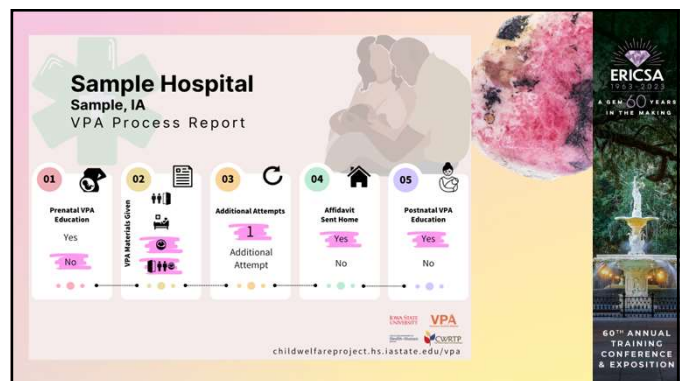
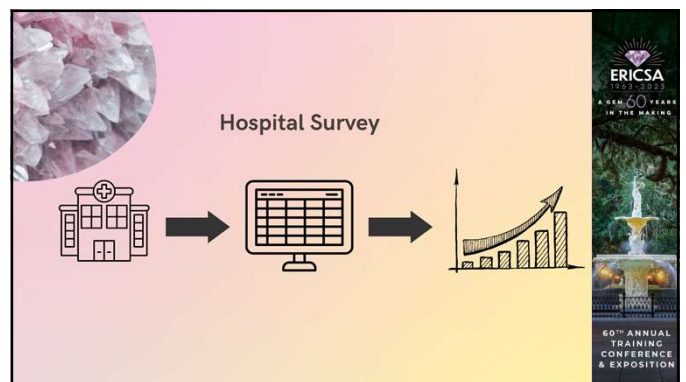
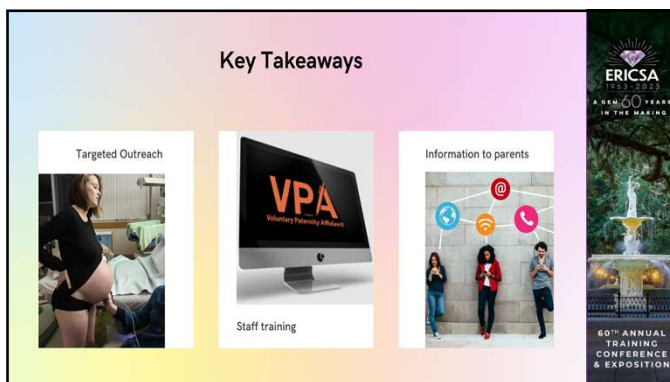
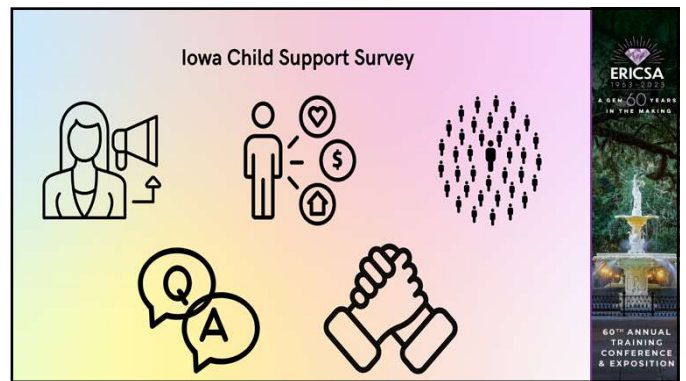
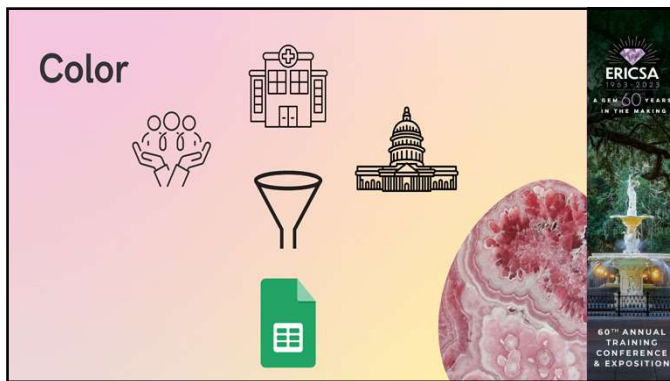
Cut

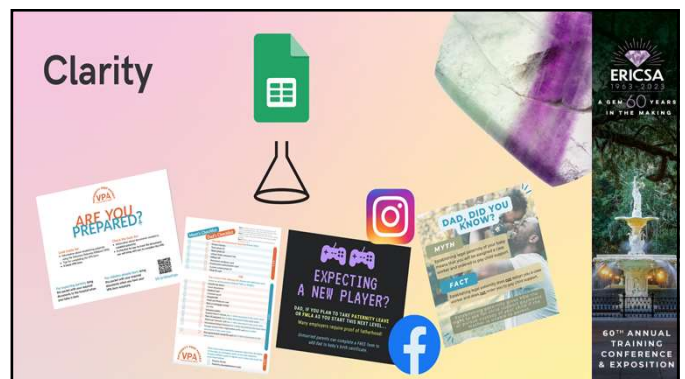
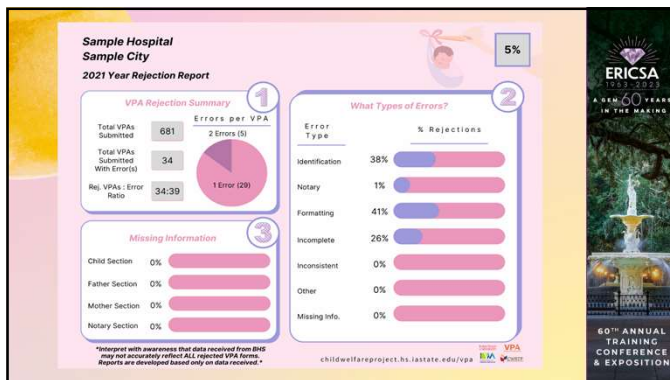
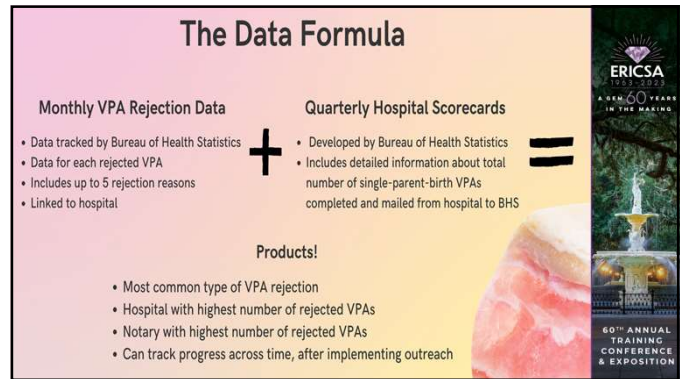
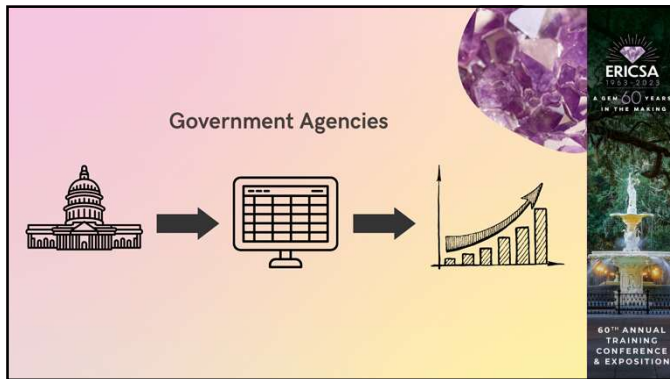
IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY



VPA
Voluntary Paternity Affidavit







Clarity

Outreach at Multiple Systems and Time Points

Our goal was to expand our outreach to connect with individuals both within and outside of their medical network, and to expand this outreach across time (before conception, prenatally, during delivery, and postnatally)

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING
60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Voluntary Paternity Affidavit Training

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING
60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

VPA

Voluntary Paternity Affidavit Program

What is the Voluntary Paternity Affidavit (VPA)?

The voluntary paternity affidavit is a **free** form for unmarried biological parents to establish a legal father for their child. The VPA can be completed in the hospital at the time of the child's birth, or any time after the child is born. There is no age limit for establishing paternity with the VPA.

To learn more, watch the video below. To view the video in Spanish, click [here](#).

Watch on YouTube

Voluntary Paternity Affidavit Program
Information for Parents
Information for Hospital, Clinic, and Community Organization Staff
Resource Materials
*NEW! Paternity Prep Packet
VPA Online Training

Sign up for updates!
Get info about the VPA in your inbox.
*Email:

By submitting this form, you are consenting to receive marketing emails from: New York State University, 2320 N. Loop Drive, Suite 0700, Irving, NY 10593-1029. You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the link in the footer of any email you receive from New York State University. We will never share your email address with third parties.

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING
60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Social Media Piloting

Strategy 1

Use social media to connect with specific individuals across the state

Strategy 2

Bust Myths and Deliver Facts

Strategy 3

Use data analytics to inform future campaigns

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING
60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

EXPECTING A NEW PLAYER?

DAD, IF YOU PLAN TO TAKE PATERNITY LEAVE OR FMLA AS YOU START THIS NEXT LEVEL...

Many employers require proof of fatherhood!

Unmarried parents can complete a **FREE** form to add dad to baby's birth certificate.

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING
60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

BIOLOGICAL FATHER VS LEGAL FATHER

- ☒ The person who contributed half of baby's genetics
- ☒ Eligible to seek custody and visitation
- ☒ May have a say in potentially life-saving medical decisions for baby
- ☒ Can add baby to dad's medical insurance
- ☒ May have access to medical and school records
- ☒ Baby may be eligible for dad's veteran's or social security benefits

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING
60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION



DAD, DID YOU KNOW?

MYTH

Establishing legal paternity of your baby means that you will be assigned a case worker and ordered to pay child support.

FACT

Establishing legal paternity does not assign you a case worker and does not order you to pay child support.

Establishing paternity gives **YOU** the right to ask for child support payments or pursue custody of your child if the mother is unable to parent.

ERICSA
A NEW 60 YEARS
IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL
TRAINING
CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION

HEY, DAD!

Don't forget!

ONE VALID U.S. GOVERNMENT-ISSUED:

- DRIVER'S LICENSE
- STATE PHOTO ID
- UNITED STATES PASSPORT/VISA
- MILITARY ID
- PERMANENT RESIDENCE CARD
- EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION CARD
- CURRENT SCHOOL PHOTO ID
- TRIBAL ID CARD

TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY.

ERICSA
A NEW 60 YEARS
IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL
TRAINING
CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION



Paternity Prep Packets

- Designed for outreach at any point during the child's life
- A folder to hold all necessary documentation
- A detailed checklist for mom and dad
- A sample VPA form with tips and tricks inside

ERICSA
A NEW 60 YEARS
IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL
TRAINING
CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION

PATERNITY PREP PACKET
VPA

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Look inside for:

- Information about establishing paternity using the Voluntary Paternity Affidavit (VPA)
- Tips for completing the VPA form
- A blank VPA form

Check the back for:

- Information about documents needed to establish paternity
- A checklist for you to track the documents you will bring with you to complete the VPA

For expecting parents, bring this packet with your required documents to the hospital when your baby is born.

For children already born, bring this packet with your required documents when you have your VPA form notarized.

bit.ly/aboutvpa

ERICSA
A NEW 60 YEARS
IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL
TRAINING
CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION

Mom's Checklist

Dad's Checklist

One valid U.S. Government issued ID (Check ONE)

- ☐ Driver's license
- ☐ State photo ID
- ☐ Work photo ID
- ☐ United States passport/visa
- ☐ Military ID
- ☐ Permanent residence card
- ☐ Employment authorization card
- ☐ Current school photo ID
- ☐ Tribal ID card

-OR-

Two to three of the following IDs (Names and addresses must match on all documents) (Check TWO or THREE)

- ☐ Recent tax return
- ☐ Court documents
- ☐ Medical Card
- ☐ Criminal record
- ☐ Hospital bill
- ☐ Medicaid/Medicare card
- ☐ Rent or mortgage receipt
- ☐ Car title
- ☐ Insurance policy

Expired driver's license plus 1 other document in the same name

Non-ID passport plus 1 other document in the same name

Marriage/Consular card plus 1 other document in the same name

International driver's license plus 1 other document in the same name

Foreign-issued voter's registration or ID card plus 2 other documents in the same name

Non-government issued ID card plus 2 other documents in the same name

More: If you were married to someone other than the father of the baby at conception, birth, or any time between, include certified copies of signed court orders (see insert for more information).

☐ Choose date

☐ Paternity establishment order

ERICSA
A NEW 60 YEARS
IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL
TRAINING
CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION

Voluntary Paternity Affidavit

Tips

Below are some tips for completing a Voluntary Paternity Affidavit (VPA).

On the back of this paper, there is a sample VPA for you to practice filling out before the birth of your baby.

Don't forget to write your baby's last name here.

Make sure to check the box that applies to your situation. One box must be checked.

If mother was married to someone who is NOT the father of the baby, she must provide a certified court order stating the person who was married to her is NOT the father of the baby.

Forms with scratch-offs for anonymous responses. If you have an anonymous response, please use the scratch-off form to request a new form to request.

ERICSA
A NEW 60 YEARS
IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL
TRAINING
CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION



Use this form to practice filling out a Voluntary Paternity Affidavit. You can bring this to the hospital and use it as a guide when filling out your official form.

Double-Check List *Did you...*

- ☐ Write baby's last name?
- ☐ Check the appropriate box under Mom's section?
- ☐ Check if you need to bring any additional court documents?
- ☐ Check that there are no scratch-outs or errors before being rejected.

Form with scratch-outs or errors may be rejected.

Scratch-Outs

John, Jose

Write-Outs

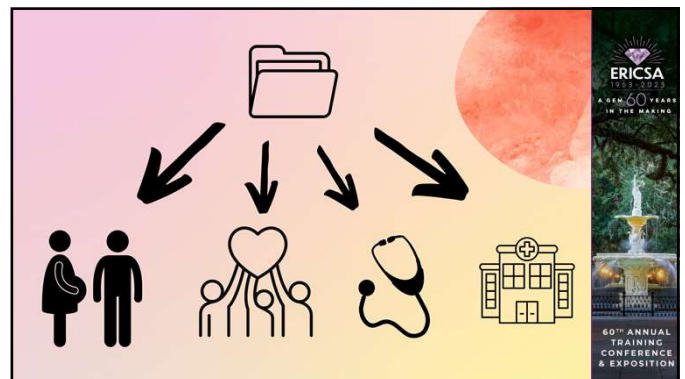
12/15

VPA

When in doubt, keep it neat and repeat!

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION



Carat

What is the weight of our work?



ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION



Collaboration



What is the Voluntary Paternity Affidavit... Watch later

Watch on YouTube



Diversity of Fatherhood Photo Bank

Photo credit: Alameda County Father Corps' Fatherhood Photo Bank
<https://www.diversityoffatherhood.com/>

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Collaboration



Child Support Training Partnership

ERICSA 1953-2023 A NEW 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING

60th ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Thank you!

Amy C. Peters, MSW and Alison C. White, MS
Iowa State University Child Welfare Research and Training Project

Patoff@iastate.edu

