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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Coalition to host “Dads at a Disadvantage” panel discussion on how the opioid and mental health crises affect dads

- WHAT** Dads at a Disadvantage is a listening session on the impact of the opioid and mental health crises on fathers in Northeast Florida. A panel of experts will discuss how these crises specifically impact dads and what we can do as a community, followed by an audience discussion. Panelists are Baker County Court Judge Joey Williams; mental health advocate and retired Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office Department of Corrections Director Tara Wildes; Gateway Community Services Pregnant and Postpartum Mothers Program Manager Letha Page; and Operation New Hope Chief Program Officer and Ready4Work Director Kenneth Scarborough. WJXT News 4 Morning Show Anchor Melanie Lawson will moderate the session. Additional speakers include Councilman Bill Gulliford and Dr. Joseph Cammilleri.
- WHEN** April 11, 2018, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- WHERE** Museum of Science and History, 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville, FL
- WHY** Children whose fathers are involved in their lives are more likely to be and stay healthy. Northeast Florida is currently experiencing unprecedented opioid addiction and overdoses. This issue, coupled with an ongoing mental health crisis and lack of access to services, is severely impacting fathers in the community. When fathers suffer, the impact extends to their children.
- WHO** This event is a collaboration with the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition's Fatherhood PRIDE program, the Center for Urban Families and National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse. The Fatherhood P.R.I.D.E. (Parental Responsibility Inspiring Dads Everywhere) program strengthens and expands fatherhood, employment, housing, health care, mentoring and recidivism reduction services through case management, referrals and group classes.

About the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

The Healthy Start Coalition leads a cooperative community effort to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of children, childbearing women and their families in Northeast Florida. For more information, visit <http://nefhealthystart.org> or on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @nefhealthystart.

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