



What We Do

Circle of Parents® is a growing national network of non-profit organizations and parent leaders that offer anyone in a parenting role the opportunity to participate in weekly group meetings with other parents to exchange ideas, share information, develop and practice new parenting skills, learn about community resources, and give and receive support. Groups are parent-led with the support of a trained group facilitator, are conducted in a confidential and non-judgmental manner, are free of charge and provide developmentally-appropriate children's programs or child care concurrent with the parent group meetings. Developing leadership on the individual, family, community and societal levels is a central theme of the Circle of Parents®. A Responsible Fatherhood program component was added in January, 2008. This component will be covered during the training. Michigan currently has 21 sites, with multiple groups at these sites.

Circle of Parents® utilizes the following standards to guide groups:

- The groups utilize the mutual self-help support model.
- A trained group facilitator and parent leader facilitate the support groups.
- Open groups meet weekly and are offered at no cost to any participant.
- Driven by parent need and feasibility, a no-cost children's program is available; if not possible, then quality childcare is provided.
- The group facilitator, parent leader and other group members are available to one another between group meetings.
- Groups are ongoing, require no intake, and, with few exceptions, are open to all parents.
- Group members are assured of confidentiality in a non-judgmental environment within the limits of the law.
- Community resource information that supports healthy family development is available to all group members.

Parent Leadership

Circle of Parents® participants gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles and represent a "parent voice" to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities. Parents and professionals build effective partnerships and share responsibility, expertise and leadership decisions.

By promoting parents as leaders, participants in Circle of Parents® groups are empowered and prepared to take on leadership roles in their families and on the community, state and national levels.

Parent leadership, which is at the heart of Circle of Parents®, enables parents to contribute to the effectiveness and responsiveness of organizations as they participate in family support program and policy development.

Research Based

Focus groups and evaluation indicate that Circle of Parents® participants:

- become empowered to influence other parents and their community;
- feel supported and connected to other parents;
- learn how to parent children as they grow;
- learn about non-violent ways to discipline children and learn more about themselves and how this awareness helps them to become better parents; and
- gain knowledge about meeting family needs from resources and materials that are provided.

Throughout Michigan, Circle of Parents is being used as the catalyst for developing parent leadership and involvement throughout the community. Fully honoring principles of mutual respect, equal contribution and shared leadership, parents become empowered to influence other parents and their community-advocating on behalf of their children and families.

Who should attend?

- Program Managers/Coordinators
- Parent Educators
- Parent Leaders (fathers are welcome)

What will attendees learn?

- How to Develop, Implement and Evaluate the Circle of Parents® Model
- The importance of promoting "parental balance," and "positive fatherhood involvement"
- The importance of creating father friendly organizations
- The importance of maintaining the Protective Factors
- Group Dynamics
- The Art of Group Facilitation
- Developing Parent Leadership
- Circle of Parent® Group Structure and Operations
- How to Apply Leadership Skills to Local and State-Wide Advocacy

Training Information (Only 20 slots available - Register Early)

- **Where: Cheboygan Youth Center and Child Advocacy Council**
504 Division Street
Cheboygan, MI 49721
Phone: (231) 627 6015
Fax: (231) 597 0185
- **When:** Tuesday, April 20, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. - 04:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. – 03:00 p.m.
- **Cost:** Training and materials will be provided to participants at no charge. Participants will be responsible for lodging the day of the training. State rates are \$65 for single occupancy, and \$75 for double occupancy. You must let the hotel know that this is a State Department of Human Services Children's Trust Fund Training at the time of your reservation.

Where to stay, if overnight accommodations are needed:

The closest lodging is 1.24 miles (3 minutes) from the training facility (Cheboygan Youth Center and Child Advocacy Council)

Best Western River Terrace Hotel
847 South Main Street, Cheboygan, MI
49721(231) 627-5688 – (877) 627-9552

From: Interstate 75 North. Take Exit 313 and go right on M-27. Travel for 17 miles to the Best Western River Terrace.

This pet-friendly Cheboygan, Michigan hotel offers many, beautiful riverfront views, and a convenient access to Lake Huron and Mackinac Island. Located along the scenic Cheboygan River in northern Michigan, the Best Western River Terrace is committed to providing the best in customer service and accommodations at an affordable rate. Each well-appointed guest room at this Cheboygan area hotel features cable satellite television and high-speed Internet access. Hotel guests will enjoy an array of amenities including a complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, indoor heated swimming pool and hot tub, exercise facility, boat docking and limited business services.



REGISTRATION FORM

Cheboygan Youth Center and Child Advocacy Council

504 Division Street

Cheboygan, MI 49721

Phone: (231) 627 6015/**Fax:** (231) 597 0185

Name: _____

Agency/County: _____

Role/Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

THIS SITE WILL HAVE A CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Your role with the Circle of Parents® Program (check all that apply):

_____ Group Facilitator

_____ Parent Leader

_____ Children's Program Staff/Volunteer

_____ Program Coordinator/Director/Supervisor

_____ Potential Circle of Parents site (Facilitator, Parent Leader, Program Coordinator)

Please send registrations forms to:

Derrick Hartwell: Children's Trust Fund

235 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 1411

Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: (517) 373-4320

Fax (517) 241-7038

Email: hartwelld@michigan.gov

