

Nothing About Us Without Us

CTF Annual Training
October 16, 2008



Teresa Marvin, Parent Consultant, DHS
Sylvia Brown Jones, CTF
Sarah Davis, CTF

1

10/08/2008

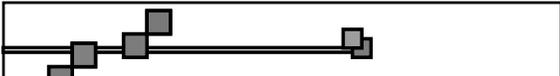


Goals for today

- Define parent leadership
- Discuss the benefits/challenges of parent leadership for programs and parents
- Move down path of stronger parent leadership & resources for programs

2

10/08/2008



What is Parent Leadership?

- It is a philosophy
 - A value-based approach
- It is a process
 - A path and a destination
- It is a practice
 - Engaging parents at all levels of programming—planning, implementation and evaluation

3

10/08/2008

FRIENDS

Fact Sheet #13: Parent Engagement and Leadership

- "Parent Leadership is a strength-based approach to family support that is founded on the belief that parents are knowledgeable about their families and communities and can provide valuable insight into programmatic and community changes to benefit children and families. Parent leadership is successful when parents and staff work together to make decisions that affect families and communities, sharing responsibility, expertise and leadership. Parent leadership begins when organizations support parents' development of leadership skills and eliminate barriers to active parent participation in organization dialogue."

4

10/08/2008

What are the benefits of capturing parent leadership for my program?

- Parents can provide sand to make the pearl
- Parents can bring a referent group of constituents—other parents
- Parents can be mavens in your community for your program—and increase visibility
- Parents refresh professional groups with renewed passion and keep a focus on what is important
- Improves quality of programs

5

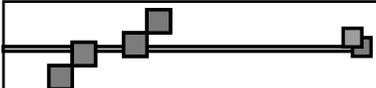
10/08/2008

Parents have plenty to do, why should they want to be a parent leader?

- Many parents just can't help themselves—they must lead
- Parents find empowerment by reaching back and helping a system that helped them
- Parents want to make a road smoother for another parent, there is meaning in the journey
- Improves services & provides opportunity to affect real change

6

10/08/2008

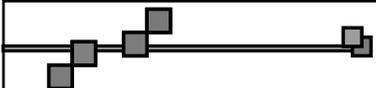


What are the challenges?

- Limited resources
- Limited time
- "Cultural shift" within organization
- Parents may be struggling with basic needs
- Parents are at different levels

7

10/08/2008



How Did We Get There? The 0-3 Journey

- Originally parent leadership was a good idea
- Currently parent leadership is an expectation
 - Written into the Request for Proposal (RFP)
 - Part of the rating criteria for awarding funds
 - Offered training and technical assistance
 - Monitored for compliance
- CTF Direct Service Grants

8

10/08/2008



You tell us....

What works for you?

What are your needs?

9

10/08/2008

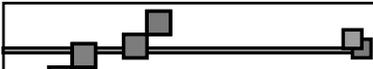


Get ready, Get ready, cuz here
I come

- Take risks—most of our sites have walked the trial and error path
- Parents are used to messy, let them in on the ground floor
- Show up, be honest, and always be attached to the outcome

10

10/08/2008

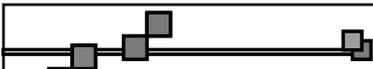


You know what they say

- **"Success is a process that continues, not a status that you reach. If you are alive, there are lessons to be learned."** — Denis Waitley

11

10/08/2008



Human Family

I note the obvious differences in the human family
Some of us are serious, some thrive on comedy,
Some declare their lives are lived as true profundity, and
others claim they really live in the real reality

We love and lose in China, we weep on England's moors, and
laugh and moan in Guinea, and thrive on Spanish shores

We seek success in Finland, are born and die in Maine,
In minor ways we differ,
In major we're the same.

I note the obvious differences between each sort and type
But we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike
We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike
- Maya Angelou

12

10/08/2008

Resources

- FRIENDS National Resource Center
www.friendsnrc.org
- Children's Trust Fund www.michigan.gov/ctf
- Jeppson, E. & Thomas, J. 1994. Essential Allies, Families As Advisors. Institute for Family-Centered Care.
- Teresa Marvin – marvint@michigan.gov 517-241-9886
- Sarah Davis – daviss11@michigan.gov 517-335-7770
- Sylvia Brown Jones – brown-jones@michigan.gov 517-241-7792

13

10/08/2008
