

Let us introduce ourselves!

The Guy Thompson Parent Advisory Council (GTPAC) is comprised of parents who are actively participating in, or were previously serviced by, a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) contracted family preservation program or child welfare program, including Children's Protective Services (CPS) and/or foster care.



How did we get started?

Guy Thompson was a passionate leader in efforts to strengthen and preserve Michigan families. His focus on assisting children and families played a significant role in developing and expanding new programs to reach more Michigan families. The development of GTPAC was one of Guy's ideas that unfortunately did not come to fruition until after his passing in 2018.



Engaging parents with lived experience is essential to agency reform. Opportunities to participate are appreciated!

Want to request parent support for your project?

Interested in joining as a GTPAC member or recommending a parent?

Website

Guy Thompson Parent Advisory Council (GTPAC) (michigan.gov)

Application

research.net/r/GTPACmemberapplication

Contact Email

MDHHS-GTPAC@michigan.gov

Guy Thompson Parent Advisory Council (GTPAC)

Parents using our voices and experiences to inspire change in our child welfare system.



Who are we?

We are parents with lived experience in the child welfare system.

Our voices are uplifted to inspire change within the system and to add understanding to systemic challenges. Our objective is to bring awareness to the need for change, effect policy enhancements, advocate for children and families, and guide training by presenting before councils, committees and other individuals and audiences to assist with reforming policies and practices.

We have come together to advocate for and assist with change. Our experiences matter. We use our voices and experiences to illustrate identified gaps in past and present child welfare policy and practices. Our firsthand experiences provide us with unique insight. Together, our voices are stronger and louder.



GTPAC Activities

Council members achieve objectives through activities such as:

- Reviewing policies and procedures.
- Participating in engagement opportunities like workgroups, advisory boards, or steering committees where policies and practices are developed and/or enhanced.
- Participating in legislative advocacy or testimony.
- Engaging in forums and presentations involving child welfare stakeholders.

GTPAC's Benefit to Agencies

Having a parent with lived experience on your project helps to:

- Understand the impact of existing policies and practices.
- Provide a deeper understanding of community and social welfare and systemic challenges.
- Improve policies and practice.
- Better inform various aspects of a project, including outcomes.

Benefits of Being a GTPAC Member

As a member, parents:

- Have an opportunity to advocate for and inform change.
- Develop increased knowledge of local, state, and federal child welfare policies and initiatives.
- Increase professional development and skills for advocating.
- Gain member support and encouragement.
- Have enhanced networking opportunities.
- Gain a sense of empowerment.