Parents Anonymous® Inc.

Agency Contact

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Brief Agency Overview

Founded in 1969, Parents Anonymous® Inc. is the nation’s premier family strengthening organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Parents Anonymous® Inc. operates numerous prevention programs and parent engagement initiatives including a dynamic international Network of accredited organizations that implement evidence-based Parents Anonymous® Mutual Support Groups and complementary Children & Youth Programs; provides specialized trainings, customized technical assistance, publications, unique public awareness and outreach strategies, and evaluation services to states, counties and community-based organizations nationwide on child welfare systems reform, child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency prevention, mental health services, education and parent and community empowerment. Also Parents Anonymous® Inc. in partnership with the National Center on Shared Leadership® implements the Shared Leadership® in Action Program to improve policies and practices for families.

Parent Engagement Program Categories

Parent Engagement is defined as parents in meaningful leadership roles working in partnership with staff in the planning, implementation and evaluation of direct services, training, policy and systems change and public awareness and education programs that strengthen families and communities.

Below are categories and programs that you entered for your agency.

Direct Services - Parent Leader/Partner/Mentor engages with staff in planning, implementation and evaluation of services either on a one-on-one basis or in groups with families (e.g., casework support, parent orientations; team decision-making; support groups, wraparound, home visiting, etc.)

- Parents Anonymous® Group and Children and Youth Program - Support Groups

Training - Parent Leader/Mentor/Partner engages with staff in the design, delivery and evaluation of training(s) that increases the knowledge, skills and abilities of parent leaders
and/or staff in various systems (e.g. parent leadership training, advocacy training for parent leaders, staff development).

- California Parent Leadership Conference
- California Wraparound Parent Partner Training Initiative
- Parent Advocacy Training

**Policy and Systems Change** - Parent Leader/Partner/Mentor engages with staff in program and policy decision-making to improve the service delivery system and strengthen families (e.g., Parent Leader/Partner/Mentor serves on Board of Directors, Systems Improvement Planning Committee).

- Shared Leadership® in Action Program
- California State Parent Team

**Public Awareness and Education** - Parent Leader/Partner/Mentor engages with staff in the design, delivery and evaluation of public awareness and education activities (e.g. public speaking about child abuse prevention, planning a Parent Leadership Month Event).

- California Parent Leadership Month
- Parent Leadership Network

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**Overview of All Parent Engagement Programs**

**Purpose:**

- Advocacy
- Parent Leadership (Growing Parent Leaders)
- Prevention
- Strengthening Families

**Counties Served:**

This program is statewide.

**Parent Engagement Program(s) Staffing in the past 12 months:**

- # of Paid Parent Leaders/mentors/partners: 30
- # of Paid Staff (Other than parent Leaders/mentors/partners): 12
- # of Volunteers: 10
- # of Total: 52

**Parent Engagement Program(s) Funding in the past 12 months:**

**Federal**

- CAPTA Title I Basic Grant
- Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CAPTA Title II)
- Title I – Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Title IVB, Part II, Promoting Safe & Stable Families

**State and County**

- CAPIT
- Children’s Trust Fund
- County Prevention Funding
- Family Preservation -
- First 5 CA
- First 5 County
- Mental Health Services Act -

**Private Sources**

- Corporate Donations
- Individual Donations

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**Direct Services - Support Groups**
Support Groups - in partnership with staff, Parent leader/Mentor/Partner plans, implements and evaluates support groups for parents/caregivers.

**Program Name: Parents Anonymous® Group and Children and Youth Program**

**Start Year: 1969**

**Program Description:**

The Parents Anonymous® mutual support/shared leadership® group was created to strengthen families to prevent child abuse. In the Parents Anonymous® group, parents/caregivers and their children and youth come together to learn new skills, transform their attitudes and behaviors and create long-term positive changes in their lives. Meetings are ongoing, weekly, free of charge and delivered in partnership with community-based entities such as faith-based organizations, social service agencies, schools, prisons, and homeless shelters. This culturally responsive model is open to any parent or caregiver in a parenting role seeking support and positive parenting strategies regardless of the age or special challenges of their children. While parents are meeting, their children and older youth attend the Parents Anonymous® Children or Youth Program to support their positive growth and development to help them reach their full potential in their homes, schools and communities. The Parents Anonymous® support group, co-led by a trained Group Facilitator and Parent Group Leader, fosters and maintains mutual support and shared leadership® by creating an environment of personal growth and leadership development for parents, children and youth. Through shared leadership® parents/caregivers support one another and partner with the Group Facilitator when addressing their strengths and challenges regarding child/youth development, interpersonal communication, positive discipline, domestic violence, drug/alcohol problems, effective parenting strategies, and social concerns. “Asking for Help is a Sign of Strength®” is the key message exemplifying personal empowerment and shared leadership® in Parents Anonymous®. Parents participating in Parents Anonymous® groups engage in meaningful leadership roles in the planning, implementation and evaluation of all aspects of the Parents Anonymous® Group and Children and Youth Program. Parents are co-trainers with staff in the certification of Parent Leaders, Group Facilitators and Children and Youth Program Workers. Parents also engage in leadership roles such as outreaching to other parents, serving as spokespersons, conducting interviews with the media to promote the program, contributing to written and electronic materials (e.g. parent newsletters, website updates) and participating in quality improvement and evaluation activities. Parents Anonymous® parents continue to engage in leadership activities outside of their group at the neighborhood/community level (e.g., establish a recovery ministry or work with the transportation department to have a dangerous school bus stop moved) and societal level (e.g., testify to legislatures or serve on statewide policy-making bodies) to strengthen families and their communities.

**Population Served**

- Adoptive Families
- Child Protective Services Involved Families
- Court-Ordered
- Families affected by developmental disabilities
- Families affected by domestic violence
- Families affected by mental health issues
- Families affected by substance abuse
- Foster Parents
- General Population
- Homeless Families
- Parents of Children Birth 5 Years
- Relative Caregivers
- Teen Parents
- Wraparound Families

**Is this program based on a specific model? Yes**

If yes, what is the name of the model? Parents Anonymous® Group and Children and Youth Program
Specific curriculum used to train on role of Parent Leader/Mentor/Partner:


Evaluation:

Is evaluation conducted on this program? Yes
If yes, please list the name of evaluation tool(s).
- Parents Anonymous® Group Evaluation Package
- Group Fidelity Tool - Facilitator
- Group Fidelity Tool – Parent

Are there published articles/reports? Yes

Please describe results of program:

The Parents Anonymous® support group is an evidence-informed program that strengthens families by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors. A national evaluation of Parents Anonymous® conducted by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD, 2007), funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, found statistically significant results for a national representative sample of parents who participated in Parents Anonymous® groups over 6 months. Findings included reduced child maltreatment outcomes (parenting distress, parenting rigidity, and psychological aggression), reduced risk factors (life stress, alcohol and drug abuse, and intimate partner emotional and physical violence), and increased protective factors (quality of life, social support, parenting sense of competence, nonviolent discipline, and family functioning). Most of the parents who participated in the study did not report using physical aggression, but for those parents who did, their use of physical aggression decreased significantly. It was also found that when compared to parents who dropped out, parents who continued to attend Parents Anonymous® groups over time showed improvements in all areas.

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Resource Links

Program Category 2: Training

Parent Leader/Mentor/Partner engages with staff in the design, delivery and evaluation of training(s) that increases the knowledge, skills and abilities of parent leaders and/or staff in various systems (e.g. parent leadership training, advocacy training for parent leaders, staff development).

Program Name: California Parent Leadership Conference

Start Year: 2009

Program Description:

Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff and the California State Parent Team work in partnership to conduct annual statewide Parent Leadership Conferences that provide training to increase the knowledge, skills and abilities of parents and practitioners from various systems (child welfare, child abuse prevention, early child development, education, mental health, health, juvenile justice) in the development, implementation and evaluation of parent engagement programs and
strategies to strengthen families and communities. The conference offers participants shared experiences and practical tools to work toward development and utilization of evidence-based/evidence-informed parent engagement resources in their work. The conference is designed to help counties, locally funded programs and parents build partnerships to improve services, policies and outcomes for families. Parent Leaders are involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the conference. They work in collaboration with a conference Planning Committee to identify and confirm workshops and speakers, co-presenters at plenary sessions and skill-building workshops, help to publicize the event and outreach to agencies and individuals to encourage them to attend and participate in evaluation activities.

**Specific curriculum used to train on role of Parent Leader/Mentor/Partner:**

Plenary Sessions and Workshops on Parent Engagement Development, Implementation and Evaluation

**Training Audience**

- Attorneys
- CalWorks staff
- Child Protective Services (CPS) Workers
- Early Childhood and Education Staff
- Educators
- Foster Parents
- Judges
- Mental Health Staff
- Parent Leaders/Mentors/Partners
- Probation Staff
- Relative Caregivers
- Substance Abuse Staff
- Wraparound Staff

**Evaluation:**

Is evaluation conducted on this program? Yes
If yes, please list the name of evaluation tool(s).
- Workshop Evaluation and Feedback Form
- Overall Conference Evaluation and Feedback Form

**Are there published articles/reports? Yes**

**Please describe results of program:**

The most recent Parent Leadership Conference proved to be a highly successful event. Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff, the California State Parent Team, the Planning Committee and Co-Sponsors worked collaboratively throughout all of the planning, implementation and evaluation processes. The conference proved to be a powerful and important platform for Parent Leaders and staff from all across the state to join together and build strategic partnerships and increase knowledge, skills and abilities on developing and utilizing evidence-informed/evidence-based/evidence-informed parent engagement programs and strategies to strengthen families and communities. All participants received a comprehensive booklet that contained handouts and contact information from all of the conference plenary and workshop sessions for use in replicating parent engagement models. They also had the opportunity to gather additional materials from Resource Table Exhibitors. Continuing Education Units were also made available to MFTs and LCSWs. In reference to conference evaluation, participants were asked to complete evaluation forms at the end of each workshop that they attended as well as an Overall Conference Evaluation Form at the close of the conference. Findings from The Overall Evaluation Report showed a positive and beneficial view of the Parent Leadership Conference. The overall average rating was a high 4.53, on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Average ratings of all sessions were above 4, indicating that respondents learned a lot, were inspired, enjoyed themselves, and the Conference met its purpose and goals. Following the conference, Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff and the California State Parent Team co-facilitated a debriefing teleconference call to identify strengths and weaknesses in order to help with the planning for
Parents Anonymous® Inc. offers two Webinar trainings to California Wraparound Coordinators, Administrators, Program Staff and Parent Partners: (1) "The Vital Role of the Parent Partner: What Core Skills are Needed in Wraparound? and; (2) "How to Administer and Use the Wraparound Parent Partner Fidelity Tool." The training on the Parent Partner Role focuses on identification of the Parent Partner core skills and learning how to utilize the Parent Partner Role Description as a guide for best practice. The Fidelity Tool training focuses on increasing understanding and knowledge about the purpose and benefits of this tool. The Fidelity Tool measures the degree to which the Parent Partner demonstrates the core skills identified in the Parent Partner Role Description. The Fidelity Tool Training also provides instructions on how to administer the tool, score and produce reports, and how to effectively interpret and utilize the findings. Parent Partners worked collaboratively with staff on a Parent Partner Outcomes Work Group that provided ongoing guidance on the development, pilot testing, and evaluation of these two new Wraparound Parent Partner resources. Once these tools were finalized, Parent Partners were engaged in the design, delivery and evaluation of two training webinars to educate California Wraparound providers and Parent Partners on the value and use of these tools in their work to strengthen families. Parent Partners co-trained with staff on pilot test orientations, participated in pilot testing data collection activities, and also assisted in the development of additional supplemental training materials. Parent Partners worked with staff to develop content for the powerpoint training presentations and video clips demonstrating core Parent Partner skills. Several Partners also participated as actors in the video clips. Parent Partners co-trained with staff in the delivery of these two Webinar trainings and helped with publicity efforts in their local communities.

Specific curriculum used to train on role of Parent Leader/Mentor/Partner:
- Wraparound Parent Partner Role Description Webinar Training
- Wraparound Parent Partner Fidelity Tool Webinar Training

Training Audience
- Foster Parents
- Mental Health Staff
- Parent Leaders/Mentors/Partners
- Relative Caregivers
- Wraparound Staff

Evaluation:
Is evaluation conducted on this program? Yes
If yes, please list the name of evaluation tool(s).
- Webinar Evaluation and Feedback Form - Parent Partner Role Description
- Webinar Evaluation and Feedback Form - Parent Partner Fidelity Tool
Are there published articles/reports? Yes

Please describe results of program:

The evaluation responses showed that, in general, the participants perceived the webinar entitled "The Vital Role of the Parent Partner: What Core Skills are Needed in Wraparound?" as relevant, valuable, and enjoyable. The participants demonstrated gains in knowledge by indicating answers to questions about the webinar content. For example, when asked to “check all that apply” regarding the purposes of the Parent Partner Role Description, 88% checked “To describe the purpose, qualifications, and essential functions of Wraparound Parent Partners,” 77% checked “To maximize the Wraparound Parent Partner role,” and 56% checked “To describe considerations for employment of Wraparound Parent Partners.” When asked to “check all that apply” regarding some recommended minimum qualifications for Wraparound Parent Partners, 91% checked “Has life experience as the parent of a youth with emotional or behavioral challenges,” 88% checked “Is the biological, adoptive, kin parent or caregiver of a youth with emotional or behavioral challenges,” and 84% checked “Has direct experience with child-serving systems such as mental health, probation, special education” and “Demonstrates an ability to maintain a non-judgmental attitude toward families.” Regarding some of the core skills needed by Parent Partners in the 4 Wraparound Phases, 93% checked “Be able to provide individualized, peer-to-peer support to the parents,” 86% checked “Be able to actively speak up to support the family’s perspective during Team meetings” and “Be able to assist the family with engaging in new resources and supports” and 74% checked “Be able to explain the role of the Parent Partner to a family.” And lastly, regarding ways the Parent Partner Role Description can be applied to practice, 88% checked “As a guide for Wraparound Parent Partners in performing their role,” 77% checked “As a resource for supervisors to provide support and guidance to Parent Partners,” and 61% checked “As a guide for hiring Wraparound Parent Partners.” Thus, the participants demonstrated valuable increases in knowledge and skills related to the Wraparound Parent Partner Role Description. The webinar entitled "How to Administer and Use the Wraparound Parent Partner Fidelity Tool" is scheduled to occur on May 26, 2010. Evaluation results will be added once the webinar is completed.

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Resource Links

Program Name: Parent Advocacy Training

Start Year: 1994

Program Description:

Parents Anonymous® Inc. offers training and technical assistance to public and private agencies in various systems such as child welfare, mental health, health, probation, courts, and education interested in establishing Parent Advocacy Programs that utilize Parent Advocates in areas such as direct services and policy and systems change to strengthen families and communities. The program includes training in the following areas: (1) program planning and development; (2) recruiting Parent Advocates; (3) comprehensive trainings for Parent Advocates and staff; (4) technical assistance to support and retain Parent Advocates; (5) development and maintenance of peer-to-peer support networks; (6) Shared Leadership® in Action and (7) evaluation research on program outcomes. In addition to providing training and technical assistance to develop programs, Parents Anonymous® Inc. offers specialized Parent Advocacy trainings and technical assistance on topics such as: roles and expectations of a Parent Advocate; understanding personal life experiences and how this impacts on self-image and empowerment; defining needs and issues; strategies to effectively advocate and work towards a solution; reviewing child and
family data; understanding and collaborating across different systems (county, state, local); relationship building; communication styles; building strategic partnerships between Parent Advocates and professionals in public and private agencies; decision-making and conflict resolution; strategies for Parent Advocates to effectively address issues on committees and boards, strategies for Parent Advocates to work effectively with families to navigate different systems; speaking publicly on issues, and utilizing the media. Parents Anonymous® Inc. Parent Advocates work in partnership with staff in all aspects of the planning, delivery and evaluation of Parent Advocacy trainings and technical assistance to Parent Advocates and agency staff. Parent Advocates also assist with publicizing these services to parents and organizations.

**Specific curriculum used to train on role of Parent Leader/Mentor /Partner:**

Parent Advocacy Training Curriculum; Shared Leadership® in Action Program curriculum

**Training Audience**

- Attorneys
- CalWorks staff
- Child Protective Services (CPS) Workers
- Early Childhood and Education Staff
- Educators
- Foster Parents
- Judges
- Mental Health Staff
- Parent Leaders/Mentors/Partners
- Probation Staff
- Relative Caregivers
- Substance Abuse Staff
- Wraparound Staff

**Evaluation:**

Is evaluation conducted on this program? Yes
If yes, please list the name of evaluation tool(s).

- Leadership Practices and Behaviors Inventory
- Shared Leadership® in Action Assessment Survey
- Shared Leadership in Action Training Evaluation and Feedback Form

**Are there published articles/reports? Yes**

**Please describe results of program:**

Leadership Practices and Behaviors Inventory (LPBI) - The LPBI contains a scale of six “Leadership Behaviors,” which measures the amount of participation in leadership behaviors over the past six months, and a Parent Leadership Inventory, which measures the level of practice of exemplary leadership practices in five areas: Model the Way, Inspire a Shared Vision, Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act, and Encourage the Heart (Kouzes & Posner, 2003). The Parent Leadership Inventory asks for ratings for before and after participation in training. Ratings of participation in leadership behaviors are based on a scale from 1-5, where 1=Not At All and 5=Very Much. For 223 participants that completed the Parent Leadership Inventory, ratings of participation in leadership practices were high ranging from 3.41 to 4.05. Statistically significant findings were identified in leadership behaviors in each exemplary practice: 22% increase for Inspire a Shared Vision, 21% increase for Challenge the Process, 17% increase for Model the Way, 16% increase for Encourage the Heart, and 15% increase for Enable Others to Act. Shared Leadership® in Action Assessment Survey (SLAS) - Data from the SLAS shows steady increases in Parent Advocacy activities and steady decreases in barriers over time. Data also shows increased acceptance of parents in a wide variety of meaningful Parent Advocacy roles. Overall, the data revealed that Parent Advocacy takes longer than 6 months to implement and institutionalize. It was generally not until the one-year mark that the data revealed significant systemic changes due to implementation of Parent Advocacy strategies. Shared Leadership in Action Training Evaluation and Feedback Form - All participant ratings of the Shared Leadership® in Action trainings have indicated statistically significant increases in
knowledge, skills and abilities related to Shared Leadership®. Areas of greatest growth include: (1) Essential practices for developing leadership skills; (2) Effective strategies for recruiting and selecting Parent Leaders; and (3) Creating meaningful roles for Parent Leaders. Results have also demonstrated increases in the ability of the participants to apply what they learned in the training especially with regard to developing a Parent Advocacy Plan. Significant results have been measured in evaluation studies of Parents Anonymous® Inc. Parent Advocacy Programs. Results of Parent Advocacy have led to improvements within the community such as: (1) a successful campaign to renovate the Community Park & Recreation Center; (2) the acquisition of baby car seats and dissemination to low income families at events where proper installation was demonstrated; (3) a successful appeal to have a School District establish a GED class in Spanish; and (4) development and implementation of workshops to inform parents of their children’s rights in the school system, resulting in an increase in much-needed Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

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Resource Links

Program Category 3: Policy and Systems Change

Parent Leader/Partner/Mentor engages with staff in program and policy decision-making to improve the service delivery system and strengthen families (e.g., Parent Leader/Partner/Mentor serves on Board of Directors, Systems Improvement Planning Committee).

Program Name: Shared Leadership® in Action Program

Start Year: 1994

Program Description:

The Shared Leadership® in Action Program is an innovative research-based strategy that creates unique partnering opportunities within community-based organizations, public agencies, and policy-making bodies to engage parents in leadership efforts to improve family and community life, expand effective programs and ensure responsive public policies are enacted that support positive outcomes for families. Shared leadership® is a process in which staff and parent leaders work in partnership to identify a common vision and develop a plan with measurable goals to achieve this vision. The program includes training, technical assistance and supports for parents to develop their leadership skills and roles as advocates for their children, agents for change at community, state, and national levels, and as public spokespersons regarding the vital importance of effectively strengthening and supporting families. Staff learn to more effectively partner with parents and create leadership opportunities for parent leaders to have a voice in creating effective programs and designing meaningful systems change. Parents Anonymous? Inc. has trained hundreds of parents and professionals in numerous California child welfare agencies on strategies for effectively partnering to achieve better outcomes leading to new practices and systems reform. The Shared Leadership® in Action program includes seven components: Assessment and Planning—determine outcomes, timeline and partners; Organizational Structure Development—e.g., a Team or Task Force; Trainings—initial and supplemental; Ongoing Technical Assistance—to inform and support continued efforts; Supports for Parent Leaders and Staff; Ongoing Recruitment—of parent leaders to avoid burn out and expand capacity; and Evaluation and Research—measure shared leadership® effectiveness and achievement of outcomes. Parents Anonymous® Inc. Parent Leaders work in partnership with staff in the planning, delivery and evaluation of all 7 components of this program. Parent Leaders co-train and provide technical assistance with staff. Parent Leaders also assist with publicizing these services to parents and organizations.
Areas where Parent Leaders/Mentors/Partners are engaged in policy and systems changes

- Blue Ribbon Commissions
- Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)
- Citizen’s Review Panels
- Family Resource Center Parent Advisory Councils
- Head Start Parent Advisory Councils
- Mental Health Service Act Parent Advisory Councils
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Systems Improvement Plan (SIP)

Evaluation:

Is evaluation conducted on this program? Yes
If yes, please list the name of evaluation tool(s).
- Shared Leadership® in Action Assessment Survey
- Shared Leadership® in Action Training Evaluation and Feedback Form

Are there published articles/reports? Yes

Please describe results of program:

All participant ratings of the Shared Leadership® in Action trainings have indicated statistically significant increases in knowledge, skills and abilities related to Shared Leadership®. Areas of greatest growth include: (1) Essential practices for developing leadership skills; (2) Effective strategies for recruiting and selecting Parent Leaders; and (3) Creating meaningful roles for Parent Leaders. Results have also demonstrated increases in the ability of the participants to apply what they learned in the training especially with regard to developing a Shared Leadership Plan. Significant results have been measured in evaluation studies of Parents Anonymous? Inc. Shared Leadership initiatives in multiple California counties. These results indicate impressive increases in the number of meaningful Parent Leadership roles at all levels of the County Child Welfare Systems to ensure the achievement of system improvement. Parent Leaders and staff are now working in Shared Leadership to: (1) Establish Parent Mentoring/Parent Advocacy Programs where Parent Leaders serve as mentors for other parents entering the Child Welfare System and reach out to parents in Family Court and Juvenile Court settings; (2) Co-train in Parent Education Classes; (3) Develop telephone helplines operated by Parent Leaders to respond to calls from other parents; (4) Design and disseminate informational materials to inform parent consumers about services and expectations, including developing "A Parent’s Guide" to orient new parents to the Child Welfare System and a video to orient new parents to the court proceedings; (5) Ensure that Parent Leaders are included in the development, implementation and oversight of System Improvement Plans and County Child Welfare System Redesign efforts; (6) Train and orient staff and present the parent perspective regarding various agency practices; (7) Represent the County Child Welfare System at state and national meetings and conferences; (8) Co-present at meetings with county officials; and (9) Address agency policymaking and program planning.

Program Contact:

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Resource Links

Program Name: California State Parent Team
Start Year: 2001
Program Description:

The California State Parent Team (CSPT) is a group of highly trained, active and diverse parents with leadership skills and expertise who work in partnership with Parents Anonymous® Inc., the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (CDSS/OCAP), counties, and community-based child abuse prevention programs in an effort to improve services and outcomes for families. The California State Parent Team (CSPT) was developed to ensure that the parents are engaged in programmatic and policy decisions to shape the direction of family support services and policies throughout California. CSPT members are engaged in meaningful leadership roles in the planning, implementation and evaluation of various state-level committees, task forces and initiatives. CSPT members are selected through a nomination process based on the following criteria: (1) expertise and knowledge in community activities such as serving on advisory groups, boards of directors, planning groups, policy councils, support programs and any other community involvement activities; (2) experience with services across systems (both as consumers and family advocates) and can articulate the “real” life experience including successes and challenges faced by families currently utilizing systems supports; (3) ability to speak about their own experiences and relate them to the broader issues faced by many California families and children. Parents Anonymous® Inc. recruits, trains, provides technical assistance, mentoring, coaching, stipends and other ongoing supports to the Team. CSPT members work in partnership with Parents Anonymous® Inc. on major projects such as: (1) development and maintenance of the California Parent Engagement Center; (2) Improving Child Welfare Policy and Practices; (3) strengthening the role of the Parent Partner in the Wraparound process statewide; (4) strengthening partnerships between Tribal communities and child welfare systems; (5) planning and implementing an annual statewide California Parent Leadership Conference; and (6) designing a Parent Engagement Curriculum for training child welfare workers statewide. The California State Parent Team provides an effective approach to model parents and staff working in shared leadership® at the state level to make improvements in California Child Welfare systems and policies. The CSPT is engaged in building strategic partnerships and works to increase awareness and implementation of shared leadership® strategies to promote policy and systems changes at the county and local community-based levels through co-trainings, technical assistance and presentations with staff.

Areas where Parent Leaders/Mentors/Partners are engaged in policy and systems changes

- Blue Ribbon Commissions
- Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)
- Citizen’s Review Panels
- Family Resource Center Parent Advisory Councils
- Head Start Parent Advisory Councils
- Mental Health Service Act Parent Advisory Councils
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Systems Improvement Plan (SIP)

Evaluation:

Is evaluation conducted on this program? Yes
If yes, please list the name of evaluation tool(s).
- Leadership Practices and Behaviors Inventory (LBPI)
- Shared Leadership® in Action Assessment Survey
- Shared Leadership® in Action Training Evaluation and Feedback Form

Are there published articles/reports? Yes

Please describe results of program:

The vital work of the CSPT has led to the following results: (1) Improving Child Welfare Policy and Practices - One CSPT member serves on the most important child welfare policymaking body in California, the Child Welfare Council (CWC), and interfaces with agency officials from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government to shape advocacy efforts to improve practice statewide. This Team member is engaged in the implementation of Family Finding and Engagement as well as development of ongoing parent advocacy roles to improve
reunification of families. Another CSPT has been appointed to serve on the State Improvement Plan Steering Committee. Two other Team members are working in shared leadership® with the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) to incorporate a parent engagement curriculum into their core training curriculum for child welfare workers statewide to enhance effective family engagement and participatory planning. This strength-based component is designed to improve child welfare practice, ensure family well-being and assist in achieving Program Improvement Plan goals; (2) Development of the California Parent Engagement Center - The CSPT worked in shared leadership® with a State Advisory Committee to develop this live interactive online resource to help promote evidence-based shared leadership® programs and also foster connections and communication with parents, agencies and communities across the state. The Center database includes search options to locate information on different Shared Leadership® programs and initiatives in California. Many innovative Parent Advocacy programs are highlighted through this vital resource along with video clips of Parent Partners and staff talking about their programs with the media. The website also captures the latest research being done to show that Parent Advocates and Parent Partners can have an impact in strengthening families. The CSPT has been encouraging agencies and parents to move forward and replicate parent engagement programs included in the Center database; (3) Wraparound Parent Partner Initiative - The CSPT worked in shared leadership with a statewide Parent Partner Outcomes Work Group to help strengthen the role of Parent Partners in Wraparound. This led to the development of the first ever Role Description and fidelity tool for the Parent Partner in California. The CSPT and Parent Partner Outcomes Work Group are now offering Webinar trainings on both the Role Description and Fidelity Tool for Wraparound Providers and Parent Partners statewide. Next steps are to conduct a study of the impact of the Parent Partner on outcomes in Wraparound for Child Welfare involved families.; (4) Annual Statewide Parent Leadership Conference - The CSPT worked in shared leadership with a Planning Committee to develop, implement and evaluate a Parent Leadership Conference in February 2010. The CSPT were co-hosts for this important educational conference. All workshops were co-led by parents and staff and examples of policy change and system improvements efforts were highlighted. Close to 400 participants attended this successful conference. (5) Strengthening of Tribal Partnerships - One CSPT member serves on the state Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Work Group and has been actively engaged in promoting policy and system changes for Tribal communities through presentations and Shared Leadership in Action trainings with Tribal communities and Child Welfare agency staff. The work of the CSPT has significantly helped to build strategic partnerships to create change that better meets the needs of California families. The Leadership Practices and Behaviors Inventory (LPBI) has been used to measure the amount of participation by CSPT members in leadership practices over six month intervals. Results have shown increases in the five practices of exemplary leadership practices: Model the Way, Inspire a Shared Vision, Challenge the Process, Enable Others to Act, and Encourage the Heart (Kouzes & Posner, 2003).

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Resource Links

Program Category 4: Public Awareness and Education

Parent Leader/Partner/Mentor engages with staff in the design, delivery and evaluation of public awareness and education activities (e.g., public speaking about child abuse prevention, planning a Parent Leadership Month Event).

Program Name: California Parent Leadership Month
Start Year: 2003
Program Description:

California Parent Leadership Month - Parents Anonymous® Inc. established February as National Parent Leadership Month to foster year round efforts to strengthen families. The goals of this initiative are to: (1) raise public awareness about important roles of parents; (2) expand opportunities for Parent Leaders to engage in shared leadership® efforts; (3) recognize individual Parent Leaders whose contributions created positive change in families, communities or on a societal level; and (4) build successful partnerships between Parent Leaders and staff or policy-makers to create change that better meets the needs of families. In California, Parents Anonymous® Inc. works in partnership with the California State Parent Team and numerous co-sponsors to celebrate California Parent Leadership Month to honor parents and promote meaningful partnerships in communities across different systems. We have built strategic partnerships to recognize California parents through events and activities such as state and local proclamations, press releases, letters to the editor, public service announcements, radio and print, distribution of promotional items and planning and coordinating special events and activities. Parents Anonymous® Inc. and the California State Parent Team provide training and technical assistance along with an Instructional Tool Kit to individuals and organizations to help them organize activities and outreach opportunities to promote Parent Leadership in their communities. We worked with Parent Leaders to develop this Instructional Tool Kit. The National Parent Leadership Month Tool Kit is available to the public on the Parents Anonymous® Inc. web site at www.parentsanonymous.org. Parent Leaders are also actively engaged in making presentations about California Parent Leadership Month and distributing Tool Kits and sample materials.

Areas that Parent Leaders/Mentors/Partners are engaged

- Child Abuse Prevention Month activities
- Develop and disseminate outreach materials (newsletters, flyers, web sites);
- Kid’s Day at the Capitol activities
- Newsprint or television interviews
- Public speaking
- Parent Leadership Month activities

Evaluation:

Is evaluation conducted on this program? Yes
If yes, please list the name of evaluation tool(s).
- California Parent Leadership Month Evaluation Survey

Are there published articles/reports? Yes

Please describe results of program:

Results from this public awareness and education program include: (1) Collaborations with Co-Sponsors - Many diverse and committed co-sponsors helped us promote Parent Leaders at the state, county and local levels (e.g., California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, Child and Family Policy Institute of California, County Welfare Directors Association, National Association of Social Workers-California Chapter, Strategies, Casey Family Programs, San Francisco Human Services Agency, Family and Children’s Services Division, Sacramento Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Protective Services, First 5 California, Child Abuse Prevention Councils, etc.); (2) Parents Highlighted in the Media – Articles on Parent Leaders were featured in newspapers, websites and program publications. Interviews were conducted with Parent Leaders and staff on radio talk shows and local television; (3) Recognition Events – Organizations were excited to recognize Parent Leaders for their contributions on child abuse prevention councils, PTAs, and Parent Advisory Councils. Local recognition events such as coffee gatherings, breakfasts, luncheons, picnics and receptions began to take place across the state; (4) Proclamations and Resolutions – The Governor recognized parents by proclaiming February as Parent Leadership Month. Many parents were honored by Boards of Supervisors’ Resolutions; (5) Annual Statewide Conference – Since 2007, the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention has sponsored a statewide Parent Leadership Conference.
Program Name: Parent Leadership Network

Start Year: 2004

Program Description:

Parent Leadership Network - The Parent Leadership Network (PLN) is a unique online community where parents and staff come together to dialogue about ways to develop and expand their skills and create opportunities for shared leadership®. The PLN offers parents a platform to discuss ideas, share resources and learn new skills relating to parent leadership and shared leadership. For staff, community members, professionals, policymakers, the PLN offers a forum for obtaining input and learning new strategies directly from parent leaders in order to better meet the needs of the families in their communities. The PLN includes a Facebook page, newsletter, examples of shared leadership® and links to resources and publications. An e-mail group is currently being developed. Membership is free. It is easy to join by completing the online registration form at www.parentleadershipnetwork.org. Parent Leaders designed the PLN and make ongoing enhancements to this resource. Parent Leaders serve as moderators and take responsibility for regularly posting information. The PLN is hosted by Parents Anonymous® Inc.

Areas that Parent Leaders/Mentors/Partners are engaged

- Child Abuse Prevention Month activities
- Develop and disseminate outreach materials (newsletters, flyers, web sites);
- Kid’s Day at the Capitol activities
- Newsprint or television interviews
- Public speaking
- Parent Leadership Month activities

Evaluation:

Is evaluation conducted on this program? Yes
If yes, please list the name of evaluation tool(s).
- Parent Leadership Network Feedback Form

Are there published articles/reports? Yes

Please describe results of program:

Results from the Parent Leadership Network include: (1) increased awareness and understanding about parent leadership and shared leadership® for parents, staff and community members; (2) information sharing among parents and staff on ideas and resources relating to parent leadership and shared leadership®; and (3) easy access to shared leadership® resources, publications and website links.

Program Contact:

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