Growing as a Parent Leader
Learn More about Being a Parent Leader

Rosalba Calleros & Laura J. Warren
Texas Parent to Parent

www.servingongroups.org
Opportunities to Get Involved

Questions
• How can I get involved?
• How can I share in decision making?
• Who can serve on these groups?
• Where do I begin?

Steps
• Self-Reflection
• Awareness of Possibilities
• Options to Explore
How can I get involved?

Who I Am

History

Dreams

Fears & Concerns

Needs

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TRUE LEADERS DON’T CREATE FOLLOWERS. THEY CREATE MORE LEADERS.

“IF YOU WANT TO BUILD A SHIP, DON’T DRUM UP THE MEN TO GATHER WOOD, DIVIDE THE WORK, AND GIVE ORDERS. INSTEAD, TEACH THEM TO YEARN FOR THE VAST AND ENDLESS SEA.”

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

LEADERSHIP IS ABOUT MAKING OTHERS BETTER AS A RESULT OF YOUR PRESENCE AND MAKING SURE THAT IMPACT LASTS IN YOUR ABSENCE.

Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.

~ John Maxwell

ATTRACT WHAT YOU EXPECT.
REFLECT WHAT YOU DESIRE.
BECOME WHAT YOU RESPECT.
AND MIRROR WHAT YOU ADMIRE.

It does not require many words to speak the truth.

— Chief Tecumseh

LEADERS WITH INFLUENCE
GIVE WHEN THEY DON’T HAVE TO.
CARE FOR OTHERS.
GROW CONTINUOUSLY.
LIVE AUTHENTICALLY.
EMPower OTHERS.
MANAGE HARDSHIP.
SERVE WITH HUMILITY.

everybody can be GREAT because everybody can SERVE

The role of a GREAT LEADER is not to give greatness to human beings, but to help them extract the greatness they already have inside them.

~ J. Buchan
WHO AM I?: How do you describe yourself? Think about:

- What words best describe you?
- What skills, gifts, and talents will support your journey as a member?
- What other skills and talents will you need?
- What do you like/dislike about your current role(s) in working on a team?
- What values and beliefs guide your life and work as a person?
- What relationships with other family leaders and family organizations provide you with needed support?
**HISTORY:** Briefly describe the background and circumstances that led you here today.

Think about:

- What is significant about your personal history?
- What is significant about your family, child(ren)’s, or community’s history?
- What were your first experiences in which you saw yourself as a leader or part of a decision-making team?
- What adult experiences and/or formal/informal training has helped you see yourself as a member of a group or team?
DREAMS: What dreams do you have in relation to your personal and professional development as a group or team member?

Think about:

- What contributions and/or changes do you dream about that will involve your participation on a decision-making team?
- What one thing do you most want to see happen?
- What do you hope to accomplish in one year? 5 years? 10 years?
- What other dreams are important to you as you begin this journey?
FEARS & CONCERNS: Identify your worries or concerns about becoming part of a decision-making group or team.

Think about:

- What concerns arise when you envision yourself as a leader or member of a team and about your role on the team?
- What barrier might stand in the way of your realizing your leadership and participation dreams?
NEEDS: What needs to happen to make your dreams about leadership and group membership become a reality?

Think about:

- What skills would you like to develop further?
- What else will you need to expand your role as a leader and team member?
- What supports do you need from others? Are you connected to family networks that can provide ongoing support?
Shared Decision Making

“Decision-making means a process of partnering, of shared views and actions toward shared goals…not just a power struggle between conflicting ideas.”

-Dr. Joyce Epstein
Who can serve on groups?

**Interested Individuals**

- Especially if the group’s decisions will affect them personally
- **BUT** choose your opportunity wisely - focus on your passion!
- **AND** consider the TIME & ENERGY needed to serve

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Where to begin?

- Learn about available resources and services
- Find an issue you care deeply about
- Connect to a group with the authority to create or influence change
- Prepare yourself to serve
Types of Groups

Questions

• What are the different functions of groups and member roles?
• What is a…
  • Governing group?
  • Advisory group?
  • Leadership group?
  • Planning group?
  • Evaluation group?
  • Practice group?
What Makes Decision-Making Groups *Unique*?

* Decision-making authority
* Issues
* Meeting structure  
  Formal? Informal?
* Data used
* Input and feedback

* Processes
* Membership
* History
* Time since formation
* Diversity of perspectives

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Member Roles

https://youtu.be/LmWiBnGkWww

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Functions of Groups

- Governing
- Advisory
- Leadership
- Planning
- Evaluation
- Practice

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Governing

Activities

- Establish by-laws
- Govern an organization
- Develop policies
- Establish goals
- Communicate with the public & funding sources
- Employ & evaluate executives
- Negotiate with employee groups
- Allow for community participation

Examples

- State or Local School Board
- City Council/Town Council
- Taskforce on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Tribal Council
Advisory

Activities
- Represent a broader group of people
  - Seek out the views of those affected
- Advise on needs
- Bring awareness to issues
- Help develop action plans
- Make recommendations
- Serve as a resource

Examples
- Committee/workgroup
- Advisory Panel
- HMO Advisory
- Title V Advisory Group
- Medicaid Advisory Group
Leadership

Activities
- Initiate awareness of an emerging or systemic issue
- Collectively work on targeted issues
- Conduct listening sessions and public forums
- Actively plan and implement strategies
- Attract a collective voice
- Monitoring entities (watchdog)

Examples
- Associations/Organizations/Coalitions
- School improvement teams
- Community of Care Consortium for CYSHCN
- Initiatives/grants
Planning

Activities

- Research and study a specific issue
- Assess needs and develop priorities
- Make recommendations
- Design information and conduct training
- Develop or select a curriculum
- A channel for communication and feedback
- Plan and carry out an activity

Examples

- Committee
- Workgroup
- Action team
- IFSP/IEP team
- Shared Plan of Care team
Evaluation

Activities

- Create an action plan
- Collect, display, and analyze data
- Report results
- Continuous monitoring for progress and improvement

Examples

- Formal stakeholder groups
- Service improvement teams
- Focused monitoring

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Practice

Activities
- Provide a structure to communicate, learn, & act
- Continually reach out to others
- Create opportunities for networking & sharing
- Enhance participation and connections
- Discuss emerging or systemic issues
- Promote interagency connections
- Share information and solutions
- Promote the spread of best practices

Examples
- A learning circle
- A community of practice
Resources

Family Voices National Center for Family Professional Partnerships
http://www.fv-ncfpp.org/

National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy and Community Empowerment
http://www.parentsatthetable.org/

Fostering Parent & Professional Collaboration – Center for Parent Information & Resources
http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/improve-parent-professional-communication/

Accessing Parent Groups – Center for Parent Information & Resources
http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/parentgroups/

National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships Implementation Guide
http://www.pta.org/national_standards.asp
Resources

Shared Work website
www.sharedwork.org

Guidelines for Establishing Family Advisory Boards

Serving on Boards and Committees

IDEA Partnership – Practice Groups
Rosalba Calleros
Rosalba.Calleros
@txp2p.org

Laura J. Warren
Laura@txp2p.org

1-866-896-6001
www.txp2p.org