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
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

FFCMH 11-2016
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
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
Member Roles

https://youtu.be/LmWiBnGkWww
Functions of Groups

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

FFCMH 11-2016
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
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