



[Learn More about Being a Parent Leader](#)

**Serving on Groups
That Make Decisions:
A Guide for Families**

Amy Litzinger

Linda Litzinger

Melissa Fox

Texas Parent to Parent

www.servingongroups.org

Opportunities to Get Involved

Questions

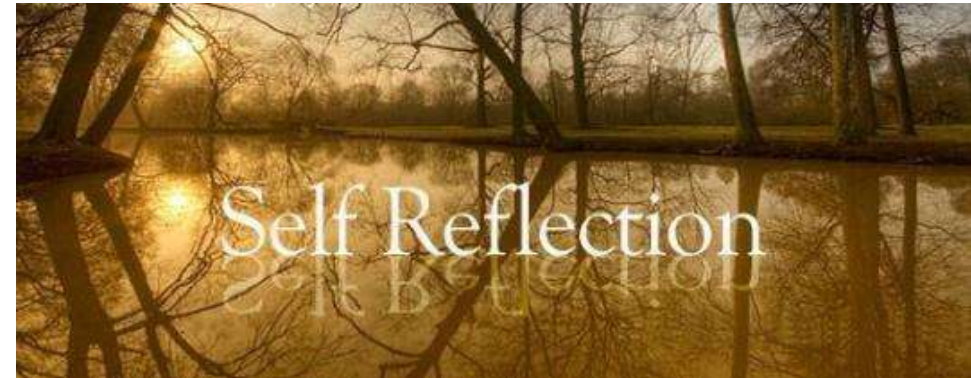
- How can I get involved?
- How can I share in decision making?
- Who can serve on these groups?
- Where do I begin?

Steps

- Self-Reflection
- Awareness of Possibilities
- Options to Explore



How can I get involved?



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

CURATED QUOTES

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

~John Maxwell

www.gauraw.com

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

GREAT LEADERS DON'T SET OUT TO BE A LEADER...THEY SET OUT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ITS NEVER ABOUT THE ROLE-ALWAYS ABOUT THE GOAL.

LisaHaisha.com

When we take turns doing the hard tasks, when we encourage others, we become stronger through shared leadership.

VERYBESTQUOTES.COM

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 Joseph
Nez Perce

LEADERS WITH INFLUENCE

GIVE WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE TO.

CARE FOR OTHERS.

GROW CONTINUOUSLY.

LIVE AUTHENTICALLY.

EMPOWER OTHERS.

MANAGE HARDSHIP.

SERVE WITH HUMILITY.

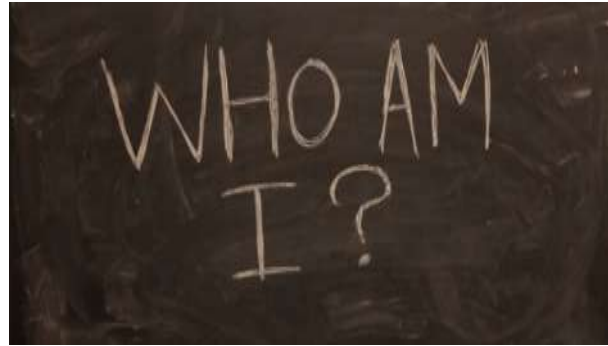
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everybody can be
GREAT
because
everybody can
SERVE

martin luther king jr

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?



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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?



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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

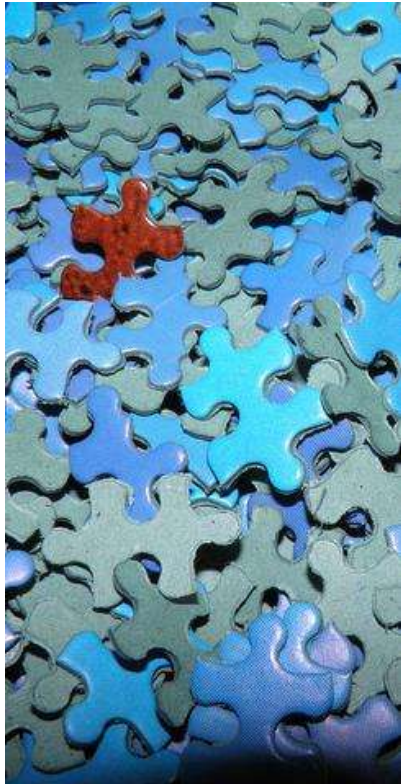


Where to begin?

- 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



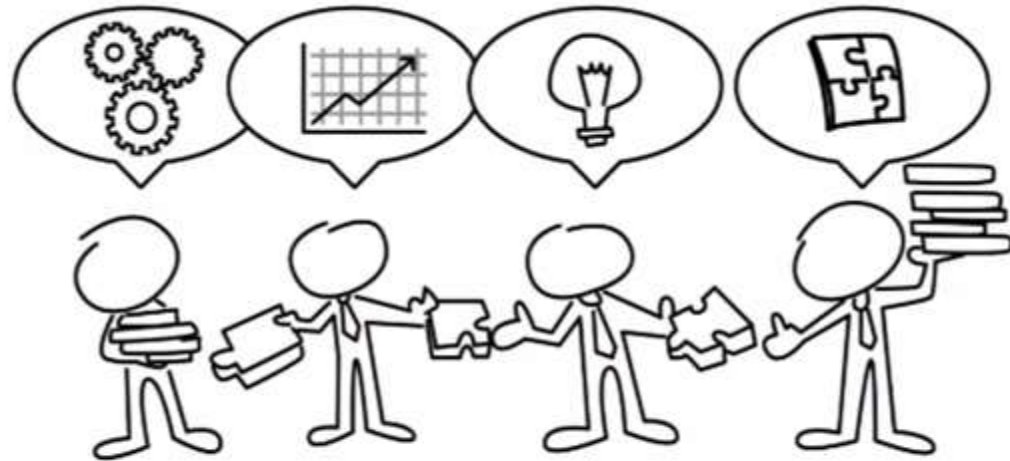
What Makes Decision-Making Groups *Unique*?



- Decision-making authority
- Issues
- Meeting structure
 - Formal? Informal?
- Data used
- Input and feedback
- Processes
- Membership
- History
- Time since formation
- Diversity of perspectives



Member Roles



Responsibilities
are also different

<https://youtu.be/LmWiBnGkWww>

Functions of Groups

Governing

Advisory

Leadership

Planning

Evaluation

Practice



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



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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



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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



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
ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/mchb/training/documents/grantee_products/00_guidelinesforestablishing02.pdf

Serving on Boards and Committees
<http://www.nichcy.org/informationresources/documents/nichcy%20pubs/pa11.pdf>

IDEA Partnership – Practice Groups
http://www.ideapartnership.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=557:change-theory-organization-development-stakeholder-involvement-in-systems-change&catid=37:reports&Itemid=60





Texas Parent to Parent

Amy Litzinger
Amy.Litzinger@txp2p.org

Linda Litzinger
Linda.Litzinger@txp2p.org

Melissa Fox
Melissa.fox@txp2p.org

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



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