



DIGITAL DIALOGUE

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



# *Meaningful Parent Partnerships*

*and What They Can Do for You*



# Welcome

*Join the National  
Conversation  
on Child Abuse  
and Neglect*



WELCOME  
**Sharon McKinley**  
Program Specialist,  
Children's Bureau's Office  
on Child Abuse and Neglect



MODERATOR  
**Jean Swift**  
Project Director, CANTASD

# Guest Speakers

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GUEST

**Meryl Levine**

Senior Associate, National Alliance of  
Children's Trust and Prevention Funds



GUEST

**Kara Georgi**

Parent Education Specialist and  
Co-Chair, Alliance National Parent  
Partnership Council



GUEST

**Michael Huesca**

Father Advocate, Domestic Violence Counselor,  
and member of the Birth Parent National Network

# Alliance Parent Partnerships

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- The Alliance works with Children's Trust Funds (ICTFs) to promote policies and practices that reflect the needs and interests of families and communities and are shaped by the voices and perspectives of parents.
- We engage parents as partners in all aspects of our work.
- Ten years ago, we developed the Alliance National Parent Partnership Council (ANPPC).
- In 2012, we began working with Casey Family Programs, to develop the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN) and other avenues for parent voices.

# Key Take-aways for You

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- Knowledge and understanding of parent leadership
- Awareness of the value of meaningful parent partnership
- Understanding the challenges of parent partnerships and strategies to overcome them
- Key elements of effective parent partnerships



# Poll #1

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*What is your role today?*

# Providing Supports, Building Relationships

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- Orient new members and provide ongoing training and support.
- Hear from parents about their interests.
- Talk about possible leadership roles.
- Help to prepare and provide necessary materials and support for parents with any tasks.

# *Strategic Sharing* Training

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- Unique training for parents to learn to strategically use their life experiences as examples when discussing policies and practices – much more than ‘telling your story.’
- The Alliance partners with Casey Family Programs to promote this training to organizations and community groups. The curriculum was developed and copyrighted by Casey.



# Benefits of Parent Partnerships

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- Improvements in family outcomes of parents who are in leadership roles.
- More parents wanting to advocate for the work of their organizations which results in a strong network of parent leaders to call upon when it's time to describe agency efforts to policymakers.
- More parents volunteering for an organization.
- More program staff satisfaction from seeing visible outcomes in the families served.
- Policies, strategies and programs influenced by parent voices.

*(From Building and Sustaining Effective Parent Partnerships: States of Relationship Development, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds)*



# Defining Parent Partnership

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*A parent partnership is an active choice to sustain a meaningful relationship between a parent and a staff member in working toward an agreed upon goal.*

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*In what ways are you currently involved in  
parent partnerships?*



# Insights from Kara & Michael

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*Tell us about your  
journey as a parent  
leader, and what  
motivated you.*

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# Insights from Kara & Michael

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*What kind of  
support was helpful  
in your growth as a  
Parent Leader?*



# Insights from Kara & Michael

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*What are possible challenges that organizations and parents might encounter in supporting effective parent partnerships, and how might these be addressed?*

# February is Parent Leadership Month!

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- **Alliance Resources at**  
**[www.ctfalliance.org](http://www.ctfalliance.org)**

- Alliance National Parent Partnership Council and Parent to Parent Info-graphics
- Community Cafés
- Birth Parent National Network – [bpnn.ctfalliance.org](http://bpnn.ctfalliance.org)
- BPNN Library of Parent Partnership Resources –
- Sample Certificate
- Parent Partnerships Resources, Trainings and Publications



National Parent Leadership Month was established by Parents Anonymous Inc. in 2003.



# Insights from Kara & Michael

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*What are some of the tangible benefits that result when staff and others build authentic partnerships with parents?*

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# Insights from Kara & Michael

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*Additional  
recommendations  
on building and  
sustaining parent  
partnerships*

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need2know

### What we are learning about Partnering with Parents

**P**RE**P**ARE  
**A**LWAYS  
**P**ARTNER  
**F**LEXIBLE  
**A**CK**N**OWLEDGE  
**S**TRENGTHS  
**L**ISTEN

**P** **Parents** benefit when they get accessible, timely, and family-centered information. What are the most common barriers and places to connect? Interview your role, program, system, and community. Do you have a parent with the greatest barrier to the results you want? Interview, observe, and help identify what they are doing to overcome it.

**R** **Relationships** are the foundation of successful partnerships. Do you have any relationships that are working well? Do you have any relationships that are not working well? What are the reasons for this? How can you improve these relationships?

**E** **Encourage** parents by recognizing individual strengths. Do you have any parents who are doing well? How can you help them? How can you help other parents who are struggling?

**N** **Network** with parents and explore their strengths. Look for ways that you can help them and strengthen their families. Do you have any parents who are doing well? How can you help them? How can you help other parents who are struggling?

**T** **Trust** Parents and practitioners need to build a trust relationship with each other. How can you help them? How can you help other parents who are struggling?

**S** **Support** a partnership with parents who are struggling. How can you help them? How can you help other parents who are struggling?

**L** **Listen** to parents and practitioners. How can you help them? How can you help other parents who are struggling?

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 need2know  
 Resource from the ANPPC

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 FUNDS

### Birth Parent National Network (BPN)

The Alliance supports the Birth Parent National Network (BPN) to promote and change birth parents as leaders and strategic partners in the prevention and child welfare system reform. The BPN is a dynamic and expanding national network of over 100 birth parents and organizations working together to influence children and families.

The Alliance supports the BPN by:

- Facilitating opportunities for parents to share their perspectives with policymakers
- Providing training and supports to BPN parents interested in engaging in policy work
- Hosting regular webinars, trainings and an annual virtual summit
- Working together to build a cohesive and unified national voice to inform policy and practice

**BPN Members include:**

- Birth Parents who were previously involved with at risk or in foster care systems and willing to engage in policy work
- Organizations that are committed to identifying and supporting parents as strategic partners in system reform.

**Alliance Contact:**

- Mary LeVine, Senior Consultant - mary@allianceall.org
- Learn more at [www.allianceall.org](http://www.allianceall.org)
- Learn more at [www.bpn.org](http://www.bpn.org)

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### Top 10 QUESTIONS We need2know

- How do you involve parents to partner with you?
  - Child parent leader approach
  - Make their contributions to a regular way
  - Share on an on-line live web page
  - Listen to parents
  - Be flexible to their needs
  - Share opportunities for growth
  - Support families' involvement (not just on-site, but also online)
- What are the barriers to your meeting?
  - Time to prepare (especially parents' family's work)
  - Communication (not enough time to meet after school)
  - Support between formal meetings through email, text, social media
- How are parents compensated for their participation?
  - Provide a modest gift card for services received
  - Provide training
  - When there are no funds for stipends, try to be creative to meet needs
- What are common motivators for parents to volunteer?
  - Child's safety
  - An opportunity to strengthen their family and community
  - Share information to help their children's progress
  - Building self-efficacy and confidence
  - Child's success
  - Personal growth and their own family and life journey
- What types of activities are parents doing?
  - Specific parent leader roles
  - Develop parent leaders with training and provide parent leadership in local school settings through the PTA
  - Implement calls - strengthening families and communities
  - Provide needed resources and support for child and family
  - Advocate for policy changes that will improve the lives of children and families
- What are the barriers to your meeting?
  - Community calls
  - Language barriers
  - Provision factors
  - Family factors such as financial matters, operating skills, family goals, technology skills and community involvement
  - Support on-site, evening, or on-line through the use of the professional help
- In what areas do you provide training or technical assistance?
  - Community calls
  - Language barriers
  - Provision factors
  - Family factors such as financial matters, operating skills, family goals, technology skills and community involvement
  - Support on-site, evening, or on-line through the use of the professional help
- What types of resources do you offer to parents?
  - Information on local school district
  - Training materials
  - Access to programs
  - Online guides to improve daily family, child safety and other specific to community
  - Opportunities to build social connections and support

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 need2know  
 Resource from the ANPPC

### Building and Sustaining Effective Parent Partnerships - Steps of Development

3 Booklets from the State Agency Department of Children and Family, Division of Prevention and Community Partnership

The Community Call Guide for Health Coaching the Lives of Children through Conversations that Matter



# Additional Resources

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## Child Welfare Information Gateway: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

- *Family Engagement: Partnering With Families to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes* <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f-fam-engagement/>
- Family Engagement Inventory <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fei/>

## Center for States: [www.childwelfare.gov/states/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/states/)

- Parent Partner Program Manual: Sample Policies and Procedures <https://library.childwelfare.gov/cwig/ws/library/docs/gateway/Blob/107662.pdf?w+=NATIVE%28%27recno%3D107662%27%29&upp=0&rpp=10&r=1&m=1>
- Family Empowerment Leadership Academy (FELA) – free through CAPLearn <https://learn.childwelfare.gov/>



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## **FRIENDS National Center for CB-CAP:** [www.friendsnrc.org](http://www.friendsnrc.org)

- Numerous resources on Parent Leadership

<https://friendsnrc.org/parent-leadership>

- Parent and Practitioner Newsletter

<https://friendsnrc.org/parent-leadership/parent-and-practitioners-newsletter>



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## *Questions & Answers*

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# *Thank You* and Next Steps

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*Thanks*  
for joining us!

Download the handouts to learn more. Click on the files in the “Handouts” box on your screen.

Do you have innovative ideas, questions or concerns? Tell us about your work. Send an e-mail to **hello@CANTASD.org** with “Family and Community Engagement” in the subject line.

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# Participant Feedback

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Thank you for your participation!  
How useful was this session?

**Additional Comments:** [hello@CANTASD.org](mailto:hello@CANTASD.org)

