

How can an active Parent Advisory Committee enhance Programs' work with families?



Why should Programs share decision-making with Program participants?

What steps are needed to create and sustain an effective Parent Advisory Committee?

OVERVIEW

A Parent Advisory Committee is a leadership group of Program participants that provides input, guidance, and feedback to a Program on a regular basis. An active Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) can be a highly effective method of supporting meaningful family engagement, developing community leadership skills, and supporting a Program's success. PACs advance equity by engaging diverse community members in having decision-making roles in the Program.

Yet many Programs report struggling with managing Parent Advisory Committees. Funders often expect Programs to have them, yet less frequently ensure Programs have training and support to implement them well. Parents serving on these committees sometimes feel that their participation and contributions are not useful or valued.

The National Family Support Network has developed this training to address these challenges and maximize the great potential of Parent Advisory Committees. Whether Programs are exploring setting up a new Parent Advisory Committee, or seeking to strengthen an existing one, this training will provide staff with the strategies and tools to develop an effective one.

The training is co-trained by a NFSN staff person who has developed successful Parent Advisory Committees and an experienced National Parent Leader who has served on various Parent Advisory Committees. This pairing models and reinforces the importance of meaningful staff-parent partnerships.

RECOMMENDED PARTICIPANTS

Management and Direct Service staff who work with, or would like to develop, a Parent Advisory Committee. *Key leadership of the Program (Executive Directors, Directors) should participate in order to be able to implement the model effectively.* Teams are highly encouraged.

PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Identify the benefits and challenges of parent leadership development
- Learn the key steps and timeline to create and sustain a Parent Advisory Committee
- Begin action planning for developing or strengthening a Parent Advisory Committee



STANDARDS OF QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION

Participation in this training will prepare Programs to meet the following High Quality Indicators of the nationally-adopted Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support:

- **Family Centeredness 1.1:** Program's design supports partnering with families to have an active role in the development and implementation of the Program.
- **Community Strengthening 2.2:** Program implements a formal structure to partner with families to develop their leadership skills, and to facilitate opportunities for using those skills in the community.

For information about the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support please see: www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/standards-of-quality

PRICING AND LOGISTICS

The pricing of this unique virtual training for up to 40 participants is \$7,000 for NFSN Members and \$7,500 for non-Members. Two Trainings: \$13,000 for NFSN Members and \$14,000 for non-Members.

The training is 11 hours (including breaks) divided equally over two consecutive days, such as 9:30 am - 3:00 pm each day. It can be scheduled to start earlier or later as long as it covers 5.5 hours each day.

CONTACT

To explore bringing the training to programs in your area, please contact Jennifer Green, Senior Manager - Membership & Events, at (512) 917-1251 or Jennifer@nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org.