The Power of Partnership: Building Authentic Constituent Partnerships to Enhance Impact and Equity

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Presenters

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Session Overview

- Sharing our Stories
- Sharing some Frameworks
- Reflection on Partnership Practices
- Group Discussion
- Wrap Up
Take a minute to think about a challenging situation involving yourself and/or others you care about...

Were there any decisions that impacted you, your family, or your community that you felt left out of?

How might the outcome have been different if you had been part of the decision making or attempt to solve the problem?

What was something unique or different that you would have brought to the decision making?
Now, think of a time you advocated for someone else (child, parent, relative, coworker, neighbor, other member of your community)...

What would have happened if you hadn’t advocated?

What happened because you did?

What enabled you to advocate effectively?
Reactive parenting to proactive advocating: A parent leader's journey
Working Definitions

**Parent:**
Any primary caregiver for a child, whether biological, adoptive or foster mother or father, grandparents or other relatives

**Constituents:**
The people served by or intended to benefit from the activities of an organization

**Partnership:**
Collaboration between organizations and constituents characterized by mutual trust and shared decision making

**Equity:**
Fair and just access to opportunity including representation and participation in decision making affecting one’s life, family, and community
Leadership Pathways

Adapted from *Ripples of Transformation: Families Leading Change in Early Childhood Systems* developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) & First 5 Alameda County
Impact of Parent Leadership

Capturing the Ripple Effect: Theory of Change

1. Parent Leadership Initiative Builds Capacity
2. Parents Undergo Personal Transformation
3. Parents Take Collective Action to Address Inequities
4. Public Officials See Parents as Assets
5. Parent Leaders Invigorate Democracy
Project HOPE

Began funding in 2008

Led by Ibero-American Development Corporation (IADC)

Resident-driven, asset-based approach addressing social determinants of health

Collaboration of many partners including City of Rochester, local land trust, numerous community organizations, child advocacy coalition, private and state funders.
Resident Action

- Block club meetings
- Quality of life walks
- Advocacy
- Door to door outreach and surveys
- Anti-drug campaign
- Neighborhood Council & El Camino Vision Plan (2016)
Achievements

- Conkey Corner Park & Playground
- Access to safe play, recreation, healthy food
- Neighborhood beautification
- El Camino Trail
- Affordable housing developments
- Total investments approaching $55 M
- Increased perceptions of neighborhood safety and quality of life
From C. Gibson, Ford Foundation: Participatory Grantmaking, Has its Time Come?
Continuum of Partnership

External
- Funding
- Capacity building
- Advocacy
- Convening

Internal
- Policies and practices
- Grant decision making
- Other foundation functions
Partnership Practices Self-Assessment Tool

Reflection • Planning • Action
Whole Group Discussion

• We have had success...
• We can take these concrete steps...
• We need help with...
• We would like to work with others around...
• We can contribute to the field by...
CALL TO ACTION:

Learn more about parent and community partnership, participatory grantmaking and philanthropy

Share reflective practices tool with your team

Join the Funders Group on Parent Organizing, Family Engagement and Leadership Development

Connect with constituent leadership and advocacy groups
Contact Us

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