

**Cook County Birth Parent Council Accomplishments
2006 – 2009**

- **Planning Meeting of Cook County Birth Parents, recruited and formed Core Council**
- **Monthly Core Council Meetings December 2006 - Present**
- **Committees Formed: Legal, Regional, Support, Information & Training**
- **Annual Birth Parent Council Institute Day Theme: “Making Things Happen Through Self-Empowerment: Keeping Our Kids” McDermott Center – Haymarket 920 W. Washington Chicago, IL
Developed Newsletter “Making Things Happen”, parents planned and participated in Workshop Sessions: Court, Administrative Case Review and Resources – 100 parents attended**
- **Cook County Birth Parent Regional Councils Formed Cook South, Cook North, and Cook Central**
- **Birth Parents Presented at DCFS Latina Institute Day**
- **2nd Annual Planning and Celebration Joint Meeting With Steering Council Members, Cook County Birth Parent Council Officers Elected
Chair – Mr. Gregory Cox
Co-Chair – Mr. David Israel
Secretary – Ms. Theresa Cope
Co-Secretary – Ms. Verna Townsend**
- **In-Service Training Session - Court Appearance**
- **Cook County Birth Parents Present at Cook County Foundations Classes, Institutes and Private Agency Associations**
- **Cook County Juvenile Court Sponsored Planning Dinner with Cook County Birth Parent Core Council: Birth Parents and Court personnel including Judges, States Attorney’s, and Public Defenders**
- **Eight Birth Parents participate in the African-American Family Commission’s Birth Parent Focus Group in Conjunction With University Of Illinois**
- **Second Annual Cook County Birth Parent Council Institute Day Theme: “Making Things Happen...Keeping Our Kids”
Ramada Lakeshore – 45 parents attended Chicago, IL**
- **Seven Parents Participate In Cook South – Council On Accreditation Interviews**
- **Third Annual Joint Planning Meeting – Steering Council And Birth Parent Council**
- **Second Annual Cook County Juvenile Court Sponsored Planning Dinner with Cook County Birth Parent Core Council: Birth Parents and Court personnel including Judges, States Attorney’s, and Public Defenders 7 parents attended**
- **Third Annual Cook County Birth Parent Council Institute Day Theme: “Reunification: Avoiding Burnout While Waiting” The Crowne Plaza – Metro Chicago in Chicago, IL. Approximately 72 Birth Parents attended**

along with 65 staff and 17 exhibitors. A Safe Haven received the Bring A Parent Campaign Trophy for Excellence by bringing the most parents to the Institute. Three parents received Certificates of Excellence for their commitment to the Birth Parent Council

- DCFS Training & Professional Development awarded Birth Parent Continuing Education Unit's (CEU) to parents attending all DCFS sponsored trainings and institutes.
- Seven Birth Parents participated in the interview process for the Council on Accreditation review for DCFS Cook South Region. Five Birth Parents participated in the Child and Family Service Reviews at Cook South August 6.
- Birth Parent Core Council meeting that included an In-Service training on Child Protection Mediation, nine parents attended from the Core Council and the Regional Council. Susanna Dominguez and Sue Stresivant conducted the In-Service.
- Strengthening Families Illinois Town Hall meeting held in Dolton, IL. Two staff and four birth parents attended. Some parents signed up to become future facilitators in the Parent Leadership program for Strengthening Families Illinois.
- Strengthening Families Illinois – Healthy Families Chicago selected two Birth Parents were selected by a Family Advocacy Center to work with the Mentoring Program for Adolescent youth.. Parents are responsible for providing mentoring services to adolescent youth utilizing the Strengthening Families Illinois Model.
- University of Illinois Steering Committee – two birth parents were selected to become part of a Steering Committee and will provide ongoing input regarding a birth parent perspective on child welfare service delivery and how it has impacted parents. With input from these parents, the Steering Committee will help the University Of Illinois School Of Social Work develop a classroom curriculum that will prepare social work students to enter the child welfare field.
- A Birth Parent participated in the Breaking Barriers Youth and Family Summit, on Saturday Dec. 5th, 2009 at Olive Harvey College by volunteering and participating in the event for DCFS youth.
- Third Annual Joint Birth Parent Council and Steering Council Planning Meeting – twenty-two Birth Parents & 6 Steering Council members attended. New Birth Parent Council Officers elected:

Chair - Rev. Terry LeNoir

Co-Chair - Mr. Leon Alexander

Secretary - Ms. Ramona Randall

Co-Secretary - Mr. George Lyke