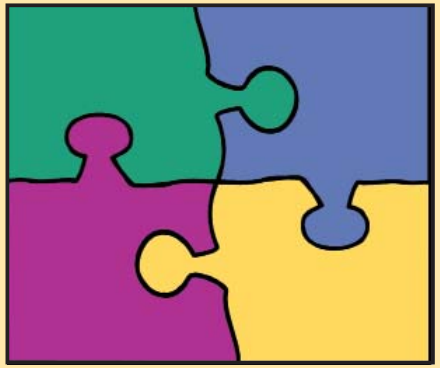
Is the Parent Partners Council the only way a parent can be involved?

No. The Parent Partners Council hosts Partnering With Parents information fairs from time to time at various locations around the state. Workers will invite parents to attend the information fairs. The parent council also hosts periodic parent cafes in the community in which community and DCFS parents can participate.

Thank you for helping us serve you and your children.

PARTNERING



WITH PARENTS

Illinois Department of
DCFS
Children & Family Services
www.DCFS.illinois.gov

Pat Quinn
Governor

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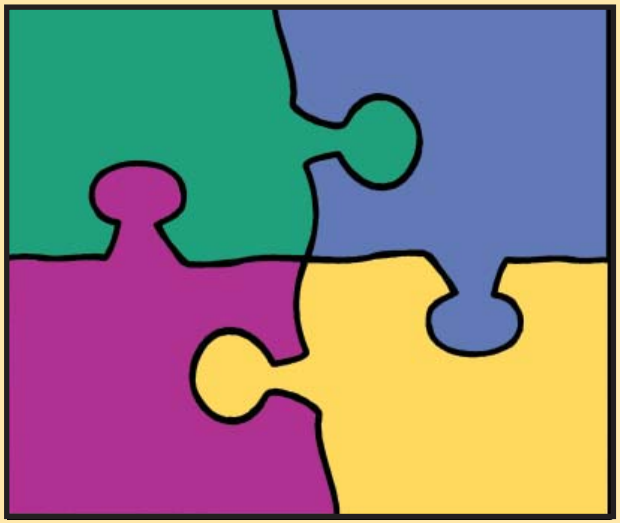
PARTNERING



WITH PARENTS

CHAMPAIGN CHAPTER

DCFS Parent Partners Councils
Work with Parents to Build Strong Families

Welcome!

Welcome to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Partnering with Parents Council, an advisory committee of and for families created through birth, who are served by DCFS and private child welfare agencies.

Our goal in partnering with parents is to assist them on their journey to become stronger and more flexible, to develop a rich network of support, to be able to access public and private resources when they need them, and to use knowledge of their families to create strong, healthy relationships with each child.

DCFS needs your help to teach us what we need to do and how we need to change in order to better assist you on your journey. We recognize that you are committed to doing the hard work necessary to bring your children back home. Be assured that we are committed to working with you to provide the resources and support as you strengthen yourself and your family.

In this process, caseworkers and the court are empowered by the state to help make decisions on your behalf. This is frustrating, but it helps the child welfare agency caring for your children to reunite you and your child as soon as possible. We need you to help us teach you how we can assist you on your journey. Your caseworker is best able to make good decisions with your collaboration and participation.

The Partnering with Parents Council is governed by parents with assistance from staff advisors and provides a voice for parents in the child welfare system. Please join us and help us build stronger families.

What is the Parent Partners Council?

The Parent Partners Council is an official council DCFS created to advise the department on issues affecting families we are working with. Parents participate in discussions, reviews and comments about agency policies, procedures, programs and practices for families who are served by the child welfare system.

The goals of the Parent Partners Council are to provide families with a voice in the policies, programs and services provided to them and to educate parents about the child welfare system. The Parent Partners Council is one way parents can assist DCFS to see, hear and understand the needs of families as they journey toward reunification or work to stay together.

Parent Partners members discuss areas of concern or interest. Council members may discuss and make recommendations for the department. DCFS staff may also ask members for comments on issues and to provide opinions and suggestions about child welfare programs. DCFS also provides educational information.

Who may participate on the Parent Partners Council?

Parents of families DCFS and private agencies serve or have served are the most important members of the council. Champaign's council is a unique collaboration of DCFS/POS representatives, parents and community partners, including Be Strong Families, Pavilion and the Family Advocacy Center of Champaign County (FACC).

When do parents meet?

This group meets on the first and third Monday of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Center of Champaign County. Refer to the Meeting Calendar for the exact dates and times. Parents are encouraged to bring their children, and light snacks are served. Transportation may be provided if identified as an issue. Questions about the Champaign Council should be directed to Beth Seggebruch, DCFS, at 217-443-3200 or Grace Mitchell, FACC, at 217-607-0546. Parents may also call Ray Gates at 217-524-2422. Parents should call before they come to be sure the meeting will be held.