

Partnering With Parents
Cook County Birth Parent Council
2011 Year – In – Review

- Two Core Council members are Parent Mentors in the Cook County Juvenile Court system. They were hired by Healthy Families Chicago and are mentoring new parents involved in the child welfare system to help them better navigate
- 33 parents attended the Birth Parent In-Service Training session “Handling Acting Out Children” 11-22-11
- Two parents presented at the 23rd Annual Latino Institute, Lisle, IL
- Three parents were invited to present at Loyola University School of Law and School of Social Work
- Two parents continue to provide consultation to the University of Illinois School of Social Work Curriculum Development
- Core and Regional Birth Parent Council parents met with the DCFS Director quarterly to address birth parent issues and concerns
- The Cook County Birth Parent Council officers held approximately thirteen Core Birth Parent Council meetings, approximately nine Cook South Regional meetings, and approximately ten Cook Haymarket Center meetings during 2011.
- Regional Birth Parent Council - Cook South In-Service presentation about A Knock At Midnight and Family Advocacy Centers
- Twenty-four parents and children attended the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, IL
- Seven parents and their children attended the Cook South Summer Picnic
- Fifty parents and children attended the White Sox Ballgame Summer 2011
- Parents participated as members of the DCFS Action Teams in Cook County representing needs and concerns of birth parents and families
- During 2011, parents presented their journey in the child welfare system to approximately 185 Foundations casework and supervisory staff.
- One parent attended the Statewide Partnering With Parents Institute in Morton, IL
- Members of the Birth Parent Council along with DCFS sponsored the Fifth Annual Cook County Birth Parent Council Institute Day. The theme was “Keeping Our Kids: Managing Our Children’s Education”

June 17, 2011 at The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Chicago, IL.
Approximately 52 parents attended.