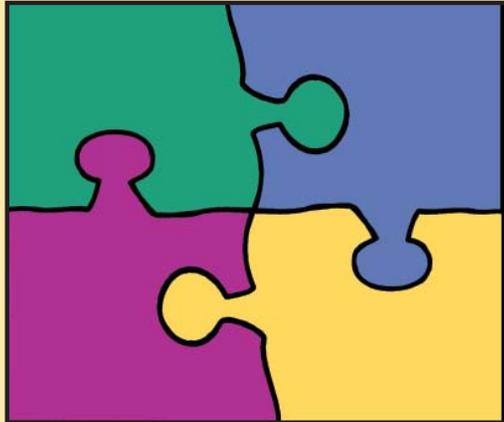


Is the Parent Partners Council the only way a parent can be involved?

No, The Parent Partners Council hosts Partnering With Parents information fairs from time to time at various locations around the state. Parents will be invited to attend the information fairs by their workers.

Thank you for helping us serve you and your children.

PARTNERING



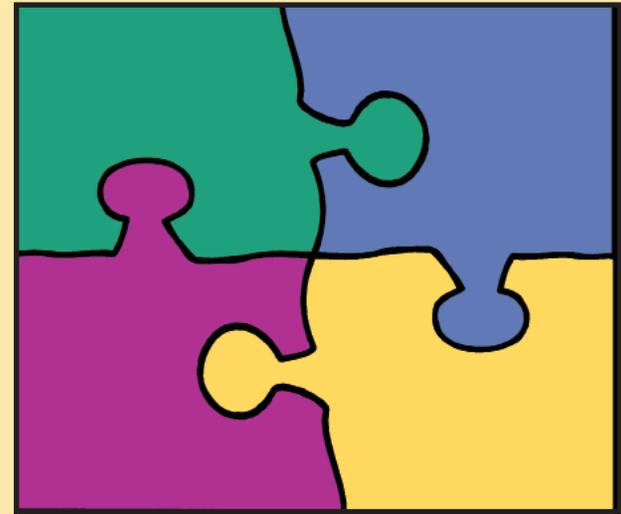
WITH PARENTS



Pat Quinn
Governor

Printed by authority of the state of Illinois
March 2013

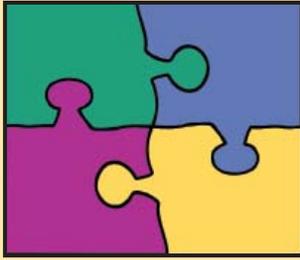
PARTNERING



WITH PARENTS

LAKE COUNTY 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. The Council provides support and education to parents involved or previously involved in the child welfare system in Springfield and the surrounding areas.

The goal of the Parent Partners Council is to provide families with a voice in the policies, programs and services provided to them. 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. The Council also provides recommendations about improvements to make and it helps identify barriers that may exist.

Who may participate on the Parent Partners Council?

Parents of families DCFS and private agencies serve are the most important members of the Council. A parent who is receiving DCFS services now or received service in the past may participate. The experience of these family experts is needed to shape the thinking and direct the planning of DCFS. Other Council members include caseworkers, managers and program staff.

How often does the Parent Partners Council meet?

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month from 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. Parents meet at NICASA's Judy H. Fried Center, 2031 Dugdale Rd., North Chicago. Questions about the Lake County Chapter should be directed to Linda LeRoy-Holowinski at 847-249-7800. Parents may also call Ray Gates at 217-524-2422.