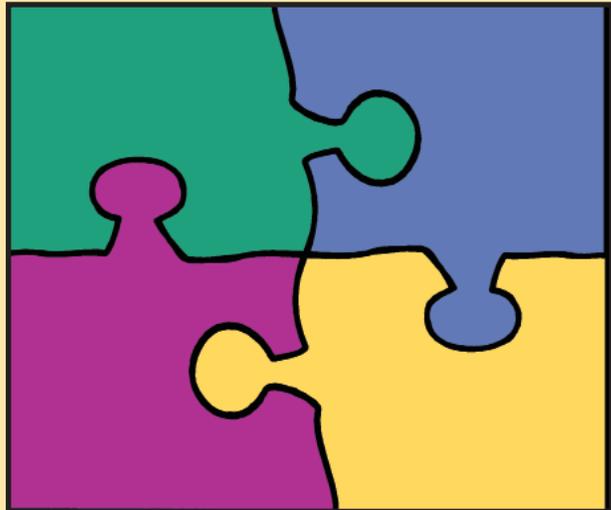


Thank you for helping us
serve you and your children.

PARTNERING

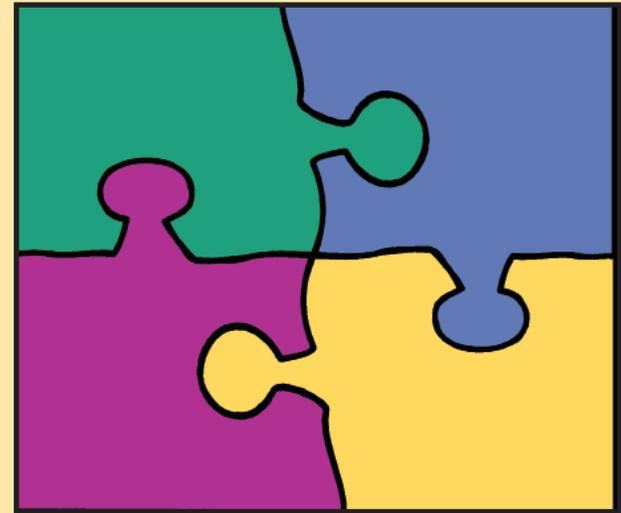


WITH PARENTS



Concerned Parents

PARTNERING



WITH PARENTS

METROPOLIS BIRTH PARENT COUNCIL

DCFS Parent Partners Councils
Work with Parents to Build Strong Families



Welcome!

Welcome to the Metropolis, Illinois Partnering with Parents Council, an advisory committee of and for families created through birth, who are served by the child welfare system in Illinois.

Our goal in partnering with parents is to assist them (you) 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.

We in the child welfare system need 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 you with resources and support as you strengthen yourself and your family.

In this process, caseworkers and the court are required by the state to help make decisions on your behalf. This may be frustrating to you, but it helps the child welfare agency caring for your children to reunite you and your children as soon as possible. Your caseworker is best able to make good decisions with your collaboration and participation.

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

What are the Parent Partners Councils?

The Parent Partners Councils are parent groups created to advise DCFS 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 the child welfare system 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 about services or resources. Staff may also ask parent members for comments on issues and to provide opinions and suggestions about child welfare programs. Parents are also provided with educational information.

Who may participate on this Parent Partners Council?

Parents of families served by the Illinois child welfare system are the most important members of the council. A parent who is receiving child welfare services now or who received services in the past may participate. The experience of these family experts is needed to shape the thinking and direct the planning of the child welfare system. Other council members include program staff.

When do parents meet?

The Metropolis Council meets the fourth Thursday of the month from noon – 2 p.m. at Hope Unlimited, 305 Lincoln St., Metropolis, Illinois. A free lunch is served. Transportation maybe provided if parents ask their caseworker in advance. Parents are sent invitations informing them of each upcoming meeting. To be on the invitation mailing list, please call Gloria Pounds at 618-524-2428.

Need more information?

Questions about this Council should be directed to Gloria Pounds at 618-524-2428. Parents may also contact Ray Gates at 217-524-2422.