

Partnering With Parents
Cook County Birth Parent Council
FY13 Year – In – Review

- The Cook County Birth Parent Council officers held approximately nine Core Birth Parent Council meetings, approximately four Cook South Regional meetings, four joint Council and Regional meetings and approximately 14 Haymarket Center meetings during 2012.
- Four parents were invited to present at the Loyola University School of Law and Social Work on 5-24-12 and presented a second time on 11-15-12.
- Members of the Birth Parent Council along with Department of Children & Family Services sponsored the Sixth Annual Cook County Birth Parent Council Institute Day on June 8, 2012. The theme was “Keeping Our Kids: Managing Parenting Relationships With Our Children and Our Teens-At Home, Away From Home and Returning Home.” The Institute took Place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Approximately 99 parents and staff attended. The keynote speaker, Dr Reginald Richardson received great reviews from participants and many parents described his information as “life-changing”.
- Eight parents participated in the Focus Group meeting on Managing Trauma on 9-11-2012.
- Six parents participated in special training on Sexual Health with foster parents and staff. Parents described the joint training as a long overdue opportunity for both parent groups to get to work know and value each other’s strengths.
- Twenty-five parents attended in-service training regarding parent’s rights and responsibilities part one.
- Nineteen parents and fifty – six children participated in the Holiday Give Away Christmas Party on 12-15-12.
- During 2012, parents presented their journeys in the Child Welfare System to approximately 140 Foundations caseworkers and supervisory staff.
- Two Council members continue as Parent Mentors housed at the Juvenile Court of Cook County.
- The Cook County Birth Parent Council recruited 109 parents in 2012 including new parent referrals from the Mentoring Program.
- The Cook County Birth Parent program participates in the IVE Waiver Demonstration Intervention program designed to determine service needs of

children 0-3 years. Ten Council parents met with the Deputy Director to provide input in proposal interventions.

- Eight parents and children attended the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.
- Council parents continue to present at Action Team meetings representing parents the needs of parents and their children.
- New Birth parent officers were elected this year as follows:

-Chair	Jacqueline LeNoir
-Vice Chair	Judith Flenorl
-Secretary	Chantesse O'Neal – Baker
-Co-Secretary	Lorretta Saunders