



Cook County Birth Parent Council Accomplishments 2010 Summary

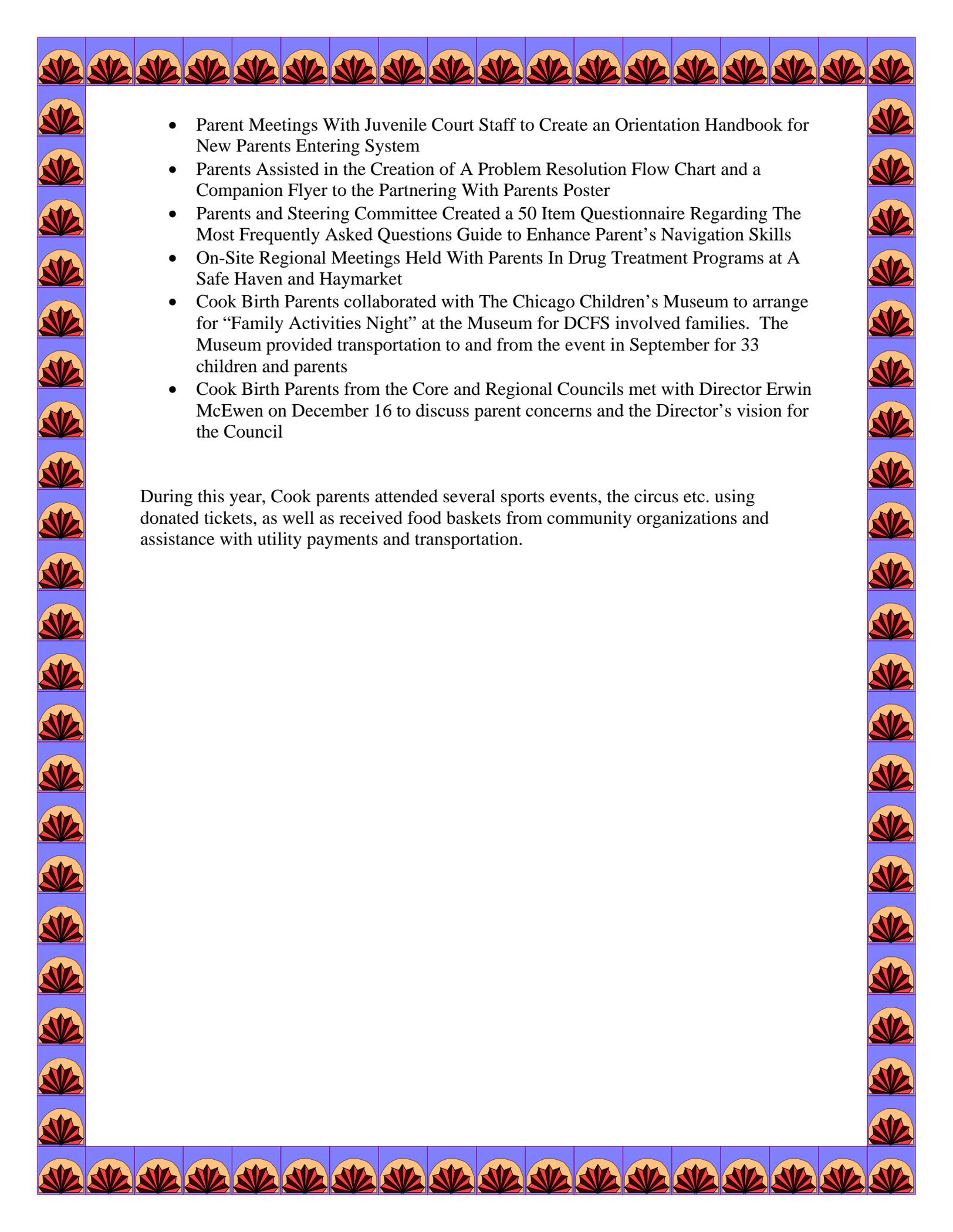
Cook County Birth Parents continued to participate in many activities during 2010, including the Annual Birth Parent Council Institute, focus groups, in-service training, planning, recruitment meetings and collaborative. In addition, they have participated in panel discussions on child welfare issues affecting parents and children, including the Department's Transformation Teams and Action Teams.

The parents continue to publish their own newsletter, "Making Things Happen".

One hundred and eighty staff and parents attended the annual institute this year. The theme was "No More Trauma Drama". The keynote speaker was renowned expert, Dr. Carl C. Bell. Forty exhibitors provided much needed resource information. During the Institute Cook Birth Parent Council and Steering Committee, members received Appreciation Certificates for Outstanding Contributions to the Cook County Birth Parent Council. One agency received a trophy for participating in the "Bring A Parent Campaign" and bringing the most parents to the Institute.

In addition, parents participated in the following events and activities:

- Loyola University School of Law Panel regarding effective parent engagement for Psychologists, Lawyers, Social Workers and Child Development Students
- Training Collaborative – Father Engagement, curriculum development
- Grant Proposal for parents as mentors in Juvenile Court
- Northwestern University Focus Group on the Father Engagement Training
- American Bar Association Focus Group regarding parents' views on Juvenile Court and Youth at court hearings
- Parents participated in the Child and Family Federal Review
- Video interviews of Fathers Discussing Service Delivery Experiences
- Transformation Team on Diversity in service delivery and Anti-Racism
- Regional Action Teams regarding effective parent engagement
- Parents presented Foundations Training presentations to over 100 New Workers and Staff.
- Parent In-Service Classes: Differential Response, Strengthening Families, Child Protection Mediation and Family Advocacy Center Programs
- Parents Training as Parent Leaders and Facilitators in Strengthening Families Program
- Parent Certified as Mentor in Family Advocacy Program
- Parent Weekly Assistance and Support For Parents With Court and Service Issues
- Monthly Core and Steering Committee Planning and In-Service Training Meetings
- Parent Meetings With the DCFS Director
- Parent Participate in the Creation Of Cook South Transformation Team's Family Empowerment Survey

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- Parent Meetings With Juvenile Court Staff to Create an Orientation Handbook for New Parents Entering System
 - Parents Assisted in the Creation of A Problem Resolution Flow Chart and a Companion Flyer to the Partnering With Parents Poster
 - Parents and Steering Committee Created a 50 Item Questionnaire Regarding The Most Frequently Asked Questions Guide to Enhance Parent’s Navigation Skills
 - On-Site Regional Meetings Held With Parents In Drug Treatment Programs at A Safe Haven and Haymarket
 - Cook Birth Parents collaborated with The Chicago Children’s Museum to arrange for “Family Activities Night” at the Museum for DCFS involved families. The Museum provided transportation to and from the event in September for 33 children and parents
 - Cook Birth Parents from the Core and Regional Councils met with Director Erwin McEwen on December 16 to discuss parent concerns and the Director’s vision for the Council

During this year, Cook parents attended several sports events, the circus etc. using donated tickets, as well as received food baskets from community organizations and assistance with utility payments and transportation.