Monthly Strengthening Families Networking Webinar
September 10, 2015

Protective factors approaches to supporting resource parents
Today’s agenda

• Updates from CSSP: Cailin O’Connor
• Updates from the Alliance: Meryl Levine
• Youth Thrive™ “Kinship Parent Education and Support” project & Invitation to Learning Community: Leonard Burton and Rachel Paletta, CSSP
• “Self-Care for Kinship Care Providers”: Cailin O’Connor
• Be Strong Families work with foster parents (and shared parenting): Robyn Harvey
• Discussion of state experiences: Kate Begin
About the Strengthening Families networking webinars

• Open invitation to those using the Protective Factors Framework and coordinating Strengthening Families efforts
• Jointly convened by the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds
• Topics and guest speakers coordinated by CSSP, the Alliance, or a volunteer from the Strengthening Families National Network
• Recordings and materials from past webinars posted at:
  – https://sites.google.com/site/allianceecitheoryofchange/eci-lc-monthly-meetings
Webinar tips from GoToWebinar

• In your attendee control panel, choose the audio mode you intend to use (telephone or “mic and speakers” on your computer)

• Telephone users:
  – Avoid using cellular and cordless phones because of static
  – Use the phone handset or a headset instead of speakerphones because of background noise, tunnel effect and sentence clipping
  – Enter your personalized “audio pin” shown on your screen
  – If you find you are having a sound quality issue, hang up and dial back in.

• VoIP users:
  – Test your speakers setup. Click Audio Setup in the Audio Pane to select the correct device. (Mac users: Click the speaker icon in the Audio Pane to select the correct device.)
  – Check the volume setting in audio setup. Click Speakers Setup and then click Play Sound. Adjust the slider bar to the desired volume
Upcoming webinars

• Second Thursday of each month, 3:00-4:00 ET
  – October 8: Promoting family engagement through Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, coordinated by Michelle Trulsrud, AR
  – November 12: Prevention of child neglect, from the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds
  – December 10: Reaching family, friend and neighbor care providers, coordinated by Nina Sazer O’Donnell
Parent Guide – Now available!

• Thank you to FRIENDS Parent Advisory Committee and other network members for feedback

• Final brochure is now available
  – Strengthening Families – Practice – Parent Partnerships
Three modules now available: Strengthening Families scripted curriculum

- Eight modules in all, developed in partnership with jurisdictions implementing Strengthening Families in their child welfare systems
- Slides, script and activities
- Releasing one module per month – three so far
- Check our website: (Practice - Professional Development and Training: http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/practice#training) and the Strengthening Families eUpdate each month for additional modules
Updates from the Alliance

Meryl Levine,
National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds
The Birth Parent National Network (BPNN)

Join the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN) – a dynamic national network of almost 80 birth parents and organizations working together to influence child welfare systems.

Join the BPNN
BPNN Goals

- Strategize ways to promote and support parents as partners in prevention strategies and child welfare system reform.
- Support parents in communicating to policymakers.
- Develop resources to train birth parents and organizations to communicate messages to improve practice and policy at state and federal levels.
- Work together to build a cohesive and unified national voice to inform policy and practice.
The BPNN Includes Parents ...

- Previously involved with or at risk of becoming involved with the child welfare system
- Willing to engage in policy work and share their perspectives with policymakers and other stakeholders
Examples of BPNN Activities

• White House Forum – BPNN Parents participate in roundtable discussion on prevention of placement of children in foster care
• BPNN Parents Presentation to Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities
• BPNN Parent provides oral and written testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
• BPNN Father presents at Missouri Roundtable with policymakers
• BPNN Parent and Son Present to Casey Family Programs Board of Trustees
Promoting the Virtual Convening

bpnn.ctfalliance.org/members/members.htm

"Parents’ Roles in Transforming Systems"

The Birth Parent National Network’s (BPNN) first virtual convening is set for November 2015. BPNN members and keynote speakers will share new ideas and strategies about parents’ roles in transforming systems.

Three 2-Hour Sessions in November
1. Tuesday, November 3, 2015 – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. PST
2. Tuesday, November 10, 2015 – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. PST
3. Thursday, November 19, 2015 – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. PST
Protective factors approaches to supporting resource parents
Youth Thrive™ - update
Protective & Promotive Factors for Healthy Development and Well-Being

Leonard Burton, M.Ed – Senior Fellow
Center for the Study of Social Policy

Rachel Paletta, JD, MSW – Senior Associate
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Protective & Promotive Factors for Healthy Development and Well-Being

• What is **Youth Thrive**™?

  – Protective and Promotive Factors
    • Youth Resilience
    • Social Connections
    • Concrete Support in Times of Need
    • Knowledge of Adolescent Development
    • Cognitive and Social Emotional Competence
What are we working on?

– Exemplary Programs
– Chafee Recommendations
– Youth Engagement Platform
– Inviting additional public agencies to join our Learning Community
– Kinship Parents Education & Support Project
Learning Community Invitation

- Adding 3-5 Public Agencies – Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice
- Webinar September 18, 2015
  alexis.grinstead@cssp.org
- Applications due October 8
- Jurisdictions notified if selected by November 13
- **NOT** a grant funded partnership
Kinship Parent Education and Support Project

Desired Results:

– Determine how kinship parents could use Youth Thrive™ protective and promotive factors to support and address the well-being needs of youth they are caring for.

– Develop a plan to translate, educate and support kinship parents with the protective and promotive factors through different methods.
Taking Care of Yourself: Tips for Kinship Care Providers

• Developed in partnership with the working group on Strengthening Families in Child Welfare

• Not just for formal kinship care providers but for others who are informally caring for a child from their extended family

• Focuses on the protective factors of the care provider as well as what they can do to support the child’s social and emotional competence – not limited by the child’s age

• Includes a “trauma tip” related to each protective factor
TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF: TIPS FOR KINSHIP CARE PROVIDERS

Taking in a child who needs you can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life – but it can also be stressful for you and the rest of your family. Whether you are a formal kinship care provider in the child welfare system, or you informally agree to care for the child of a family member, you play a vital role. Taking care of yourself is critically important, for your own well-being and for the well-being of the child you’re caring for and others in your household.

For a child, being removed from their parents and home is stressful and can be traumatic. Even when you provide loving care, a child may have difficulty adjusting. They likely miss their parents and their home. This very natural and normal reaction can make it hard for them to respond positively to you and may impact their behavior in many ways.

This tool is designed to help you:

**Strengthening Families**

Strengthening Families is an effort to help families give their children what they need to thrive. All families have unique strengths, and all families sometimes need help to stay strong.

Strengthening Families is built around five “protective factors.” Protective factors are strengths families rely on, especially when life gets difficult. A parallel set of protective and promotive factors, called Youth Thrive, describes what adolescents and young adults need to thrive – but for this tool, the focus is on you as a caregiver. The protective factors...
Strengthening Families Networking Webinar:
Be Strong Families work with foster parents (and Shared Parenting with birth parents)

Robyn Harvey
Statewide Foster Parent Parent Coordinator
Mission: Be Strong Families promotes the empowered engagement of vulnerable parents, youth, children, and extended family members in ways that nurture the spirit of the family and promote well-being, healing and peace across the globe.
We have a major focus on developing respectful, strengths-based, supportive services for child welfare-involved children and families and assisting child welfare staff with enhancing their positive, effective working relationships with their clients.

Child Welfare Involved service populations include:

- Birth Parents
- Foster Parents
- Youth and Young Adults
- Alumni of the Child Welfare
- Professional Development for DCFS/POS staff
Benefits of Foster Parents Work within BSF

- Outcomes / reach/ BSF Foster Parents – FY 2015

| First time 518 | Duplicates 441 | Total encounters 959 |

- Increase resilience by understanding foster parents are not alone
- Increase social connections by providing community to foster parents (ie - events, social opportunities)
- Increase understanding of local resources and other concrete supports for children and families
- Increase knowledge of parenting and child development through conversations and training
- Offers foster parents different ways to communicate with team and children.
- Mostly, peer to peer instruction. Follows Adult learning principles.
Shared Parenting Workshop
Building Collaborative Relationships between Birth Parents and Caregivers

Caregiver(s) sharing parenting responsibilities with child’s parent or parents while child is in placement

Shared Parenting Group Work
Discussions focus exploring the benefits of
• Shared parenting
• For the child(ren)
• For the caregiver / resource parent
• For the birth parent
• For permanency
SERVICES BE STRONG FAMILIES OFFERS TO FOSTER PARENTS

• Foster Parent Cafes

• Be Strong Foster Parents Face Book Page

• Be Strong Foster Parents Blog
• http://www.bestrongfosterparents.com/

• Trainings
  • Shared Parenting
  • Wake Up to Your Potential
  • Living the Protective Factors
There are no problems or challenges
Only Opportunities

For more info on Be Strong Families, Child Welfare Services please contact: April Curtis – april@bestrongfamilies.net
http://www.bestrongfamilies.net
Protective factors and resource parents:

Questions and Discussion
Please feel free to contact us:

Cailin O’Connor: cailin.oconnor@cssp.org

Meryl Levine: meryl.levine@gmail.com

Leonard Burton: leonard.burton@cssp.org

Rachel Paletta: rachel.paletta@cssp.org