

### News from OCAP

Changes in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) in June 2003 have placed an even greater emphasis on demonstrating meaningful Parent Leadership in the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs (CBCAP). With a longstanding history of supporting Parent Leadership, California continues to be in the forefront in creating and supporting leadership opportunities for parents in child abuse prevention programs at the state and local levels.

The California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP), is pleased to see an increase in the number of Parent Leaders working in partnership with administrators and staff within public and private agencies. With the ongoing Parent Leadership training and technical assistance provided by Parents Anonymous® Inc., California counties are beginning to see the benefits of developing policy and practice in partnership with parents. At the state level, Parent Leaders participated on the Child Welfare Redesign Stakeholders Workgroups and helped develop the recommendations addressed in the Redesign Final Report. Three parents are also serving on the Prevention Advisory Council, which serves as an advisory group to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention. Additionally, members of the California Parent Leadership Team (CPLT) participated in the planning of the annual meeting for CBCAP Grantees held on May 11-12, 2004 in Chicago to ensure that Parent Leaders took on meaningful roles. This meeting brought together Parent Leaders from around the country, staff from state Lead Agencies, federal staff and staff from the FRIENDS (Family Resource

Information, Education, and Network Development Services) National Resource Center. A California Parent Leader participated on a parent panel and highlighted California's positive Shared Leadership activities.

At the local level, the number of Child Abuse Prevention Councils committed to ensuring that Parent Leaders are members of their Councils has continued to increase. This year, numerous Councils have requested training and technical assistance from Parents Anonymous® Inc. to help them develop recruitment strategies and supports needed to increase their parent membership. Parents are now partnering with providers to serve as co-chairs of some counties' Councils. Moreover, parents are participating in the Redesign process within their counties by attending Community Forums, participating in the Self-Assessment process and serving as members of Redesign committees.

We look forward to the expansion of these efforts in partnership with Parents Anonymous® Inc. so that all counties throughout the state are partnering with parents in policy development, program planning, implementation and evaluation of child abuse prevention services to ensure better outcomes for children in our state.

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

News from OCAP .....	1
National Parent Leadership Month Inaugural Celebration .....	2
CPLT Member Helps Plan National Meeting .....	3
Parent Leadership Training Makes A Difference .....	3
Is your County Interested in Shared Leadership Training? .....	3
Keeping Up With the CPLT: An Update on Parent Leadership Activities .....	4-5
Looking for Parent Leaders to Join the CPLT .....	5
Sacramento Parent Leader Joins the CPLT .....	5
Moving Parent Leadership Forward: County Highlights .....	6-7
Suggested Readings... ..	8

## NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP MONTH INAUGURAL CELEBRATION



In order to recognize, honor and celebrate parents for their important roles in their homes and communities, Parents Anonymous® Inc. declared February as National Parent Leadership Month. We invited other national, state and local organizations to join with us as co-sponsors and the enthusiastic response far exceeded our hopes. Twenty-five co-sponsoring organizations and federal agencies partnered with Parents Anonymous® Inc. to promote this important initiative such as the National Fatherhood Initiative, National Head Start Association, National Child Abuse Coalition, Marguerite Casey Foundation, and North American Council on Adoptable Children. All across the country, Parent Leaders and organizations worked together to organize activities to promote Parent Leadership in their local communities. Parents Anonymous® Inc. gave Certificates of Appreciation to Parent Leaders with whom it works including the California Parent Leadership Team. Sharon Angle, California Parent Leader, stated, "it was truly an honor to be recognized by Parents Anonymous® Inc. for my role as a Parent Leader during National Parent Leadership Month in February 2004." Here are a few California highlights:

**Proclamations** - The Board of Supervisors in Sacramento and Yolo Counties signed proclamations recognizing February as Parent Leadership Month in those counties.

**Press Releases** - Many co-sponsors disseminated Press Releases to generate news coverage. Feature stories highlighting National Parent Leadership Month appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines such as The Sacramento Bee, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (Pomona, CA), L.A. Parent, Orange County Parenting, Sacramento Parents' Monthly, San Diego Parent, Bay Area Parent, California Area Parent.

**Newsletters** - Articles were published in newsletters and on Web sites by co-sponsors such as the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Children's Bureau, Child Welfare League of America, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, National Child Abuse Coalition, and the National Head Start Association. A full-page article in The CPS Connection, the Sacramento County Child Protective Services' newsletter, highlighted the presentation to the County Board of Supervisors about Parent Leadership and the signing of the proclamation.

**Parent Leadership Training** - Many counties chose to host Parent Leadership Training during February to promote National Parent Leadership Month. Parents

Anonymous® Inc. staff and Parent Leaders from the California Parent Leadership Team co-trained in Amador, Calaveras, Nevada, and Shasta counties.

In February 2005, National Parent Leadership Month will once again provide the opportunity for parents to be recognized by a broad spectrum of organizations and communities for their leadership to improve families and neighborhoods. Parents Anonymous® Inc. welcomes public and private organizations working in the areas of social services, education, juvenile justice, child care, mental health and health to join us as Co-Sponsors in promoting this important initiative.

For more information about National Parent Leadership Month, visit our Web site at [parentsanonymous.org](http://parentsanonymous.org) or contact Meryl Levine, Vice President of Development at (909) 621-6184, extension 220 or via email at [mlevine@parentsanonymous.org](mailto:mlevine@parentsanonymous.org).

### Parents Anonymous® Inc. is pleased to acknowledge our 2004 Co-Sponsors for National Parent Leadership Month.

Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention,  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention,  
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration  
Child Welfare League of America  
National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds  
National Head Start Association  
Prevent Child Abuse America  
Family Support America  
Center for Community Partnerships in Child Welfare of the  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
National Respite Coalition  
National Call to Action  
National Child Abuse Coalition  
Strode and Lee Marketing Specialists  
Annie E. Casey Foundation  
National Fatherhood Initiative  
American Public Human Services Association  
Program for Early Parent Support  
Shasta County Department of Social Services,  
Children and Family Services Division  
Sacramento County Department of Health & Human Services,  
Division of Child Protective Services  
Barbara Meltzer and Associates, Public Relations and Social Marketing  
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter  
Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning  
Marguerite Casey Foundation  
Anderson Lithograph, a Mail-Well Company  
North American Council on Adoptable Children  
Ventura County Human Services Agency

## **CPLT MEMBER HELPS PLAN ANNUAL CBCAP MEETING**



Art Hernandez, Riverside County, recently attended the annual Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grantee Meeting held in Chicago on May 11-12, 2004. Art participated on numerous teleconference calls to help plan and implement a Shared Leadership event at the annual meeting. At the meeting, Art participated on a Parent Panel where he shared his story. "It is important for providers to recognize parents as an important resource," states Art. "Parents and providers must trust one another and not look at each other as adversaries." Art said that he felt that the meeting was a positive step for Parent Leadership as parents from different organizations were able to attend and promote the positive work they are doing.

## **PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

Evaluation collected during this year's first four Parent Leadership Trainings in California counties showed that counties are making progress in developing specific strategies to partner with parents and include them in local decision-making responsible for community family support programs.

The evaluation findings also revealed positive attitudes about Parent Leadership and indicated positive outcomes with regard to developing Parent Leadership capacity throughout California. The training evaluations indicated that participants found the trainings useful and inspiring and participants are developing exciting plans to increase Parent Leadership in their counties and agencies.

## **IS YOUR COUNTY INTERESTED IN SHARED LEADERSHIP TRAINING?**

Parents Anonymous® Inc. is currently identifying counties who are interested in individualized Shared Leadership training and technical assistance for the upcoming year, beginning in July 2004. Is your county ready to move forward and include parents as partners within decision making bodies such as Child Abuse Prevention Councils, Family Resource Center boards, policy councils, Child Welfare Redesign committees? Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff can provide training and support to parents and providers within your county to help reach your Shared Leadership goals. If you are interested in Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership Training contact:

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## KEEPING UP WITH THE CPLT: AN UPDATE ON PARENT LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

The California Parent Leadership Team has been very busy!

✓ **Sharon Angle** (Sacramento) began attending the Department of Social Services' Shared Leadership Task Force in Sacramento County. She continues to serve as a parent member of the Prevention Advisory Council, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, California Department of Social Services. She is the Chair of the Sacramento County Family Advocates Committee.



✓ **Mike Carll** (Calaveras) is a member of the Redesign Committee in his county and is now serving as Co-Chair of the Calaveras Child Abuse Prevention Council. He recently presented on a parent panel to County teams of parents and providers participating in Redesign. He has been sharing his story in Northern California as a co-trainer with Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff.



✓ **Pamela Maxwell** (Sacramento) has been an active member of the Child Welfare Redesign efforts in her county. She shared her story at a Redesign Community Forum and is participating on the Community Partnership Workgroup. Due to her involvement she was hired as a parent consultant for the California Breakthrough Series Collaborative on Differential Response. Pamela recently participated on an Expert Panel for Permanency for Older Foster Youth, sponsored by the National Resource Center for Foster Care and the Casey Foundation, held in St. Louis, MO.



✓ **Kathy Dreyer** (Yolo) is participating in the Redesign Self-Assessment in her county. She also participated in the initial planning for the annual Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP) Grantee meeting held in Chicago.



✓ **Cleopra Dyas** (Los Angeles) is working with the Inglewood School District to set up Parents Anonymous® groups. She attended the Los Angeles Unified School District, Local District H., Resources Coordinating Council Meeting and has been serving as a co-trainer with Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff in Los Angeles and Riverside counties.



✓ **Tammy Ghasvarian** (Nevada) served as a key partner in her county to organize a Parent Leadership Training as a way to recognize National Parent Leadership Month. Tammy serves as a member of the Parent Leadership Council in Nevada County. The Council took a leadership role in the training. She is also serving on the Nevada County Steering Committee for Redesign.



✓ **Art Hernandez** (Riverside) is participating in the Redesign Self-Assessment in Riverside County. He was recently elected to the Parents Anonymous® Inc. National Parent Leadership Team®. He also served on the Planning Committee for the annual CBCAP Grantee Meeting held in Chicago and participated on a Parent Leadership Panel.



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## SACRAMENTO PARENT LEADER JOINS THE CPLT

✓ **Diane Davis** (Lake) wrote and submitted a grant to First 5 Lake County requesting funds to support an innovative project that would ensure that the needs of parents and families in Lake County are being heard and programs are being developed in partnership with families. She is also attending her local Children's Council meetings. Diane is helping rewrite the parent-to-parent support group bylaws to make the group more inclusive to all families and changing the Clear Lake Association Developmental Services (CLADS) to the FREE Center (Family Resource, Empowerment and Education Center).



✓ **Maria Moreno** (Ventura), along with Sharon Angle, Mike Carll and Cleopra Dyas, were members of a parent panel on "Reforming Child Welfare through Parent Leadership: The California Experience" at the Parents Anonymous® Inc. National Training Institute in Washington, D. C.



✓ **Gwen Watson** (Siskiyou) is now serving as the Parent Representative for the Siskiyou Community Service Council. She is a member of the Child Abuse Prevention Council Committee.



Thanks and congratulations to these dedicated parent leaders. Their energy seems boundless!



Parents Anonymous® Inc. would like to welcome Pamela Maxwell, the newest member to the California Parent Leadership Team. Pamela was nominated to the CPLT by the Sacramento County Child Protective Services' Shared Leadership Task Force. Pamela is an active member of the Task Force, which is a partnership between parents and Child Protective Services administrators and staff who are working to strengthen the Child Welfare System. Pamela is employed by Bridges, Inc. as a Recovery Specialist/Community Resource Manager in the STARS Program. She provides services to Child Protective Services (CPS) families participating in Sacramento County's Dependency Drug Court. She is also a parent consultant for the California Breakthrough Series Collaborative on Differential Response. Pamela is a former consumer of CPS. "Because my life has changed, the outcomes for my children have changed," states Pamela. "I look forward to being a part of the Team and helping others change their lives."

**JOIN THE CPLT** Are there parents in your county who have leadership skills and are committed to strengthening families in California? Let them know you believe in them by nominating them to serve on the California Parent Leadership Team.

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## MOVING PARENT LEADERSHIP FORWARD:

This year, three counties were selected to receive intensive training and technical assistance to help them institutionalize Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership within their Child Abuse Prevention Councils, Family Resource Centers and other agencies within the child abuse prevention systems. Below are highlights of the activities in these counties to improve service delivery for children and families.

### Amador County

The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) has taken the lead in moving Parent Leadership forward in Amador County. Following two Parent Leadership trainings, the Council is preparing to actively recruit parents to serve on the Council. "While many parents have attended Council meetings in the past," states Laura Biddle, CAPC Coordinator, "parents haven't actually joined the Council." The Amador CAPC is making sure its policies and procedures are welcoming and inclusive to support parent participation. Following the second training at the May CAPC meeting, a parent stated that she was planning to join the Council and had learned a lot from the Parent Leadership Training about how to help other parents participate in leadership roles. "The training has helped us focus on the importance of personally inviting parents to join the Council and supporting them throughout the process," said Pam Smith, CAPC Chairperson. Parents



*Amador County parents and staff develop their "Dream Team."*



*Parents and staff share what Parent Leadership means in Calaveras County.*

Anonymous® Inc. will continue to provide technical assistance to Amador County as they successfully expand Parent Leadership within their county.

### Calaveras County

In February 2004, Parents Anonymous® Inc. provided Parent Leadership Training for administrators, staff and parents from family strengthening agencies in Calaveras and Amador counties. Hosted by the Calaveras County Child Abuse Prevention Council, the training helped participants identify the benefits of Shared Leadership and develop strategies for supporting Parent Leaders. Kathy Dreyer and Mike Carll, members of the California Parent Leadership Team, shared their stories and expertise as Parent Leaders during the training. During the afternoon, Kathy instructed the participants in an activity to help them expand their thinking about collaboration and

partnership. Teams of parents and providers created a "Dream Team" which included all of the agencies, county and local

programs, community leaders, and parents that they felt should be working together to strengthen services in their county. This activity inspired Calaveras County to invite additional agencies, parents and community leaders to the June 2004 Parent Leadership Training to increase the participation and collaboration in developing a Parent Leadership Plan for the county.

## COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

### Shasta County

In Shasta County, the Shasta County Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services Division and the Shasta County Child Abuse Prevention Council joined together to put Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership into action in their county. With training and technical assistance provided by Parents Anonymous® Inc., the Shasta County Department of Social Services created a Parent Leadership Task Force composed of staff from the department, staff from the Child Abuse Prevention Council, along with parents who had utilized family strengthening services in their county. The Task Force developed a Parent Leadership Plan and has made significant strides in shaping the delivery of family strengthening services in this county. Five new half-time Parent Partner positions have been funded within the Child Abuse Prevention Council in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and First 5 Shasta. Parent Partners will be helping to prevent child abuse by linking families to the resources and supports they need.

In February 2004, Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff provided



*Monique Taylor, Parent Leader, shares her story during Parent Leadership training.*



*Tom Taylor, Program Manager for Children's Services, welcomes participants in Shasta County.*

the first of two intensive Parent Leadership Trainings in the county. Four parents from the Task Force volunteered to serve as co-presenters. Thirty administrators/staff and 8 parents attended the training. The morning session provided participants with an overview of Shared Leadership, benefits and barriers, and roles for Parent Leaders. During the afternoon session, emphasis was placed on identifying roles for Parent Leaders within the Child Welfare Redesign efforts in the county. During the training, Parent Leaders and providers from the Task Force shared the reasons why they continue to work in partnership.

#### IN SHASTA COUNTY, PARENTS AND PROVIDERS WORK IN PARTNERSHIP TO:

- ❖ Benefit children by working together.
- ❖ Increase parent inclusion in decision-making at personal, agency and community levels.
- ❖ Promote Parent Leadership and shared decision-making.
- ❖ Breakdown stereotypes of everyone involved (parents, providers, foster parents, community at large).
- ❖ Promote empowerment of families.
- ❖ Advocate within systems.
- ❖ Learn to ask parents what they need to be successful.
- ❖ Increase successful reunification through improved children and family services.
- ❖ Give birth parents a voice.
- ❖ Encourage and support positive change in the community.
- ❖ Build bridges between birth parents, social workers, and foster parents.

# Suggested Readings...

Parents Anonymous® Inc. is pleased to offer two new valuable publications, the *Shared Leadership in Action: Trainer's Manual* and *Shared Leadership in Action: Guidebook for Participants*, that provide all the materials needed to complete a four hour Shared Leadership in Action training. Teams of staff, Parent Leaders, community members, policymakers and others participate in the training and leave prepared to begin working together right away based on the *Shared Leadership Action Plan* that is developed during the training.

***Shared Leadership in Action: Trainer's Manual*** – This publication provides staff and Parent Leader co-trainers with a step-by-step guide to presenting a four hour workshop on Shared Leadership and Parent Leadership. It includes valuable information on planning and preparing for the training along with instructions and ready-to-use materials for all training activities. It is suitable for staff, volunteers and parents representing a wide range of audiences, including educators, social service providers, health care providers, mental health professionals, policymakers

and any others interested in working in partnership with parents.

***Shared Leadership in Action: Guidebook for Participants*** – This publication is a companion to the Trainer's Manual and is designed for use by participants in the Shared Leadership in Action training. It provides all the needed handouts and worksheets so that each participant can create a personal leadership profile, record their thoughts and ideas, and build their own Shared Leadership Action Plan. Each training participant should receive their own *Guidebook for Participants*, which will become their ongoing tool for growth and change in working in Shared Leadership.

If you would like to purchase or learn more about this training and these new publications, visit our Web site at [www.parentsanonymous.org](http://www.parentsanonymous.org). and go to "publications" or contact Meryl Levine, Vice President of Development, at (909) 621-6184, ext. 220 or via email at [mlevine@parentsanonymous.org](mailto:mlevine@parentsanonymous.org).



*Celebrating 35 Years*

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The *Parent Leadership Express* is published in partnership with the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Claremont, CA Permit No. 57
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