

News from OCAP:

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agencies, community partnerships and parents are critical at all levels of program development, funding, implementation and evaluation. Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff and CPLT members are ready to work with counties to help them develop creative ways to partner with parents and promote and implement Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership strategies throughout their mission and structure.

We look forward to continuing this important partnership with Parents Anonymous® Inc. so that more parents will become involved as decision-makers in the policy and practice of child abuse prevention services to ensure better outcomes for all California families.

MOVING FORWARD WITH CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

Parents Anonymous® Inc. and the California Parent Leadership Team (CPLT) are looking forward to working with these counties during the next few months to ensure that Parent Leaders are integral partners in the development, implementation and evaluation of child abuse prevention programs.

Amador	Santa Barbara
Calaveras	Riverside
Mono	Shasta
Nevada	



Celebrating 35 Years

Parents Anonymous® Inc.
675 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 220
Claremont, CA 91711-3475
(909) 621-6184
(909) 625-6304 Fax
www.parentsanonymous.org

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Parent Leadership

EXPRESS

Winter 2004

News from OCAP: Parent Leadership Plans for 2004

The California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) is pleased to continue its partnership with Parents Anonymous® Inc. in 2004 and ensure that Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership remain in the forefront of all child abuse prevention activities at the local and state levels. Now more than ever, parents, staff, professionals and policymakers are asking the question – how can we ensure that Parent Leaders are partners in developing, implementing and evaluating child abuse prevention programs? It's easy to be philosophically committed to the concepts of Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership but it's a lot harder to make them into a reality. Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership are more than thoughts or ideas – they need to be promoted, nurtured and implemented throughout the mission, structure and activities of all child abuse prevention organizations within the state. Parents Anonymous® Inc. specializes in assisting agencies to assess their organizational readiness to venture down this arduous but extremely rewarding pathway. Over the next three years, Parents Anonymous® Inc. will be working with California counties in the following ways:

- **Training and Technical Assistance** – Parents Anonymous® Inc. will provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to child abuse prevention agencies across the state to enhance their capacity to implement Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership strategies and build mutually respectful partnerships between parents and professionals. Based on their level of readiness, some counties will receive more intensive training and technical assistance to help them institutionalize Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership as key components and strategies of



“Being on the Statewide Parent Leadership Team has given me the opportunity to go out into other areas and meet people to talk not only about how important it is for parents to be involved in decision-making but also about how exactly to include them in the process.”
– Sharon Angle, Sacramento County

their Child Abuse Prevention Councils, Family Resource Centers and community prevention agencies.

- **California Parent Leadership Team (CPLT)** – Parents Anonymous® Inc. will continue to identify, train and support Parent Leaders interested in serving on this statewide structure to develop leadership roles for parents throughout California. There are currently 11 outstanding Parent Leaders on the CPLT who have been trained to take on numerous leadership roles at the state and local levels. New Parent Leaders are currently being sought to serve on this important Team. If you would like to nominate a Parent Leader to the CPLT, please fill out the nomination forms included in this newsletter.
- **Linking Parents to Regional Child Abuse Prevention Councils** – Parents Anonymous® Inc. will assist in linking parents to the eight regional Child Abuse Prevention Councils in order to ensure a “parent voice” in decision-making with council activities and service development.

- **Parent Leadership Express** – Parents Anonymous® Inc. will continue to share best practices, innovative ideas and successful Parents Anonymous® strategies in the child abuse prevention system through the dissemination of the *Parent Leadership Express* to all 58 California counties.

All of these strategies are vitally important to California counties as they move forward with the Redesign efforts and begin to build a proactive system that strengthens families and prevents child abuse and neglect through community engagement and shared responsibility. Active participation and support by County Welfare Systems, other public and private

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RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE PARENT LEADERS!



Join with Parents Anonymous® Inc. and other public and private organizations in February 2004 to recognize and honor parents during the first ever National Parent Leadership Month. Many national, state and local organizations have enthusiastically agreed to

become co-sponsors in this major initiative and are organizing activities and special events to promote more active partnerships with parents in meaningful leadership roles this February. Parents Anonymous® Inc. has developed a *Tool Kit* to assist partners in working closely with Parent Leaders to organize activities to promote Parent Leadership in communities throughout the country. Copies of this *Tool Kit* can be downloaded through the Parents Anonymous® Inc. Web site at www.parentsanonymous.org.

It's not too late to recognize parents at your work place or in your community by:

1. Honoring Parent Leaders at conferences, council meetings and other key events.
2. Publishing articles in the local newspaper, your agency's newsletter or other publications recognizing Parent Leaders.
3. Posting information about National Parent Leadership Month on your Web site.
4. Placing National Parent Leadership Month posters throughout your community (contact us for posters).
5. Developing a certificate honoring Parent Leaders in your community (see the *Tool Kit* for examples).

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to honor Parent Leaders in your community and help to:

- ◆ Raise public awareness about the important roles parents play in shaping the lives of children and families

- ◆ Expand opportunities for Parent Leaders to participate in meaningful Parent Leadership activities
- ◆ Recognize individual Parent Leaders whose contributions make a positive difference to their families and communities
- ◆ Build successful partnerships between Parent Leaders and professionals to strengthen and support families and communities.

For more information, contact:
Nadia Islam, M.S.S.W.
Parent Leadership Trainer
Parents Anonymous® Inc.
(909) 621-6184, Extension 204
nislam@parentsanonymous.org

National Parent Leadership Month Co-Sponsors:

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
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 American Public Human Services Association
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 Shasta County Department of Social Services,
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 Sacramento County Department of Health & Human Services,
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 National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
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“WHAT HAS THE CALIFORNIA PARENT LEADERSHIP TEAM MEANT TO ME?”

We asked members of the CPLT to share what being on the Team has meant to them. Their thoughts are interspersed throughout this edition of the *Parent Leadership Express*. Four Team members elaborated on their experiences as a California Parent Leadership Team member.

Personal Impact – Diane Davis, Art Hernandez, and Tammy Ghasvarian strongly believe that their participation on the CPLT has impacted them personally in positive ways. Diane shared, “Being a part of the CPLT has given me confidence in my abilities, feedback about my thoughts and actions and support. In my own community, I am often trying to introduce the idea of shared leadership to staff and parents. I find this to be a slow process, as it requires a new way of thinking. When I feel like I’m facing an uphill battle, my connection to the CPLT keeps me steadfast and confident in my skills and judgment.” Art insists, “My participation has given me the courage to speak up and to make my voice heard. It has given me the ability to express myself and put my ideas across to different people, and it has put me in touch with others in the same mindset who are trying to get their voices heard in the community.” Tammy reiterates that her membership has bolstered her sense of personal power. “I feel that my voice is more powerful and that I am more powerful as a person. Being on the Team has helped me believe in myself and in my ability to create change.”

Family Impact – Additionally Tammy and Art have also found that their participation on the CPLT has impacted their families. By serving as a model to her own teenage children, Tammy reports, “My son is now able to advocate for himself. He is responsible for changing policies in his own high school. My daughter is a member of our community’s Friendship Club, and she has been nominated to serve on the Club’s leadership council. I see very clearly how I have helped them learn to advocate and assume leadership roles for themselves.” Art insists, “I am a better parent, and I know my son benefits from it. Likewise, my parents are extremely proud of what I do.”

Community Impact – Each member shared great ambitions for themselves as well as their communities. As an experienced parent advocate, Sharon Angle stated that she has had a great deal of experience developing leadership in parents of children with disabilities. Being on the Team has enabled her to reach out to more diverse families in her community. Diane summarized, “I would like to be an example for other parents so they would like to become Parent Leaders themselves. I hope my leadership will serve as an example of partnership and soon it will become the norm for systems to incorporate parents/stakeholders and their perspectives into their work.” When we asked Diane what she would say to another parent who is considering joining the CPLT, she responded, “You will be lucky to be connected with and supported by a group of individuals who walk their talk and follow their passion to create a better world.”

Parents Anonymous® Inc. and the California Parent Leadership Team welcome your nominations to the CPLT, and we hope you will join us in our work to involve parents as decision-makers to ensure better outcomes for California families.



“Being a member of a statewide Parent Leadership Team indicates that I must be doing something right– It’s this credibility that allows me to make a difference in the systems that affect the families I support.”

– Diane Davis, Lake County



“When my children mirror back to me what a great leader I have become, I know I have succeeded.”

– Tammy Ghasvarian, Nevada County



“My participation has given me the courage to speak up and to make my voice heard. It has given me the ability to express myself and put my ideas across to different people, and it has put me in touch with others in the same mindset who are trying to get their voices heard in the community.”

– Art Hernandez, Riverside County

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR CALIFORNIA PARENT LEADERSHIP TEAM!

The California Parent Leadership Team is expanding and nominations are now being accepted for Parent Leaders who have participated in family support programs to serve on the state-level Parent Leadership Team.

Role of the California Parent Leadership Team

Members of the California Parent Leadership Team work in partnership with Parents Anonymous® Inc. to provide training and technical assistance to counties interested in furthering their Parent Leadership activities and participate in policy and planning at the state and local levels. In addition, these Parent Leaders serve as mentors and role models to other parents as they develop their Parent Leadership skills and increase their involvement in Parent Leadership activities.

Team members commit to traveling to two Team meetings each year and participating in teleconference calls every month. Additional Team activities are based on individual Team members' interests and may include: participating as a co-trainer and/or technical assistance provider; serving as a member of the editorial board of the *Parent Leadership Express* newsletter; and serving on state-level policy-making councils.

Support Provided to the Team

Parents Anonymous® Inc. provides training and support to the members of the California Parent Leadership Team. In addition, reasonable expenses to participate in Team activities are covered including childcare and travel expenses.

Nominate Parent Leaders who:

- ◆ Are experiencing the benefit in their own lives of their work with family support programs and any other activities in which they participate.
- ◆ Can speak about their own experiences and relate them to the broader issues faced by many families and children.
- ◆ Are able to travel to team meetings as scheduled, and participate in regular communications such as teleconferences, contributing to newsletters and speaking to other groups.

- ◆ Can build mutually respectful relationships with others from diverse ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic and educational backgrounds.
- ◆ Have had positive experiences participating in community activities such as serving on advisory groups, boards of directors, planning groups and policy councils.

To nominate a Parent Leader:

- ◆ A nomination can be made by a CAPIT/CBFRS liaison, child abuse prevention council member, community-based prevention organization representative, or other key child abuse prevention stakeholder with the permission from the parent.
- ◆ The **California Parent Leadership Team Nomination Form** must be completed by the individual who is making the nomination.
- ◆ The nominated parent fills out the **California Parent Leadership Team Parent Application Form**.
- ◆ Both the Nomination Form and Parent Application Form are to be submitted to Parents Anonymous® Inc. Forms may be mailed or faxed.

All nominees will be contacted for a telephone interview by Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff and current members of the California Parent Leadership Team. Final recommendations of all members to the California Parent Leadership Team will be approved through the Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

Send nomination forms to:

Nadia Islam, M.S.S.W.
Parent Leadership Trainer
Parents Anonymous® Inc.
675 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 220
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 621-6184, ext. 204



CALIFORNIA PARENT LEADERSHIP TEAM Nomination Organization Form

Name of Parent: _____

County of Residence: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Parent's e-mail address (if applicable): _____

Organization nominating parent: _____

Address: _____

Person completing this form: _____

Title: _____

Phone number where you can be reached: _____

Please respond to the following questions to assist us in our initial screening:

1. How do you know this parent?
2. Why do you think he or she would be a strong candidate for the California Parent Leadership Team?
3. What opportunities do you see for this parent to serve in a leadership capacity in your organization or in your county during the next three years?
4. What leadership roles has this parent held?
5. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Send nomination forms to:
Nadia Islam, M.S.S.W.
Parents Anonymous® Inc.
675 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 220
Claremont, CA 91711

CALIFORNIA PARENT LEADERSHIP TEAM Nomination Parent Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: (if applicable): _____

Organization nominating parent: _____

Please tell us more about yourself and why you would like to be part of the California Parent Leadership Team. Please feel free to attach additional pages to this form.

1. Please list any experiences you have had working in partnership with others in your community or in groups to which you belong. For example, volunteer work in schools, community centers, churches; serving on committees or boards and meeting with staff or administrators to talk about an agencies services.

2. Why do you want to be part of the California Parent Leadership Team?

3. Are you able to travel (your expenses will be covered) up to two times per year to participate in Team activities? Please discuss any barriers to such travel.

4. Can you participate in teleconference calls ten to twelve times per year?

5. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Send nomination forms to:
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Claremont, CA 91711

SHARED LEADERSHIP AT THE 10th ANNUAL FAMILY STRENGTHS TRAINING INSTITUTE

California Parent Leadership Team (CPLT) members, Sharon Angle, Kathy Dreyer, and Tammy Ghasvarian, conducted an exciting workshop entitled "Strengthening California Families through Parent Leadership" at the 10th Annual Family Strengths Training Institute in Sacramento, October 27 and 28, 2003. Additionally, Team members spoke with numerous conference participants who came to learn more about Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership.

During the workshop, Parent Leaders and staff highlighted the groundbreaking Parent Leadership initiative that Parents Anonymous® Inc., the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, and the CPLT have spearheaded with California Child Abuse Prevention organizations and explored how this important work is creating a statewide model for system reform through Parent Leadership. The parent panel discussed proven strategies for recruiting, training, and supporting parents in leadership roles and successful ways that staff can effectively partner with parents.

CPLT members appreciated the opportunity for statewide networking at the Training Institute. Kathy asserts, "The focus on strengthening families and promoting Parent Leadership is even more critical in these challenging economic times. Our participation in the Training Institute serves as a concrete example of how Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership works. I hope our workshop encouraged service providers to look for strengths in parents and invite them to participate at all levels (of decision-making) within their communities."

Tammy had attended this conference in the past, but her experience was different this year due to her role as an exhibitor and workshop facilitator, "When I first attended a Family Strengths Conference eight years ago, I never dreamed that I would one day present at a similar statewide event. I felt more involved this time because I wasn't there simply as an observer - I was there to help shape policy." She continues, "Some participants in this workshop know my background, and they see how far I have come. Wow! I feel that there is no limit to what I can do."

"Through my participation in the CPLT, I have met people working in child welfare whose efforts I very much admire."

- Kathy Dreyer, Yolo County

"It's a great way to network with parents and instills pride in being a parent. It's the first time I felt pride in being a parent."

-Melissa Ibrahim, Butte County

"It's opened new doors in my own community. It's given me other Parent Leaders to connect to. Without it, I wouldn't have had the chance to help other parents."

-Maria Moreno, Ventura County

"I grow as a leader by being connected to the Team. My family has grown."

- Cleopra Dyas, Los Angeles County

"I value everyone on the Team as individuals. Their contributions are invaluable, and everyone on the Team is very special."

- Gwen Watson, Siskiyou County