

Parent and Family Engagement: Exploring Strategies in Systems and Program Services

An excerpt from 1302.50 (a) of The Head Start Program Performance Standards states “A program must integrate parent and family engagement strategies into all systems and program services to support family well-being and promote children’s learning and development.” This regulation informs programs of the importance of integrating family engagement in the total program.

This interactive training will allow participants opportunities to put theory and knowledge into simulated practice through many experiential activities, positive feedback, break-out activities, as well as reflection and planning time. Designated staff are confronted with many areas of responsibilities; primary among them is the understanding of the family assessment, the development of family partnership agreements, and the integration of the Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework. In addition, getting parents engaged, excited, and passionate about their role in the program is paramount to a successful experience for families.



With high caseloads, family services staff are feeling overwhelmed, stressed, and in a time-crunch to “get it all done.” The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 also outlines a clear definition for Family Literacy. The four areas of Family Literacy highlight parent engagement and partnerships, all of which can be fully integrated in the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

Parent and Family Engagement: Exploring Strategies in Systems and Program Services will address specific areas that can be woven into the Parent Committee, the family partnership agreement process, and other areas of the program. This Institute will offer strategies on enhancing key areas that engage parents and promote partnerships such as parent Orientations, the Parent Committee, application/enrollment time, and home-visits/first meeting.

Learning Outcomes

- ★ Participants will broaden their definition of family engagement through exploration of the PFCE framework;
- ★ Participants will develop a greater understanding of the importance of relationships between parents and staff;
- ★ Participants will review the mandated components of family literacy from the 2007 Head Start Act that can easily be integrated in family partnership agreements as well as Parent Engagement;
- ★ Participants will practice walking in the shoes of a parent and/or a family service staff member in areas such as enrollment/application, parent orientation, health services, early childhood education services, home-visits, advocacy, and financial literacy;
- ★ Participants will review relevant parent engagement requirements from the Head Start Program Performance Standards; and
- ★ Participants will explore the importance of understanding and partnering with Child Passenger Safety.

SAMPLE AGENDA

DAY 1 (6 hrs)

Morning Session

Introduction and Training Overview

- Purpose and Scope
- Learning Outcomes
- A Review of the PFCE Framework
- A Look at The Family Partnership Agreement Process

Small Group Activity – *Application/Enrollment*

Looking at Parent Engagement...*in Parent Orientations*

Afternoon Session

Small Group Activity – *Parent Engagement in Health*

Small Group Activity – *Home Visits*

Question and Answer Session

DAY 2 (6 hrs)

Morning Session

Looking at Parent Engagement...*in Community Advocacy*

Small Group Activity – *Early Childhood Education*

Looking at Parent Engagement...*and the Parent Committee*

Afternoon Session

Parent Engagement and Family Literacy

Looking at Financial Literacy

Parent Engagement and Child Passenger Safety

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