



TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS THROUGH PARENT PARTNERSHIP

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ICE BREAKER

- Take a few minutes at your table and think of a family who had challenges. Now think of the parent who has their own traumas from their past and are now trying to assist their child.

PARENT EXPERIENCE

A parent had a drug or alcohol addiction	Poverty Unemployment or Underemployed	Housing Instability
Has had previous experience in Juvenile Justice System.	Previous experience with incarceration	Experience with the foster care system.
Mental Health concerns- Depression or Anxiety	Previous Sibling in Juvenile System	Lack of HS Diploma or GED
Parent was in the juvenile justice system	Community impacted by gangs	Loss of a family member through violence/Domestic Violence

GETTING THAT DREADED CALL: ANNETTE'S STORY

It was midday. I was working at AT&T, a job I held for 16 years. My son had been picked up and was in detention. Simultaneously I received a call from his school saying that he was truant. From that day on the calls seemed to never have ceased and our quiet existence changed to more phone calls, more visits from the JCC, more visits to check on his monitor and more court appearances.

This set of circumstances changed my life. My sons JCC connected me with the CHI program, Community Healing Initiative. I began attending parent support groups and now facilitate the groups and try to engage more parents in to advocacy



INVOLVING PARENTS WHO HAVE TRAUMA

Many of the parents I began to work with, had their own experiences with systems they too did not understand. Many are justice impacted, DHS impacted, Educationally lacking and were victims of Gang Violence or grew up in a community where gang violence was prevalent.



They too had trauma that was not recognized or went untreated.



It's difficult to assist your child when you too have experiences that did not have positive outcomes.

HOW DOES THIS SHOW UP?



This unrecognized trauma manifests itself in several forms.



Uncontrolled anger in court




Drug and Alcohol use



The youth is seen as a friend rather than a child



**Seemingly unconcerned about the youth
–"they did it so, its not my problem"**

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WHY AS PARENTS WE MUST SPEAK UP NOW?

- We have been excluded from the process for far too long.
- Parents understand the child more than anyone else.
- In the past we may not have spoken up due to
- **(1) lack of knowledge**
- **(2) fear of a system that has treated us and or a family member unfairly.**

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

“No one cares more about the success of individual kids in the system than their families,”



Recognizing that a parent has the best interest of their child at heart is the first step to bridging the gap between parents feeling unsupported and supported.

OUTREACH AND INCLUSION

- Parents participating in Juvenile Justice can have a huge impact on not only them but other families. Recently our work with the Alternative Placement Committee and Preliminary Hearings has provided support for families who are new or who have had experience.

BUILDING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS



- For families and agencies to be successful, we must to begin to understand families and the youth. We can do this by :
- **1)** Listening deeply to the youth and parent (listening for the big picture)
- **2)** Showing Our Humanity.
- **3)** Set boundaries when needed.
- **4)** View resistance as protection.

BUILDING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Listening, being human, setting boundaries, viewing resistance as protection, are all simple yet transformative practices that can help you build authentic relationships with adolescents and parents.



Its not necessary to force a relationship, a relationship takes time to build. Over time a true meaningful relationship will come.



CONNECTION

Brene Brown says

- “I define connections as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard and valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship”

GOALS OF THE PARENT LED MOVEMENT

- Move from helping to learning
- Move from individuals to a movement
- Move from fear to hope
- Move from talking to action
- Move from bystander to participant
- Move from sidelines to a seat at the table.



VISION AND MISSION

- **VISION:** To create successful, stable households that prevent Black youth from being adversely impacted by the juvenile justice, educational, and human services systems.
- **MISSION:** To teach and heal Parents through Parent-led mentorship, external community support, advocacy and skill building.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnerships Matter

For parents to be successful and to prevent further penetration into the system. The partnership with Multnomah County has proved to be valuable to youth and families. Other partnerships have been developed and parents continue to grow and flourish.

- ASK THE IMPACTED

Inviting Marginalized communities into the work space, helps to dismantle oppressive systems, for everyone's benefit.

QUESTIONS

