

You're invited!

Parent Leaders: Systems Orientation Workshop

When: Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

Where: FamilyWise Services, 3036 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Intended audience: Anyone who works for an organization or system!

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/may-parent-leadership-matters-systems-orientation-workshop-tickets-868705580777>

The primary objective of this workshop is to educate system and organizational leaders from diverse sectors about the value and benefits of including the voices of parents and caregivers in decision-making about their system or organization's delivery of services - especially the parents and caregivers who have been **directly impacted by** the issue that the system or organization is trying to address.

Parent Leadership matters!

In this workshop, we will refer to "Parent Leaders", who include bio parents, grandparents, kinship care providers, foster parents, or anyone in a parenting role. They speak from their own expertise and wisdom and are not speaking or acting in a staff role for an organization or other entity. Parent Leaders are parents who have lived experience in the schools, programs, and systems they are working to transform.

Research has found that involving community members most impacted by the issues in decision-making and problem solving is a key strategy that has led to improvements in the rates of many interrelated and intergenerational health and social problems in other communities.

Involving those most impacted by the issues in decision-making may include inviting people to participate on committees, advisory groups, boards, coalitions, and on taskforces that are affiliated with the scope of the system or organization's services – and more!

To ensure that Parent Leaders are included in decision-making, systems and organizations will **need to create more inclusive and inviting pathways** to the decision-making table that reduce or eliminate barriers to participation, so Parent Leader have access to opportunities to share their experiences.

In this workshop, leaders from systems and organizations will:

- Learn why parent leadership and engagement matters
- Learn what Parents Leaders are, including their roles and the scope of their responsibilities
- Explore ways in which families can partner in the planning and governance of formal systems of services and support
- Explore strategies for engaging and maintaining participation from Parent Leaders
- Participate in activities designed to promote greater understanding and knowledge of family involvement
- Generate ideas about how to recognize the contributions of Parent Leaders (such as through compensation/stipends, gift cards, transportation/mileage support, and childcare)
- Hear from other attendees about their experiences and successes engaging parents/caregivers in decision-making
- Hear examples of successes and lessons learned from our own experience supporting Parent Leaders through the *Parents as Leaders* program at FamilyWise Services

The activities in this workshop can be used with audiences at both the state and local levels. Collaboration between families and professionals in program and policy settings is an exciting concept that requires all parties to acquire new skills.

Ultimately, our goal for this workshop is to prepare representatives from systems and organizations to ***make room at the table*** in a meaningful way for Parent Leaders, especially those most impacted by the organization or system's scope of services.

Please consider joining us for this in-depth workshop on best practice for engaging parents at every level.

Regards,

Lisa L. Deputie

Please reach out with questions: ldeputie@familywiseservices.org

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