

Better Together

Building Blocks to Successful Partnerships

Audience

Better Together: Building Blocks to Successful Partnerships is designed to help birth parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers and staff to help build equal and mutually respectful partnerships among each other.

Purpose

This is a two-day experiential workshop that fosters equal, mutually respectful partnerships among staff, birth parents, foster parents and kinship caregivers. The core components of the program include:

1. The benefits of partnering with constituents.
2. Key aspects of meaningful partnerships
3. The value of interacting with other participants to learn from each other and understand others' perspectives
4. Exploring culture as it relates to foster care and meaningful partnerships; and
5. The importance of developing a vision of effective partnerships by discussing the skills needed and identifying the barriers and bridges to partnerships.

Learning Outcomes

As a result of attending this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the value of communicating respectfully, honestly and often.
- Identify commonly valued outcomes for children, families, birth parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers and communities.
- Gain an awareness of how issues that impact interactions between birth parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers and staff/allies.
- Gain an understanding of different beliefs and honor/respect them.
- Explore and experience the meaning of shared decision-making and shared parenting.
- Gain an understanding of the systemic issues and their implications for juvenile justice and child protective services.
- Understand the specific needs and perspectives of fathers/parenting partners.
- Gain an increased awareness of the reality of the issues faced by the “other” (parent, foster parent, kinship caregiver and staff/ally).
- Gain an increased understanding of the power differential between birth parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers, social work staff and allies in order begin a discussion of shared decision-making.
- Better understand and engage the strengths of all team members.
- Improve dialogue and work toward stronger partnership and understanding between birth parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers, social work staff and allies.
- Learn about local resources for parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers, social work staff and allies.
- Explore next steps in building a community of birth parents, foster parents and kinship caregivers committed to promoting the value of partnership.

Please email info@ctfalliance.org for more information on how the Alliance can help you bring Better Together to your community or state.