



Leadership Training Was Great, Now What?

The Parent Leadership Development Support Side: Danbury Children First

Support to parent leaders:

- Consultation
- Help with contacts in the community
- Alumni group
- Continue to offer experiences and training
- Continue to provide information on public policy and developments/practice that affect children and youth
- Sharing of information through an e-mail network

Offer opportunities for parent leaders to participate in program development, delivery and evaluation:

- Moderators and recorders for focus/ discussion groups on issues that affect children and their families
- Training on parental engagement curriculum, parent leadership (PLTI and PEP) and parent involvement in education programs(*Lee y serás/ Read and you will be* and *Children and School Success: What Parents Should Know.*) so that they can facilitate programs for parents.
- Participation in conferences as presenters and attendees.
- Opportunity to serve on committees, with support and encouragement for parents to be chairs.
- Bring parents and community partners together. Partners include the school district, library, social/ human service agencies, birth to three providers, PTO, parent involvement teams, our Board of Directors.
- Current effort to get one or two parents to Chair/ Co-Chair the Discovery Initiative for 2008-2009. We are creating a job description, and then recruiting broadly to reach parents who may be interested.

Support/ create a community that values parent leadership and parents as partners. Examples of strategies include:

- Events that highlight the importance of the early years, parental involvement, and multicultural awareness and understanding.
- Annual Family-Friendly Workplace award.
- Media coverage of parent leadership and parent involvement programs, as well as publication of articles that are helpful to parents.
- Publications that are broadly available to parents and the community: Parent-to-Parent Newsletter, resource sheets for parents (These are all on our website at www.DanburyChildrenFirst.org)

Advocate on public policy that's good for children and their families.

- Parents provide their input into the policy direction.
- Bus trips to Hartford.
- Written and in-person testimony at legislative hearings.
- Meetings with local legislators and other parent leaders on policy issues.

Key Learnings for Danbury Children First:

As parents want the best for their children, and the best education for them, they themselves want to learn all that they can. Offering learning opportunities for parents is a key strategy for parents to continue to be involved.

Examples abound and include: The increasing number of Latino parents involved in the Spanish component of LICC, Brazilian PEP, graduates of Lee y serás go on to Spanish PEP, LICC parents go to PLTI and many parent leaders continue to look for additional opportunities to help other parents.

Background Notes:

Danbury Children First was founded as a parent-led organization.