

## **Engaging Parents as Advocates** and Leaders Webinar Series









Culturally Responsive Parent Engagement July 28, 2020

#### **Today's Host**

Melia Franklin
Consultant

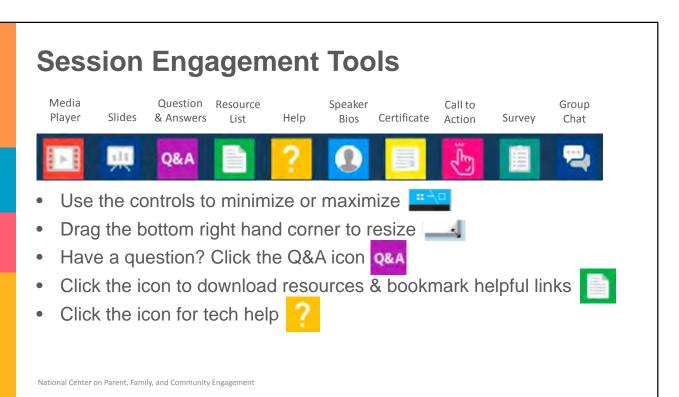
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#### **Engaging Parents as Advocates** and Leaders Webinar Series



- How to prepare staff to successfully integrate father engagement into their programs
- Tips from programs that engage fathers as leaders and advocates
- Tools, resources, and ideas you can use to create a more "fatherfriendly" program

### **Today's Conversation**

Developing Leadership Through Culturally Responsive Family Engagement



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#### **Learning Objectives**

- Examining the importance of using a culturally responsive parent engagement approach
- Discussing personal biases and their impact on building mutual respect and trust with families
- Highlighting programs that are engaging families from diverse backgrounds as leaders and advocates



### **Highlighted Resource**

Relationship-based Competencies to Support Family Engagement

Competency 2: Self-Aware and Culturally Responsive Relationships

Practice: Respects and responds to the cultures, languages, values, and family structures of each family



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#### Poll

What practices you currently use in everyday interactions with families in your program?



#### **Our Presenter**





Pam Greenough Corrie

Head Start/Early Head Start Director

Mt Hood Community College Child Development
& Family Support Programs

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# At Head Start, Culturally Responsive Family Engagement Is "Baked In"!

"...create welcoming program environments that incorporate the unique cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds of families in the program & community;"







- 1400 children in 24 locations
- Partnership with community college that offers:
  - Child development and family support programs
  - Training and TA in 6 languages
  - Culturally specific family child care networks
  - Parents in decision-making roles (Policy Council and more!)





### How to Be Culturally Responsive...

- ...when parents speak six different dialects?
- Partnership with IRCO: Immigrant and Refuge Community Organization
- IRCO is able to offer culturally and linguistically specific services designed to empower families



#### **Responding to Change**

- Changing demographics in Multnomah County
- Addressing barriers: linguistic, social isolation
- Preschool Promise allowed HS to create a Burmese classroom with staff who speak their language and know their culture.



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#### **Strategies for Success**

- Attitude of humility
- Use data from community assessment to plan programs, recruitment materials, grants
- Create career pathways and hire staff that are representative of families served
- Build strong partnerships with community-based organizations



Career Pathways: Lulose Claude participated in an MHCC course that helps immigrants obtain the CDA and learn English at the same time.

Photo from The World

#### **Relationships Inspire Leadership**

- Home visits
- Staff who speak major dialects and understand culture
- Encourage parents to become staff!
- Meet parents where they are
- Parents always welcome in classroom
- Home language valued
- Planning is based on what parents want for their children

Relationship building requires us to be curious, listen, share observations, and ask open-ended questions to learn more about families.

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### **Continuous Learning and Reflection**

- Recent events inspire deeper learning, reflection on issues of race inequities and bias within our HS community
- As white administrators, we need to step up to do this work with our white colleagues



#### Poll

How do culturally and linguistically diverse parents engage in our program as advocates and leaders?



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#### **Our Presenters**

#### **SUN P-3 Program**

SUN Community Schools Prenatal to 3rd Grade Program



SCHOOLS UNITING



Program Specialist, Youth and Family Services Division -- SUN Service System

Multnomah County Human Services Department

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Utica Abdullah

Former Parent Leader/Program Coordinator P-3 Program at Sacramento Elementary Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization

(IRCO)

## **Two-Way Benefits of Engagement**

When families' language and culture is accepted and parents are engaged...

- Your program will learn to better understand and serve the community
- Families will feel a sense of ownership over their children's education, as well as leadership skills and career pathways

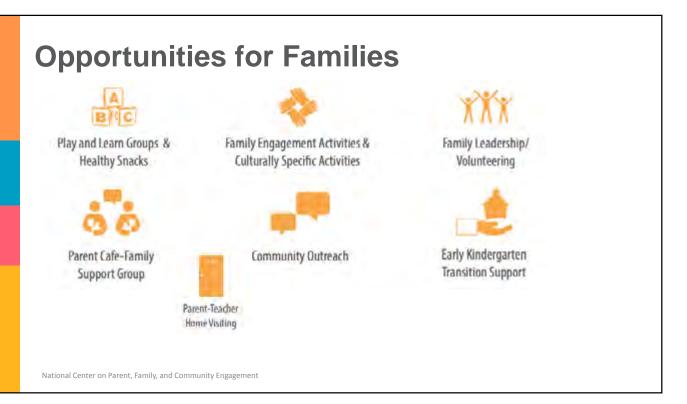


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## P-3's Parent Leadership Approach

- Diverse, parent-centered family engagement
- P-3 (pre-natal to 3rd grade)
- 11 Community Schools
- Culturally responsive, developmentally appropriate parent-centered activities
- Honors parent as their child's first teacher
- Empowers parents to be effective leaders





## **Play and Learn Groups**

Modeled after Kaleidescope Play & Learn Guidelines to:

- promote inclusion
- build relationships
- promote school readiness
- · elevate the voices of parents



## **Play and Learn Principles**

- Whole Child, Whole Family, Whole Community approach
- Collaborative: Driven by the community's values, wishes, and needs
- Inclusive: Intentionally reflects participants' cultures, languages, and preferences
- Relationship-based: Creates supportive community for learning and connection



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## **Principles in Action**

- Parent decision-making and leadership built in
- Staff reflective of community
- Culturally and linguistically specific activities







P&L Groups Parent Cafes Volunteer Roles Family Leadership Groups Staff

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#### **Examples of Impact**

- Reaching marginalized communities, family to family
- Elevating parent voice
- Creating a bridge between families and schools
- Career and leadership pathways



## A Parent Leader's Story

 Journey from Parent Leader to Program Coordinator



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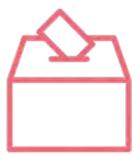
#### **Invitation to Reflect**

- How does your program reach marginalized, underserved communities?
- How does your program elevate parent voices and include them in decisions?



#### Poll

As a result of what you learned in this webinar, what is one practice you will try to implement or prioritize over the next 90 days?



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#### **Thank You!**



#### **Head Start Resources**

Culturally responsive family engagement resources on ECLKC include:

- Family Engagement and Cultural Perspectives: Applying Strengthsbased Attitudes
- Cultural Perspectives in Caregiving: Applying Relationship-Based Practices
- Enhance Parents' Advocacy and Leadership Skills | ECLKC

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#### ✓ PFCE Deepening Practice Communities

- Already a MyPeers member? Find the **PFCE Deepening Practice** community in MyPeers under "All Communities," and select the blue "Join" button.
- Not a member of MyPeers? Sign up!
  - ✓ Visit the MyPeers page on the Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Center (ECLKC).
  - ✓ Scroll to the bottom and select "Create an Account."
  - ✓ Fill out the form and within a few days you will receive an email from MangoApps with your login information.

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#### Sign Up for Text4FamilyServices Today!

- This FREE text messaging service was designed for family services providers.
- It is also available in Spanish (español).
   Just text "PFCE" to 22660 to sign up!

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For more information, please contact us: PCFE@ecetta.info | 1-866-763-6481