



Better Together: Building Blocks to Successful Partnerships

Audience

Better Together: Building Blocks to Successful Partnerships is designed to help foster parents, birth parents 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, foster parents and birth parents. 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 and communities.
- gain an awareness of how race and culture impact interactions between parents, foster parents 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 cultural responsiveness, disproportionality, and institutional racism and the 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, staff/ally).
- Gain an increased understanding of the power differential between parents, foster parents, 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 parents, foster parents, social work staff, and allies.
- Learn about local resources for parents, foster parents, social work staff, and allies.
- Exploration of next steps to build a community of parents and foster parents committed to promoting the value of partnership.

Please email: info@ctfalliance.org for more information on how the Alliance can assist you in bringing *Better Together* to your community or state.