Using Local Evaluation Data for Sustainability

Contra Costa County
Improving Reunification
One Parent at a Time

- Introduction & Overview of Presentation
- History & Development of Parent Partner Program
- Overview of Mission, Purpose, and Target Population
Improving Reunification
One Parent at a Time

- County Climate: Signs of Readiness
- Impact of Work on Systemic and Familial
- Making the Case for Sustainability – Use of Data and the Story
Development of the Parent Partner Program

- The Vision... four lines in a grant
- Planning and Implementation
  - Timeline (2004-present)
  - Utilizing Technical Assistance
  - Listening to the Parent’s voice and being thoughtful
Mission, Purpose and Target Population

- Mission and Purpose
- Development of Program: Nuts and Bolts
  - Parent Leadership
  - Advocacy and Mentoring
  - Training
- Selection of Target Population
  - Families entering the child welfare system
County Climate: Signs of Readiness

• Looking back…
  – County MH – key partner
  – SOC Planning and Policy Council
  – Administrative Vision and Support
  – Key People brought on board – Parent Partner Coordinator, SOC Grant Coordinator, etc.

• Looking back…
  – State climate was conducive for change: CCFSR & SIP, State Redesign, F2F growing, Foster Youth involvement growing
  – Grantee Meetings – traveling and collaborating together
Impact of Work: Systemic

- Demystifying Parents
- Building Bridges between Child Welfare & Families
- Changing the Culture
- Connections with the Community
- Making better decisions about strategies having the “experts” in the room
Impact of Work - Familial

- Advocacy skills
- Empowerment
- Improved skills
  - Communication
  - Social
  - Life
- Demystifying the “system”
- Developing Tools and Tips
  - Parent Partner Handbook
Use of Data and the “Story”

• Presenting data and personal stories at the local, state, and federal level
  – Local: Board of Supervisors, community, and staff
  – State: State CFSR, Blue Ribbon panels, State Advisory boards, State Department of Social Services
  – Federal: Presentations to Regions, SOC Grantee meetings
The Story is the Personal Touch

- Parents sharing their stories
  - Digital stories, presentations, media interviews, writing articles, testimonies, program brochure, in person one on one
Now the Data
Evaluation Information

- Quantitative data
- Qualitative data
- Future areas
- Thoughts on presenting the data
Analytic Information

- **68 cases with Parent Partner mentoring**
  - Child removed from home between July 2005 and May 2006

- **68 matched historical cases from 2004 were chosen**
  - Matched on ethnicity, removal reason, substance use, region of the county

- **Length of time to reunification was calculated**
  - Case placement episode termination reason had to be listed as “reunified with parent/guardian”
  - Case placement episode end date was used to determine the length of time to reunification
Demographics - Ethnicity

Ethnicity of Children With Parent Partner Involvement

- Asian/Other: 2 (2.94%)
- Black: 16 (23.53%)
- Hispanic: 14 (20.59%)
- White: 36 (52.94%)
62% Under 5
Using logistic regression, Parent Partner involvement significantly increased timely reunifications, p = .01.
Recidivism After Reunification

- **Parent Partner Involved**
  - 24 children reunified within 6 months (35%)
  - 2 children were removed again after reunification (8%)

- **Non-Parent Partner Involved**
  - 15 children reunified within 6 months (22%)
  - 7 children were removed again after reunification (47%)
Qualitative Data

• Parent Partner Fidelity and Satisfaction Survey: n= 50
  – Positive feedback
    • Empowerment
    • Understanding the System
    • General Satisfaction
    • Cultural Competency
    • Service Needs
Qualitative Data

• Focus group with Parent Partner clients: n= 12
• Positive feedback
  – “Sameness” of experience helpful
  – Mentoring through the court process
  – Hope
• Suggestions:
  • Parent Partner advocate in court
  • Hire more Parent Partners
Qualitative Data

- Key informant interviews: n= 17
  - Interviews with social workers, TDM coordinators, social worker supervisors, attorneys, judges, etc.
  - Positive feedback
    - Parent Partners bridge the gap between parents and the system
    - Help with communication
    - Help parents keep up with their goals
    - Help parents advocate for themselves
Future Analysis

• Cost Avoidance?
Presenting the Data

- Clear
- Concise
- Presented by a Parent Partner
  – Work together
An Example

- Parent Partner mentoring appears to increase timely reunifications.

![Graph showing children reunified within 12 months]

Children Reunified Within 12 months

- Parent Partner: 49%
- Usual Services: 28%
Add “Heart” to the Data

Having a Parent Partner present data combines “heart and “head” into a winning combination
Avoid “TMI”

• Too Much Information
Use “Kid” Pictures
And Now...the Best for Last

• Sayida!