Peer support: parent partner programs

Peer Support · https://bridges4mentalhealth.org/hub/peer-support/peer-support-parent-partner-programs/

Casey Family Programs' Parent Partner Program is a peer support initiative designed to assist parents involved with the child welfare system. This program pairs parents with mentors—known as parent partners—who have successfully navigated similar experiences. The goal is to provide guidance, support, and hope, ultimately fostering family reunification and preventing future system involvement.

Key Features:

- **Peer Mentorship:** Parent partners offer firsthand insights and emotional support, helping parents understand their rights and responsibilities within the system.
- **System Navigation:** They assist in accessing services, attending court hearings, and engaging with caseworkers, ensuring parents are informed and supported throughout the process.
- **Training & Development:** Parent partners undergo comprehensive training to equip them with the necessary skills to mentor effectively.
- **Sustainable Funding:** Programs are supported through various funding sources, including state funds, grants, and, in some cases, Medicaid reimbursement.

Research indicates that parent partner programs lead to higher rates of family reunification and lower reentry into foster care, demonstrating their efficacy in supporting families within the child welfare system.

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