

The North Carolina Parenting Education Network (NCPEN) is working to build the field of parenting education in the state with a focus on partnership between parents and child care providers, teachers, and parent educators. Working together, we can help each child reach his or her potential. NCPEN is an unfunded collaboration of parenting education organizations and agencies. For more information about NCPEN, see our web site at www.ncpen.org.

Collaboration is Hard Work: Tips for Success

By Susan Jakes, Ph.D. Department of Family & Consumer Sciences
North Carolina State University

Collaboration is not easy. But, it can well be worth the effort. Parenting Education is one arena where collaboration is required. When you know who else is working with parents, inter-agency referrals can be made, duplication eliminated, and programs strengthened.

Forming a Collaborative Group

Forming a collaborative group brings with it some risk. Anytime you work with others you give up some of the power you hold as an individual person or agency to the group. This may not be completely supported by your organization or supervisor. Collaborative work often takes longer, is more work and it may not support your identity as the expert. It may be a new or different way of doing business.

Once you have the group formed, being productive is a true art. Common difficulties might include issues related to resources, commitment, turfism, conflict, respect for diversity, communication, and leadership. It is important to work together to help make collaboration groups succeed. There are ways to get this done.

Getting it Done

So does this mean, "If you want something done, you have to do it yourself!"? Not necessarily. You may get more "done" by yourself, but what will be the value added? Will others buy-in? Is it the best way to facilitate change?

Many times working through partnerships and working groups is the best way to meet the needs of parents. This is because efforts using a community driven process get greater buy-in, greater participation, more local ownership and most importantly produce a better program.

How does this work? The more a program facilitator works with others, particularly those who are members of the group or community you are trying to change, the more diverse the input and the more likely the program will meet the real rather than perceived needs of the community.

Keys to Success

The keys to success are:

- Realize that solutions lie in the talents of many, not one organization.
- Many stakeholders in the community have something legitimate to offer.
- Leadership is key, someone has to always be tasked with making things happen.
- People want to be needed. People will be more engaged when they feel that their contribution is critical and appreciated.
- Collaborative efforts must be continuous at all stages of program and evaluation development and implementation.
- For maximum buy-in, involve others from the beginning, before the program is formed.
- Establish a structure—have involvement be structured and goal oriented.

Particularly in times of reduced funding and high accountability, program response needs to be efficient. Building strong relationships with other agencies and organizations through Parenting Education can give us the collective capability we need to make the best community to raise our children. □

NORTH CAROLINA AGENCIES FOR PARENTING



SMART START

Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally-recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Currently, 82 local partnerships, covering all 100 counties, are established throughout the state to administer funding and programs. Smart Start funds are used to improve the quality of child care, make child care more affordable and accessible, provide access to health services and offer family support. Smart Start has achieved tremendous results in these areas and continues to strive to reach all children in North Carolina. Smart Start has garnered much national recognition and is considered a model for comprehensive early childhood education initiatives.

www.ncsmartstart.org

The North Carolina Family Resource Coalition (NCFRC)

The North Carolina Family Resource Coalition (NCFRC) is committed to strengthening family support efforts across our state. The Coalition is the official sponsor of the NC Family Support Credential training adapted from Cornell University's Empowerment Skills for Family Workers. This interagency training provides frontline workers with the skills and competencies needed to effectively work with families from a strengths-based approach. NCFRC focuses on creating statewide standards for family support, fosters public/private partnerships and promotes family leadership. Contact Beth Caragol at:

bjcaragol@atmc.net

or check out the new website:
www.piedmontcommunities.us, follow the index to "T".



The Children and Youth Branch, Women's and Children's Health Section of the NC Division of Public Health

The Children and Youth Branch, Women's and Children's Health Section of the NC Division of Public Health strives to enhance the health, growth and development of all children through health promotion, prevention, early identification, treatment and intervention. Whenever possible, services are offered within family-centered, community-based systems of care. The Branch sponsors a Family Advisory Council to advise and assist with program planning, implementation and evaluation and gives leadership to the Fatherhood Development Advisory Council.

<http://wch.dhhs.state.nc.us/>

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina is the only statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in all its forms. The Prevention Network consists of over 200 organizations and volunteers working to implement critical child abuse prevention programs in local communities. To find family-oriented, community-based prevention, awareness, education, and training programs in your community check out:

<http://www.childabusenc.org>

NC Family Health Resource Line

NC Family Health Resource Line Detailed Information, useful resources, and state-wide referrals regarding family health and child care issues. Services available in English and Spanish, Monday-Friday, 8am-5 pm.
NC Family Health Resource Line:
1-800-367-2229.

TTY for the hearing impaired
1-800-976-1922.

Motheread, Inc.

Motheread, Inc. is a non-profit literacy organization that uses curriculum based on children's books, adult poems and narratives as the basis for instruction. A variety of literacy skills are taught in specific contexts including parenting and English as a Second Language. Learn how our classes for adults and children can be incorporated into your programming on our web site:

www.motheread.org.



The Parenting Institute

The Parenting Institute's mission is to increase the capacity of communities to deliver parenting education programs in North Carolina. TPI provides this leadership through training, technical assistance and networking opportunities for parent educators and others interested in the field. A state-wide database of parent educators is maintained on the TPI web site. TPI hosts an annual conference for parent educators. TPI and NCPEN partner to promote the credentialing of parent educators. Visit the web site to register or contact the TPI staff.
www.theparentinginstitute.org

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Change is inevitable; growth is optional."



Anne Moore

NCPEN would like to thank Graphic Artist Anne Moore for her hard work and dedication on the NCPEN newsletter since Fall 2001. You will be missed! May your heart always dance.



Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers is an international early childhood parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten, usually age 5. The program is designed to enhance child development and school achievement through providing information, support, and encouragement to parents to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life. For more information contact the NC Parents as Teachers Network at:

www.ncpat.org

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

North Carolina Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Agents are active in the areas of parenting education, child care training, nutrition, family resource management, and other community education activities. Agents are the "extension" of the university's research and resources from NC State and NC A & T State Universities. Most counties have an Extension Agent educator for FCS. Who is yours? Locate your county and find your staff members using this website:

www.ces.ncsu.edu/counties

The Children's Trust Fund

The Children's Trust Fund is the only state funded agent developed solely for the purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect in North Carolina. Funding for this initiative is received from marriage license fees, annual state appropriations, private donations, and Kids First license plates. To order your own Kids First license plate, please call the Dept. of Motor Vehicles Specialized License Plates Division at 919-861-3575

or visit the department's Website:

<http://www.dmv.org/nc-north-carolina/dmv-vehicle-registration.php>

HOLD THE DATE!

June 9-10, 2005

MEN ARE NURTURERS, TOO! STATEWIDE FATHERHOOD CONFERENCE

Building Bridges: Strengthening Support
for Fathers and Families

Raleigh Convention and Conference Center Complex
(downtown) Raleigh, North Carolina

NC Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families in partnership
PO Box 26631, Raleigh, NC 27611
www.visitraleigh.com

This conference is possible through the generosity of numerous funding sources and your participation.

NCPEN Newsletter Coordinator: Stephanie Moore.
To share your comments, please e-mail Stephanie at
ncpennews@yahoo.com

North Carolina Parenting Education Network

If you or your organization is interested in becoming a member of the North Carolina Parenting Education Network please visit our website at www.ncpen.org or fill out the following information. If you are an individual wishing to subscribe to the North Carolina Parenting Education Network Newsletter without becoming

a member you can fill out the following information.

Taken from the NCPEN by-laws: Membership Dues – Each member of the association shall pay annual dues of ten (\$10.00) and organizational dues of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars due and payable on July 1, of the calendar year. Nonpayment of dues, after one year, shall cause a

member to be dropped from membership in the association. Benefits of membership include alerts via e-mail, access to the North Carolina Parenting Educator Credentialing system, and affiliation of a growing profession.



NCPEN Annual Membership Application

Please print:

Individual membership (\$10.00) OR Organizational Membership (\$25.00)

Name/Name of Organization: _____

Address _____

Employer _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Email _____

Number of parent educators in organization _____

Organizational website if applicable _____

Mail to:

NCPEN

c/o Catherine Anderson, Treasurer
DJJDP - CPSV 1801 Mail Service Center
Federal EIN 56-2223885

Make check or money order to:
North Carolina Parenting Education Network
Raleigh, NC 27699-1801.

2005 UPCOMING PREVENTION TRAINING - SAVE THE DATE!

Enhancing the Parent-Child Relationship

This one-day interdisciplinary workshop is designed to provide practical guidance to professionals working with very young children and their families, from the prenatal period through preschool.

- March 22 – Charlotte, NC
- May 3 – Hickory, NC
- June 7 – Greenville, NC

Encouraging Connections: Early Relationships and the Neurobiology of Social Emotional Development

This "Train-the-Trainer" institute

is designed for professionals in every early childhood discipline who are responsible for training, mentoring, or directing the work of those who work with young children and their families.

- April 19-21 – Trinity Conference Center, Salter Path, NC
- May 24-26 – Valle Crucis Conference Center, Valle Crucis, NC

Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

PCA North Carolina will be offering Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect trainings in three areas of North Carolina for all professionals. These are one-day workshops designed to assist professionals working with children to recog-

nize and report child abuse and neglect.

- April 5 – Central Region
- June 1 – Eastern Region
- October 20 – Western Region

Spring 2005 Prevention Network Regional Meetings

Come see what the Prevention Network is all about, enjoy an incredible networking opportunity, and take advantage of professional development training to enhance your skills!

- May 10 – Hickory, NC
- May 17 – Rocky Mount, NC

More information about all of these training opportunities can be found at www.preventchildabusenc.org or by calling 1-800-CHILDREN.

For Upcoming Events please check the NCPEN website at: <http://www.ncpen.org>

EVOLUTION OF PARENTING EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

1981

- Parent Aide Program at Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) began
- Mental Health (PET - Thomas Gordon) model used

1990

- NCPAT Network and Training Team Established
- Welcome Baby program initiated in targeted counties



1997

- Kids 1st license plate created

1998

- Children's Trust Fund funds first NCPEN newsletter
- Intensive Home Visitation initiative founded by the NC Legislature
- Family Support Worker Training and Credential initiated by Women & Children's Health section of Public Health then continued by the NC Family Resource Coalition

2001

- NCPEN moved from a voluntary loose network to a membership organization with elected officers and bylaws—Karen DeBord, first NCPEN Chair
- Local Parenting Networks began to form across the state. This was a success in the eyes of the early planners as the field began to grow.



Karen DeBord

2002

- Head Start Collaboration funds focus groups with Parenting Educators to assess need for credential
- The Parenting Institute (TPI) Parenting Education Conference held
- Parenting Educator Credential piloted
- 12 Parenting Educators credentialed
- Circle of Parents Network (PCA-NC) initiated

2004

- A total of 75 parenting educators credentialed
- Early Learning Standards produced for PreK including a parent involvement component
- Spotlight on Young Children Conference (PCA-NC)
- Buncombe Family Court added
- NC State Masters degree in Family Life and Parenting Education offered jointly with UNCG (upcoming)
- NC Nurturing Program Network Initiated



1983

- Children's Trust Fund (DPI) focuses on child abuse prevention

1993

- (Smart Start Legislation passed) FUNDED
- Family Support prioritized by Smart Start



1999

- NCPEN official website hosted by NCSU
- Family Court Legislation established through legislation (3 courts)

- The Parenting Institute Founded (TPI) - Exchange SCAN in Winston Salem
- Parenting Conference—Funded by Head Start
- State funded More at Four Pre-K for at-risk 4-yr- olds (income eligible)
- Guide lines require family involvement—(parent education, family support, parent participation) also—ECERS—R required (has family components)
- Two additional family court projects added

2003

- 27 Parenting Educator credentials awarded
- Head Start Collaboration picks up funding for NCPEN newsletter
- Access + Visitation (A+V) Program expanded
- Gaining Ground Initiative to identify and implement statewide strategies to reduce child maltreatment rates in North Carolina
- Federal Early Childhood Comprehensive System planning grant funded with Parent Education as a critical component

1988

- 1st Parents as Teachers (PAT) Program

1996

- A group of 25 plus professionals developed a collaborative relationship to focus on parenting education. Referred to as the North Carolina Parenting Education Network (NCPEN)



2000

- Court-ordered PE in Family Court Districts
- Federal funding for Access + Visitation (A+V) Programs in 3 Family Court sites (services for Non-Custodial Parents)
- Fatherhood Conference MAN2 (#1)
- 3 Family Court programs added

1989

- NC BabyLove started
- Gov. Commission on Families Conference held