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## **Children & Family Services Division Office of Child Abuse Prevention**

### **PARENT LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

*To support the strengthening of families, The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) is committed to promoting the statewide engagement and involvement of parents as leaders.*

To further this effort, OCAP funded *Parents Anonymous* to carry out specific activities that support parent leaders in contributing the parent voice to the shaping of policies, procedures, and practices that affect families. These activities included: The California State Parent Leadership Team, The Parent Engagement Center, a Train the Trainer Curriculum on Parent Engagement Practices, and the Parent Leadership Conference.

The California State Parent Leadership Team was created to ensure the meaningful involvement of parents across multiple systems, such as public child welfare, mental health, community based organizations, etc. Within these diverse systems, parent leaders actively contributed to the making/improvement of policies, procedures and practices that affect families on the local and state levels. Parent leaders served as advisory board members, parent advocates, parent mentors, fundraisers, task force members, members of planning commissions, and in other capacities.

The Parent Engagement Center was created as a web based resource of parent engagement programs located throughout California. The Center was also created to include interactive features such as online training tools, webinars, resource documents, and informational materials that highlight parent engagement programs and strategies.

The “Train the Trainer” curriculum on Parent Engagement Practices was created specifically for staff of child protective services. The purpose was to provide a resource for the successful engagement and partnering of parents within the child welfare system.

For three years, 2010, 2011, and 2012, Parents Anonymous, Inc. hosted the statewide Parent Leadership Conference, in Southern California. The Conference was designed to bring together parent leaders, service professionals and members of the lay community to network, and participate in workshops, think tanks, and training sessions on parent leadership practices, policies, and research.

Parents Anonymous was funded until June 30, 2012.