



Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
The Children's Trust Fund
Alabama Parent Advisory Council
Role Description

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new Parent Advisory Council to work with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust Fund. We secure resources to fund evidence-based community programs committed to the prevention of child maltreatment. We advocate for children and the strengthening of families. The Alabama Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to advise the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust Fund about funding community-based prevention programs that help support and strengthen families. The PAC will provide their ideas and perspectives to help shape the future directions of the department. Parental involvement in decision-making is the key to having policies and programs that support families' strengths and needs. The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust Fund is committed to partnering with the PAC to:

- Strengthen and support families
- Engage all community sectors in child maltreatment prevention strategies and activities.
- Reduce the need for out-of-home placement of children

The PAC will include a diverse group of up to 10 parents from across the state who have a range of expertise and personal experiences with prevention programs and resources in helping to strengthen their own families and overcome challenges in their lives. The PAC will serve as strategic partners with the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust Fund to inform services and practices and to provide a greater understanding of family needs and service gaps. In addition, the parents will assist in:

- Fostering parent leadership development
- Advocating on behalf of parents and other caregivers to promote improvements in prevention programming
- Modeling the value of partnerships between parents and staff

The PAC is designed to ensure there are strong parent voices in shaping programs, services and strategies that result in better outcomes for children and families.

Role of the Parent Council Members:

1. Actively advise the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust work related to Prevention services provided in the community to families before they interact with the child welfare system.

2. Serve as a representative voice for parents in promoting improvements in prevention services and practices
3. Advise the department/children's trust fund on developing meaningful parent roles in its various service areas of prevention, family supports, in-home services, and other resources/services.
4. Develop resources to assist the staff in developing supportive, strengths-based strategies in their work with parents.
5. Promote and support implementation of the protective factors framework.
6. Serve in various other roles based on emerging needs of the department and the children's trust fund such as co-trainers, public speakers, reviewers of funding proposals, contributors to written materials, etc.
7. Participate, if interested and your time permits, in the work of the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN), a diverse network of birth parents and organizations that promote policy and practice changes in prevention/child welfare system.
8. Work in partnership with the staff to further the agency's mission and goals.

PAC members will represent the unique life experiences and perspectives of families, including but not limited to experiences such as:

- Living in rural, remote, urban or military communities;
- Use of community-based prevention services;
- Previous involvement with child welfare services and/or prevention programs
- Diverse family structures (e.g., two parent households, single parents, or blended families);
- Immigration and being new to a community;
- Cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity, race equity
- Parenting children with varying developmental and special needs.

Requirements for Participation:

1. Use of community-based prevention services (e.g., participation in protective factors training, parent leadership training, etc.) or previous involvement in the child welfare system with a case that has been closed a minimum of 8 – 12 months. If applicable, parents in recovery should have been sober for at least 12 months prior to applying.
2. Ability and willingness to share your voice by drawing on personal experiences to inform broader perspectives on policies and practices.
3. Experience on other advisory or planning councils or volunteering for community organizations that are working to improve the lives of children and families.
4. Willingness and ability to work with department/children's trust fund staff.
5. Ability to strategically share messages to diverse audiences.
6. Willingness to work collaboratively with a diverse team of parent advisory council members
7. Capacity to participate in the PAC and, if interested, in the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN)
8. Ability to travel. (PAC member will not incur expenses for travel and will receive an honorarium for the time away from home.)
9. Ability to communicate by e-mail and have computer and on-line access
10. Ability to participate in six teleconferences/webinars (up to two hours each) and up to two face-to-face meetings per year
11. Ability to commit to up to two additional hours of work with the group per month.
12. Ability to communicate in written and verbal English

13. Strong alignment with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust Fund's goals and priorities to strengthen and support families and engage all community sectors in child maltreatment prevention strategies and activities.
14. Ability and willingness to share learning with other parents and stakeholders from your local community.

The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust Fund is partnering with the **Children's Trust Fund Alliance (Alliance)** to coordinate the work of the PAC. The Alliance is the national membership organization for state Children's Trust and Prevention Funds (CTFs). It provides technical assistance, tools and resources for those working to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. Through its commitment to partnering with parents, the Alliance advocates for and supports strong parent voices related to strategies that ensure the safety and well-being of children throughout the country. The role of the Alliance is to support the needs of council members, to promote birth parents, and practice change and provide outreach, communication, coaching, mentoring and one-to-one support.