


**PARENT
PARTNERS
IN CHILD
WELFARE CASES**


**EXAMPLES FROM MIKID &
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT CENTER**

PARENT PARTNERS

Are birth parents who have journeyed through behavioral changes to reunite with their child(ren) after a dependency case.



In some cases, the peer parent may have had their rights severed. This experience also supports parents who may go through a similar journey.



Receive training and ongoing mentoring and coaching.

SUPPORTING PARENTS AS PARENT PARTNERS

Engaging	Engaging families by sharing common journeys
Building	Building bridges with stakeholders
Providing	Providing Education, Empowerment, Encouragement and Engagement

PARENT PARTNERS

Inspire Hope

Assists parent navigate the case plan and expectations – working with parent to resolve barriers to service participation

Walks alongside parents to support them through issues such as shame, homelessness, and addiction

Assists parent in finding services such as substance abuse treatment, housing – including sober living, AHCCCS enrollment, SSI, unemployment, DV shelters

Acts as a sounding board for parents before having difficult conversations with stakeholders


Attends court and other DCS case related meetings with parent as a support; mediation, TDM, CFT, or PA mid-point as a support

Stay connected to parents through phone and emails


PARENT PARTNERS

- Parent Partners (PP) deliver support to families. With firsthand knowledge of navigating the Children's Behavioral Health System and other youth-serving systems, they walk side-by-side with parents/caregivers to aid in achieving their goals and ultimately developing independence.
- A primary focus is to provide emotional support alongside building the family's/caregiver's abilities to make sure their voice and choice is heard in every part of the systems of care, while not creating dependency on the PP.
- PPs are available beyond typical business hours, including evenings and weekends.

THE DAILY PARENT PARTNER ROLE

- In-home and community family support beyond typical business hours. Family Support Partners walk with the families on their journey through the system until they can walk alone.
 - Preparation for an Individual Education Plan or 504 meeting.
 - A child's Medical needs are met with accommodations, modifications, and other services but does not require specialized instruction) and attend with the family.
 - Attend and support family in court/legal proceedings.
 - Guide the parent through the juvenile justice system and assist them in understanding the legal process. In addition, help them meet the goals mandated by probation or community service.
 - Provide support to the biological family if their child is removed from their care by the Department of Child Safety. Attend supervised visits, help families comply and work on goals for re-unification.
 - Provide support and assistance with budgeting.
 - Facilitate family support groups.
 - Preparation for a Child Family Team meeting and attend with the family.
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PARENT ROLE CONTINUED...

- Facilitate kinship/caregiver support groups.
 - Attend parenting classes with parent, and work on goals the family learned in the class.
 - Assist the family in finding resources in the community such as, housing, food banks, utility assistance programs, clothing, youth activities, educational resources, and assistance with daily living skills etc.
 - Provide support and assistance with home organization.
 - Attend and/or provide support at hospital visits, and psychiatric appointments.
 - Provide support and assistance navigating the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) system.
 - Provide support and assistance with resolution of any family stressor.
 - Provide additional support in the reunification of the child with the biological family.
 - Partner with the foster family to provide support needed to maintain placement, while working with the treatment team towards reunification and/or case plan goals.
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PARENT PARTNER TRAINING

Parent Partners receive various trainings to support them in their role. These include but are not limited to:

How to share their story

Boundaries

Privacy and confidentiality

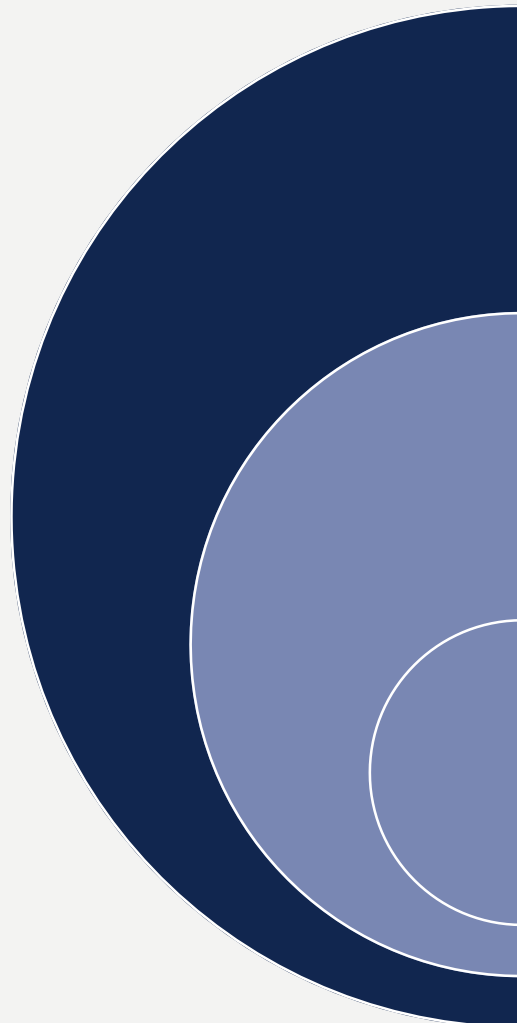
Trauma

One on one and group supervision and support

WHY — PARENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PARENT PARTNERS PROGRAMS

- **Were more likely to be reunified with their children** when compared to parents who did not participate in peer parent programs (Berrick et al., 2011; Bohannon et al., 2016; Chambers et al., 2019; Enano et al., 2017; National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, 2018; Trescher & Summers, 2020)
 - Trescher & Summers, 2020
 - 79% of the cases with parents who participated in the Parents for Parents program reunified compared to the comparison group of 53%)- a difference of 26%
 - 39% in the comparison group experienced termination of parental rights compared to 19% of the cases who participated in Parents For Parents)- a difference of 20%
- **Were more likely to comply with services and visitation** (Bohannon et al., 2016; National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, 2018; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 2013; Summers, et al., 2012; Trescher & Summers, 2020; Wulczyn, n.d.)
- **Were more likely to attend dependency court hearings** (Bohannon, et al., 2016; National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, 2018; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 2013; Summers, et al., 2012; Trescher & Summers, 2020; Wulczyn, n.d.)
- **Expressed an increase in trust in child protective services and perceived the child welfare system more positively** (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 2011; Summers et al., 2012; Trescher & Summers, 2020)
- **Demonstrated an increase in perceived knowledge of the child welfare systems, including the roles of individuals within child welfare and issues regarding their case** (Summers et al., 2012; Trescher & Summers, 2020)

PROGRAMS IN ARIZONA



Parent Support Now	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MIKID• Family Involvement Center
Parents for Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Involvement Center
Team Based Parent Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Involvement Center

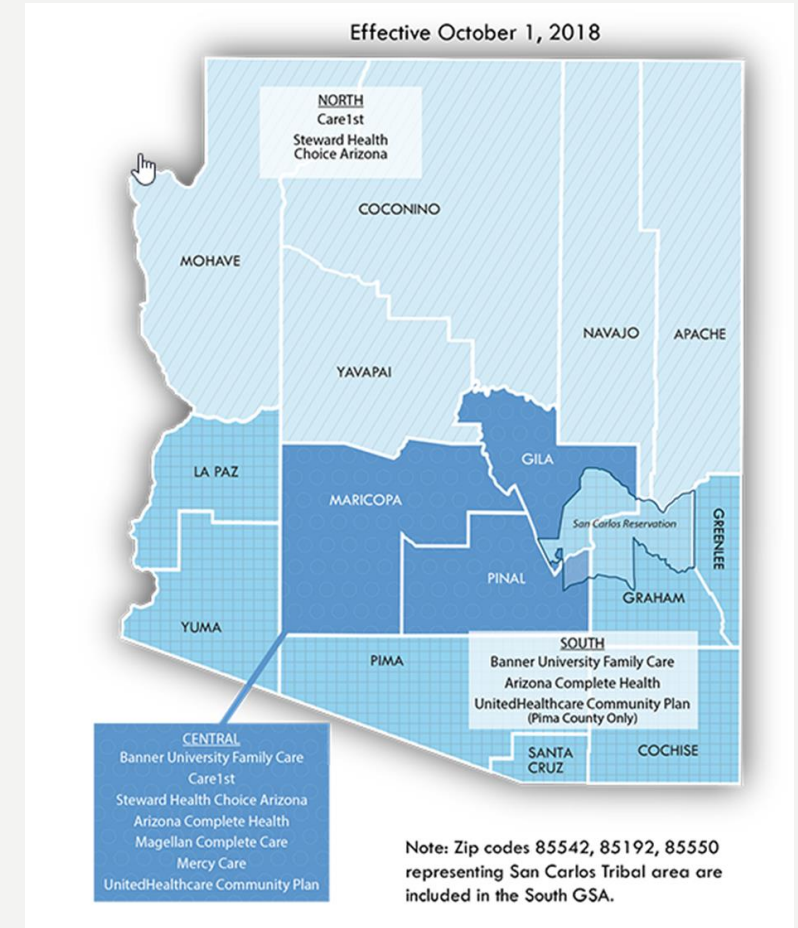
PARENT SUPPORT NOW

MIKID – Cochise, Graham, Mohave, Santa Cruz, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma

Family Involvement Center – Yavapai and Coconino

Funding - AHCCCS

Eligibility - Open to any parent whose child meets eligibility through AHCCCS for Behavioral Health Services



- Parent Support Now's (PSN) goal is to reduce the amount of time for a child removed from parent's care by Department of Child Safety (DCS) to return to permanency, with family reunification as the preferred outcome.
- A project developed through an initial pilot collaboration with Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC), DCS & Mohave County Superior Court, Mentally Ill Kids in Distress (MIKID), Mohave Mental Health Clinic (MMHC) and Southwest Behavioral Health Services (SBHS) in Kingman, AZ. Ages served were 0-3.
- Currently serving additional counties and all age groups in Northern, Central & Southern AZ.
- As part of this collaboration, MIKID assists and prepares parents for navigating the court system, juvenile justice system, and other child-serving agencies.

PARENT SUPPORT NOW

MIKID family support partner:

families navigate the DCS & court systems.

Connect to parent support groups, trainings, presentations, and other community resources.

Liaison with the court system and parent & child attorneys.

PARENT SUPPORT NOW RESULTS

Area	Number FSP's Assigned	Open	Closed	Return Home	Return Home Under 6 Mo.	Return Home Under 9 Mo.	Return Home Between 12-18 Mo	Return Home over 18 Mo.	Parents Rights Severed Arizona
Cochise Co.	2	37	121	14	3	7	2	2	12
Graham Co.	0	3	15	2	2	0	0	0	0
Mohave Co.	12	257	1204	236	155	38	34	9	153
Nogales - Santa Cruz	2	24	47	6	4	2	0	0	0
Parker - La Paz Co.	1	9	30	20	12	7	0	1	1
Phoenix-Central	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pima Co.**	1	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	0
Pinal Co. **	2	19	164	12	9	3	0	0	11
Yuma Co.	1	2	18	5	1	1	1	2	4
Total for the state	22	354	1605	297	186	58	39	14	181
Percentages					62.63%	19.59%	13.18%	4.73%	11.28%

- Replicates evidenced-based Parent for Parent program in King County, Washington.
- Parent Partner's are introduced to parents at Pre-trial Conferences and Hearings and share their experiences of success
- Parent Partner's invite parents to HOPE Class - Navigating the Dependency
- Parents can also be referred
- Support is offered for as long or as short a time as is needed
- Currently six Parent Partner's are supporting 168 parents.
- Do not provide advise or express a formal opinion
- Now offering support groups and Parenting Classes

PARENTS FOR PARENTS

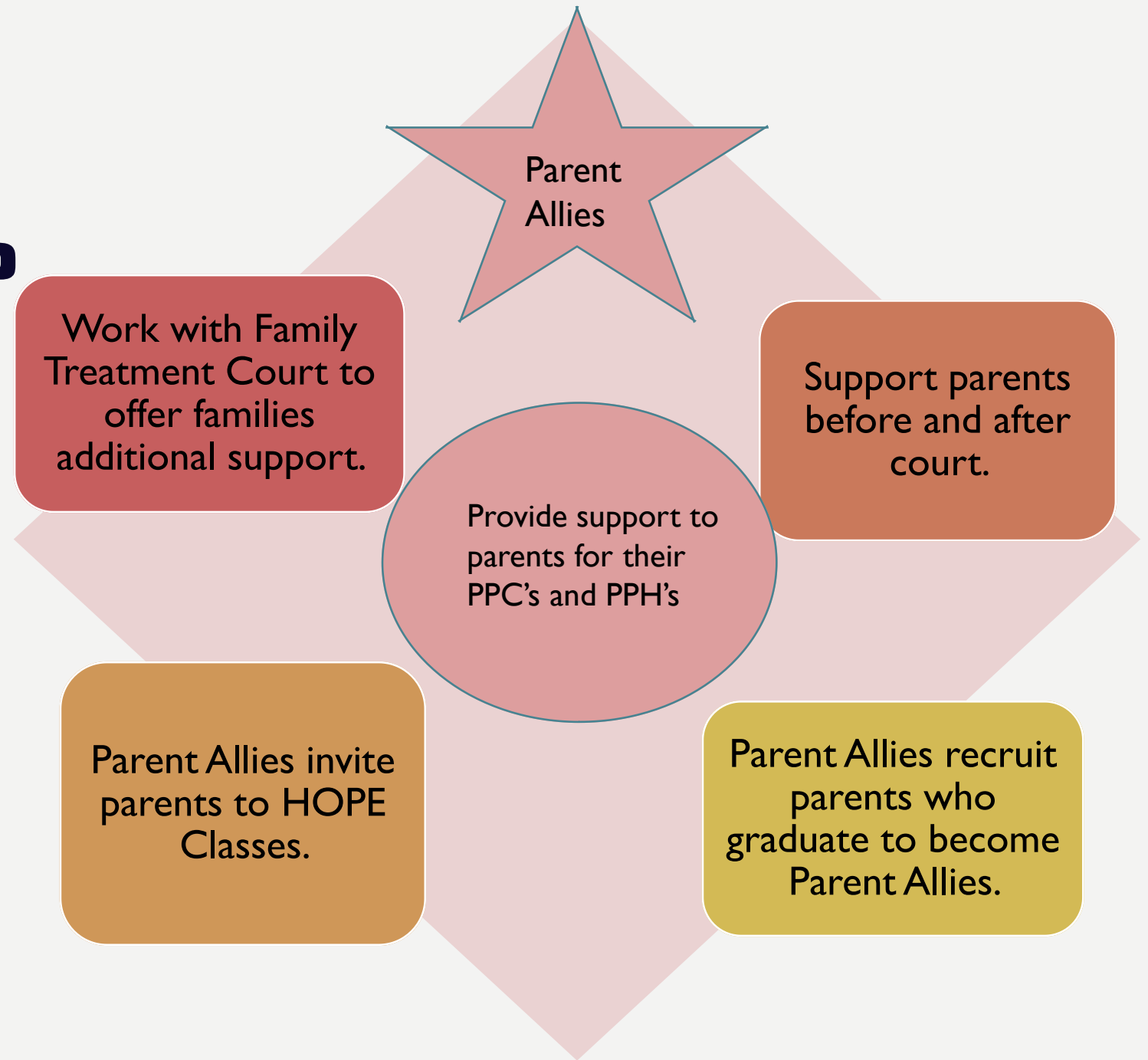
Maricopa County

Family Involvement Center

Funding: SOR grant funding through 9/2022

Eligibility: open to any parent involved in a DCS case and referred to the program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS



TEAM BASED PARENT REPRESENTATION

Family Involvement Center
Maricopa County

Parent Support is grant Funded
through 9/22

Eligibility – parent referred by their
attorney to the program

- Parent Partner's and Social Workers are added to the parent's attorney team.
- Social Worker utilizes experience and Training to
 - to assist parents with understanding their role along with the perspective of DCS to encourage a positive, productive relationship.
 - establish a working relationships between the parent and DCS team.
 - Support communication between the parent, his/her attorney, and DCS

STORIES OF SUCCESS



OTHER PROGRAMS

Program Name	Location	Target Population
Child Welfare Organizing Project	New York City, NY	Parents involved with child welfare system/dependency
Circle of Parents	National Network	Parents involved with child welfare system/dependency
Mendocino County Family Services	Mendocino County, CA	Parents involved with child welfare system/dependency
Mentor Parent Program of Dependency Advocacy Center	Santa Clara, CA	Parents with substance abuse disorders whose child(ren) have been removed or are at risk of removal
Parent Advocacy Program	Jefferson County, KY	Parents whose children were recently placed in out of home care
Parent for Parent Program	King County, WA	Parents involved with child welfare system/dependency
Parents in Partnership	California	Parents who have recently lost custody of child(ren) and/or parents with child(ren) in foster care without permanency
Parent Partners	Contra Costa County, CA	Parents involved with child welfare system/dependency
Parent Partners Program	Iowa & Washington State	Parents involved with child welfare system/dependency
Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START)	Kentucky	Parents involved with the child welfare system due to a Substance Exposed Newborn

PARENT REPRESENTATION MODELS

- Bronx Defenders: <https://www.bronxdefenders.org/who-we-are/how-we-work/>
- Center for Family Advocacy: <https://www.cfrny.org/our-work/family-defense/>
- ICWA Law Center, Minnesota: <http://www.icwlc.org/about-the-indian-child-welfare-act-law-center/>
- East Bay Family Defenders, Oakland, CA: <https://eastbayfamilydefenders.org/>
- Washington State OPD: <https://www.opd.wa.gov/program/parents-representation>

FIG PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

MARICOPA, PINAL, PIMA, SANTA CRUZ COCONINO AND YAVAPAI COUNTIES*

- Peer Parent Support - Home and Community-based - Individual and Groups
- Parent HelpLine and Parent Assistance Center - Walk-ins and by Appointment
- Care Coordination
- Respite - Home and Community-based – Greatness Kids Club
- Youth Mentor Services
- Parent Support Now - Family Reunification for DCS Involved Parents
- Parent Support Now - System Navigation for Juvenile Justice Involved Parents
- Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Classes and Healthy Eating and Living Series
- Parent Education
- Counseling
- Parent and Youth Leadership Training and Development
- Connecting Kids to Care

*Specific services vary by county

MIKID OPEN PARENT PARTNER SERVICES

*MARICOPA, PINAL, PIMA, YUMA, MOHAVE,
COCHISE, GRAHAM, LA PAZ, SANTA CRUZ,
COCONINO AND YAVAPAI COUNTIES*

- Active Parenting
- Youth & Adult Peer Support Training
- Family Support Certification Training
- SafeTALK
- Adult & Youth Mental Health First Aid Program
- Men to Men support for fathers, support for parents of children with Autism, & support for foster parents and kinship caregivers.
- Community Support Groups based on area need
- Family Support Partners
- Family Support Educational, Gender Specific, and Basic Support Groups
 - Utilizing the *Family Roadmap*, an evidence-based practice by Wendy Lowe Besmann © 2017
- Parent Support Now (PSN) Programming
- Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Programming
- Health and Wellness Program

Counties have agreed to utilize at least 75% of the funds they receive through Title IV-E reimbursement to supplement existing funding for parent and/or child representation through expanding, enhancing or developing initiatives that may include:

- Preventing dependency filings without jeopardizing child safety;
- Implementing a Parent Mentoring Program;
- Enhancing representation through training and education;
- Improving the ability of attorneys to manage their dependency case load;
- Establishing models that bring together attorneys, social workers and parent advocates to form multidisciplinary representation teams.

And with recent changes in federal policy, counties can now claim the cost of peer partners (parent partners) and use their Title IV-E reimbursement funds for peer partners (parent partners).

THE OPPORTUNITY

Title IV-E Reimbursement

**IT IS THE “LIVED LIFE
EXPERIENCE” THAT DEFINES
A PEER PARENT ROLE.**

- **Interchangeable Titles**
 - Peer Parents
 - Family Support Partner
 - Parent Partner
 - Parent Peer Navigator
 - Parent Partner



QUESTIONS

Questions about Parent Partners Programs

MIKID (Mentally Ill Kids in Distress)

Annaj@mikid.org- Anna Jure- PSN Statewide Coordinator

Pworthen@mikid.org- Patti Worthen- Statewide Director of Program Management

Family Involvement Center (FIC)

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Karin@familyinvolvementcenter.org- Karin Kline- Director of Child Welfare Initiatives