

# INNOVATIONS

Parents Anonymous® Inc.

Strengthening Families Around The World

August 2007



## New Research Demonstrates Parents Anonymous® is an Evidence-Based Program



*From Freddie Gardner, Board Chair & Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President & CEO*

A new National Outcome Study conducted by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) demonstrates that Parents Anonymous® Groups prevent child abuse and neglect. “We are very pleased that the results of this study have confirmed that Parents Anonymous® Groups are evidence-based child abuse prevention programs” says Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President & CEO.

“We are very grateful to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice for funding this important research,” says Freddie Gardner, Parents Anonymous® Inc. Board of Directors Chair. Mr. Gardner states, “For the past 38 years, Parents Anonymous® Inc. has operated a worldwide network of accredited state, regional and local organizations that deliver community-based Parents Anonymous® Programs, including weekly support groups for parents/caregivers and complementary groups for children and youth in diverse settings.

This ground-breaking longitudinal study is the only independent outcome research conducted nationwide to assess the impact of parent mutual support-shared leadership groups on child maltreatment prevention. This research includes a national representative sample of ethnically diverse parents new to Parents Anonymous® followed over a six month period. All of this evidence is based on standardized scales measuring key child maltreatment outcomes, risk and protective factors and was confirmed in a qualitative study with Latino parents who attended Parents Anonymous® groups. Moreover, a comparison group was utilized to measure the difference in outcomes between parents who did and those who did not continue to attend Parents Anonymous® groups over the six months.

Statistically Significant Results for Parents Who Participated in Parents Anonymous®:

### *Reduced Child Maltreatment Outcomes*

- 73% of Parents Decreased Their Parenting Distress
- 65% of Parents Decreased Their Parent Rigidity
- 56% of Parents Reduced Use of Psychological Aggression Towards Their Children
- For Parents Who Reported Using Physical Aggression, 83% Stopped Physically Abusing Their Children

### *Reduced Risk Factors*

- 86% of the High Stressed Parents Reduced Their Parental Stress
- 71% of Parents Reduced Their Life Stressors
- 40% of Parents Reduced Any Form of Domestic Violence
- 32% of Parents Reduced Their Drug/Alcohol Use

### *Increased Protective Factors*

- 67% of Parents Improved Their Quality of Life
- For Parents Starting Out Needing Improvement:
  - 90% Improved in Emotional and Instrumental Support
  - 88% Improved in Parenting Sense of Competence
  - 84% Improved in General Social Support
  - 69% Improved in Use of Non-Violent Discipline Tactics
  - 67% Improved in Family Functioning

### *Conclusions*

- Parents who continued to attend Parents Anonymous® Groups over time showed improvement in Child Maltreatment Outcomes, Risk and Protective Factors compared to those who dropped out.
- Strong evidence suggests that parents benefit and strengthen their families through Parents Anonymous® regardless of the participant's race, gender, education or income.
- Participants reported that they shared a sense of purpose, belonging and community and were able to give and get help from other parents.

There are many arenas that Parents Anonymous® Inc. participates in to implement the evidence-based Parents Anonymous® Program. Parents Anonymous® Inc. is a major contributor to early childhood research and programming that is shaping Federal directions on services for children and families. Dr. Lisa, Pion-Berlin represented Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders and staff at the National Summit on America's Children hosted by Speaker Nancy Pelosi on May 22, 2007 in Washington, D.C. This historic bipartisan Congressional Summit set the stage for future development of evidence-based services to strengthen families nationwide. Given our long history across the country, we are using our expertise to strategize with key leaders, Representatives George Miller (D-CA), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Chaka Fattah (D-PA) in this arena. In addition, Dr. Pion-Berlin and Jill Gentry, Parents Anonymous® Inc. Board of Directors, participated in the first national Strengthening Families Leadership Summit held in San Diego, California where we offered our expertise on Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership in working with families of young children. We look forward to expanding our participation in Speaker Pelosi's Summit activities and also becoming a collaborative partner with the Strengthening Families Initiative sponsored by the Center for the Study of Social Policy.

## Parents Anonymous® Programs and Services

Since 1969, Parents Anonymous® has engaged in a full range of evidence-based and cost-effective family strengthening programs and services:

### ☐ Parents Anonymous® Adult Groups:

- Evidenced-based weekly support groups for parents/caretakers that result in long lasting positive changes for families (co-facilitated by a professionally trained Group Facilitator and Parent Group Leader).

### ☐ Parents Anonymous® Children and Youth Programs:

- National standards-based Children and Youth Programs that foster their emotional and social growth and development (led by a professionally trained Children and Youth Program Worker).

❖ Annually, tens of thousands of diverse parents/caretakers, children and youth receive help, support and hope through 163 Accredited and Affiliated organizations in 29 states and U. S. territories; and, in Bermuda, Canada, South Africa, Nigeria and Malawi.

❖ Parents Anonymous® programs/services are provided in a variety of community-based settings such as schools, healthcare organizations, family resource centers, day care facilities, mental health agencies, churches and social service agencies.

### ☐ Comprehensive Training and Technical Assistance:

Evidence-Based Practice Institutes and Research Symposiums utilizing creative adult learning methods such as *in-person presentations, user-friendly online training modules and web-conferencing*. Topics include:

- Parent leadership
- Shared leadership

- Child abuse prevention
- Juvenile delinquency prevention
- Cultural competency
- Behavior Management
- Community collaboration

### ☐ Data Management and Information Systems Development and Implementation Services:

- Customized Programming for records/data management
- Innovative web-based scan-able (bubble) forms
- Tailored data analysis and reporting

### ☐ Evaluation Research:

- Evaluation plan development
- Selection and Use of Standardized Scales
- Instrument Design and Reliability/Validity Testing
- Program Effectiveness Measurement
- Translation Research: Ensuring Quality
- Model Fidelity instrument implementation
- SPSS data analyses and reporting

### ☐ National Public Awareness:

- Promoting Family Strengthening Messages: *Good Morning America* and *The Today Show*
- National Parent Leadership Month-More than 60 co-sponsors including federal, state, and local organizations recognize the vital contributions of Parent Leaders.
- Publications
  - Newsletters
  - Parenting and Child Development Booklets
  - Media Guides for Parents and Professionals
- Public Service Announcements

## 2007 Co-Sponsors for National Parent Leadership Month

- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice
- Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- Head Start Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- National Head Start Association
- Child Welfare League of America
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Medical Association
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Respite Coalition
- Center for Community Partnerships in Child Welfare, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning
- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of the USA
- Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
- National Child Abuse Coalition
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Marguerite Casey Foundation
- National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
- National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators
- Oakland University, School of Nursing
- American Humane Association
- Prevent Child Abuse America
- Family Support America
- National Black Child Development Institute
- Stop It Now!
- Circle of Parents
- North American Council on Adoptable Children
- PreschoolRock.com
- Mocha Moms, Inc.
- Fresno County Children and Family Services Department
- Barbara Meltzer & Associates, Public Relations & Marketing
- Strode and Lee Marketing By Design
- The Raise Foundation
- The Collaboration to AdoptUSKids
- Program for Early Parent Support
- Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Coalition
- San Francisco Human Services Agency, Family & Children's Services Division
- Alameda County Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County
- Marin Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Child Abuse Prevention Council of Monterey County
- Child Abuse Prevention Council of Napa County
- San Francisco Child Abuse Council
- Solano County Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Protective Services
- Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council
- National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
- Ventura County Human Services Agency
- Christian Printing
- Life Pieces to Masterpieces
- California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention
- City of Long Beach, Department of Health & Human Services
- California Permanency for Youth Project
- Child Abuse Prevention Council of Placer County
- Mariposa Safe Families
- School of Fame
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America
- Rockard J. Delgadillo, Los Angeles City Attorney
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
- National Indian Child Welfare Association
- Ordot Chalan Pago Elementary School on Guam
- El Paso Federation of Families

## 2007 Leadership Awards Presented to Two Extraordinary Individuals



Parents Anonymous® Inc. presented the 2007 Outstanding Leadership Award to Congressman Elijah E. Cummings for his steadfast dedication to strengthening and empowering families through Parents Anonymous® Programs. Congressman Cummings is in his seventh term in Congress and was first sworn in as a Member of the United States House of Representatives in April 1996.

Congressman Cummings is a sponsor of initiatives to secure our homeland, increase access to college, promote sound health care policy, protect workers' rights, end global warming, and provide seniors with affordable prescription drugs. Additionally, Congressman has made it a priority during his tenure in Congress to ensure that all children have access to a high quality education, specifically through the reauthorization and full funding of the No Child Left Behind Act. He is a former Chair and current member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Prior to his service in the Congress, Mr. Cummings served in the Maryland House of Delegates for 16 years. In the Maryland General Assembly, he served as Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus and was the first African American in Maryland history to be

named Speaker Pro Tem, the second highest position in the House of Delegates. Congressman Cummings graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1976 and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in December, 1976. He practiced law for nineteen years before entering Congress. Congressman Cummings serves on numerous boards and commissions including the United States Naval Academy Board of Visitors, the Maryland Zoo Board of Trustees, the Baltimore Aquarium Board of Trustees, the Institute of Human Virology Board of Directors, the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors and the Yale-Howard Nursing Partnership Center to Reduce Health Disparities by Self and Family Management Advisory Committee.



Denise Rolark Barnes, publisher of *The Washington Informer*, the leading community newspaper serving the African American community in Washington, D.C. accepted the Parents Anonymous® Inc. 2007 Outstanding Leadership Award at the National Training Institute held on February 12, 2007. Rolark Barnes

became publisher of *The Washington Informer* in 1994 where she is continuing the legacy of her father, Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, who established *The Washington Informer* in 1964. In addition to her work at the *Informer*, Rolark-Barnes maintains The Washington Informer Charities, a non-profit organization that promotes literacy and sponsors internship opportunities and writing competitions for students interested in pursuing careers in journalism. The Washington Informer Charities also partners with local schools to assist their efforts to publish student-run newspapers. She hosts "Reporter's Roundtable," a local municipal cable television show aired twice daily featuring local reporters who discuss civic and social issues affecting D.C. residents.

She has also appeared as a guest on the nationally syndicated Tavis Smiley Show, Tony Brown's Journal, NBC4's Reporter's Notebook and several local radio and television programs. Rolark Barnes board memberships include United Black Fund, Inc., the AARP District of Columbia Executive Council, the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and the advisory board of New Leaders for New Schools. She is also a member of Leadership Greater Washington. Rolark Barnes lives in the District of Columbia with her husband, Lafayette Barnes. They have two sons, Lafayette (21) a student at Howard University School of Business; and Desmond (18) a freshman at Morgan State University.

## 2007 National Training Institute Focuses on Evidence-Based Practices

It was a great turnout for the Parents Anonymous® Inc. 2007 National Training Institute, *Keeping Our Promise: Implementing Evidence-based Practice to Prevent Child Maltreatment and Juvenile Delinquency*, held on February 11-12 in Arlington, Virginia. Close to 200 Parent Leaders, program staff, board members and volunteers from the Parents Anonymous® Network attended a broad range of inspirational plenary sessions and interactive skill-building workshops at the annual 2-day Training Institute. The title of the National Training Institute highlighted our important mission to strengthen and support strong, safe families and communities using evidence-based practices and programs.

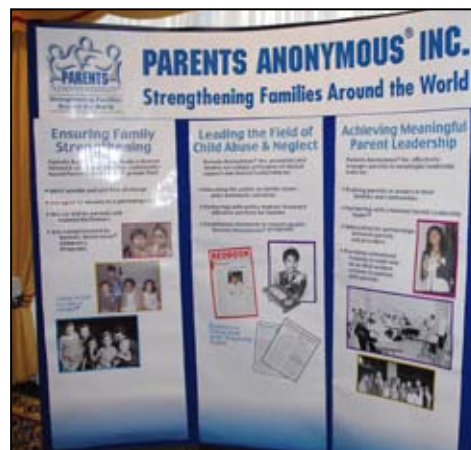
Our strong partnerships with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, continue to be vital to our work in preventing child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency. Rodney Hammond, Ph.D., Director, Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, shared exciting updates on violence prevention efforts during his keynote presentation. He discussed the exciting work that Parents Anonymous® Inc. and CDC have focused on in developing a National Child Abuse Prevention Plan under the BECAUSE Kids Count! Initiative (Building and Enhancing Community Alliance United for Safety and Empowerment). Following this plenary, participants broke into discussion groups to discuss implementation of the National Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan at the local, state and national levels. In another inspiring plenary session, Kerri Strug, spokesperson for OJJDP, shared her extraordinary personal story at the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games where she landed an unforgettable vault on an injured ankle and helped the U.S. clinch its first



Olympic gold medal in the team gymnastics competition. She brought many to tears when she talked about the difficult obstacles that she had to overcome. She left everyone in the audience with the message to follow their dreams and goals, reach out for help and support when needed and to take the lead in making life changes. Angie Wolf, Ph.D., Senior Researcher at the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), led a special plenary session highlighting the positive results of the Parents Anonymous® Outcome Study conducted by NCCD.



In addition, there were several informative workshops on evidence-based practice co-presented by Dr. Sandra Williams, Vice President of Programs, and members of the National Parent Leadership Team® to increase awareness about current research relating to Parents Anonymous® Programs. In another workshop, Barbara Meltzer, Public Relations & Marketing Consultant, and Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders, guided their audience through mock interviews in "Making the Media Work for You" to demonstrate the power and pitfalls of talking with the press. Members



of the National Parent Leadership Team® and Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff also co-led several interactive workshops on Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership development including: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Shared Leadership," "Parent Networking," and "Where do We Go From Here -after the National Training Institute 2007." G. Confessori, Ph.D., Human Resource Development Enterprises, was a great hit during his stimulating workshop on "Self-Directed Learning: Effective Strategies for Parents

and Staff” which focused on how parents drive their own learning process in the Parents Anonymous® Group.

Denise Rolark Barnes, emceed the lively dinner plenary and National Parent Leadership Month celebration. Ms. Barnes is the publisher of *The Washington Informer*, the leading community newspaper serving the African American community in Washington, D.C. Expressions Dance Theater, an amazing group of young talented students launched the celebration through a heartwarming dancing and singing performance. The evening concluded by honoring all of the Parent Leaders and National Parent Leadership Month Co-Sponsors in attendance.



## Parents Anonymous® Inc. Launches National Parent Leadership Month E-blast

An exciting new feature has been added to our annual National Parent Leadership Month planning efforts. It's the NPLM E-blast – a monthly newsletter that will be e-mailed to the National Network and to other organizations and individuals who are interested in participating in this annual initiative. We encourage you to send us your ideas, concerns and questions so that we can include them in the E-blast. This will be of great value to everyone. So, are you

- sending out requests for proclamations and resolutions?
- planning a conference?
- producing a special event?
- sending Public Service Announcements to the media?
- bringing Parent Leaders on board to work on the projects and programs?

Let us know and we'll make every effort to include it in an NPLM E-blast.

Please send all e-mails to: **Barbara Meltzer / [barbara@meltzerpr.com](mailto:barbara@meltzerpr.com)**



## Moving Forward on National Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan

Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Inc. is successfully moving forward with the implementation of select strategies in a comprehensive 5-year national child maltreatment plan, *Keeping our Promise*. “We are excited to continue partnering with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement this unique plan based on all levels of the socio-ecological model through the BECAUSE Kids Count! Project (Building and Enhancing Community Alliances United for Safety and Empowerment),” stated Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President and CEO, Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Inc. She added, “this plan addresses child maltreatment before it occurs at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels.” Through the strong commitment and hard work of our Child Maltreatment Prevention Work Group, our Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Network of organizations and local affiliates and our National Parent Leadership Team,<sup>®</sup> we have been working together on the following strategies in the plan:



### ❖ *Creating a National Center on Shared Leadership*–

Research has shown that the Shared Leadership approach and working collaboratively with parents who are consumers of service and staff yield more positive outcomes for families and communities. We have been working to integrate Shared Leadership in our efforts nationwide through the establishment of a National Center on Shared Leadership. The Center has been successfully launched and a Board of Directors has

developed a Brochure of services.

### ❖ *Expanding the capacity of the Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Network to Implement, Fund and Sustain Best Practice Prevention Programs* –

We have provided critical training and technical assistance on primary prevention strategies to the lead personnel in each accredited Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> organization to build their knowledge, skills and abilities to expand and maintain quality prevention programs. The training and technical assistance has and continues to focus on best practice, prevention concepts and principles, and theory.

### ❖ *Enhancing the Use of Evidence-Based Practice across the Network* –

Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Inc. hosted a best practice workshop on evidence-based prevention strategies at our 2007 National Training Institute held in Arlington, Virginia. We are currently measuring program effectiveness through the use of standardized measures such as a program fidelity tool in order to promote the adoption of best practices in prevention work nationwide.

❖ *Developing a National Parent Helpline* – Based on findings from the national inventory of prevention programs and strategies and an organizational assessment to determine the Network’s readiness and capacity to implement prevention strategies, Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Inc. and a Helpline Work Group have been partnering together to create a *National Parent Helpline* that provides supportive listening to parents/caregivers to help reduce stressors and develop problem solving abilities to prevent child abuse and neglect. A technology plan has been developed and the Helpline Work Group has been actively searching for funding to begin implementation.

❖ *Planning a National Public Awareness and Prevention Campaign* – In order to enhance the public’s understanding and awareness of child maltreatment primary prevention, Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Inc. has been working with its Network organizations to develop clear prevention messages. We hosted a special media and public awareness workshop to talk about public awareness strategies and messages at our 2007 National Training Institute and the Parent Leaders from our National Parent Leadership Team<sup>®</sup> have been spearheading efforts to take prevention messages to the media through our National Parent Leadership Month campaign, the Parent Leadership Network online community and through television, radio and newsprint.

## BECAUSE Joint Priority

This year, Parents Anonymous® Inc. hosted a historic meeting with our Child Maltreatment Prevention Work Group and representatives from the National Alliance of Children's Trust & Prevention Funds, Prevent Child Abuse America and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to begin working on a joint priority through the BECAUSE Kids Count! Project. We are focusing on increasing the understanding and use of evidence across networks, to develop strategies and assist in decision making. It is important that the field begin to identify and utilize common standards when assessing evidence of child maltreatment prevention programs and strategies. Development and utilization of shared definitions of levels of evidence with common language when referring to evidence-based strategies will benefit our organizations

and the field at large. With our national partners we seek to help the Network understand how to effectively apply evidence-based strategies and interventions for targeted populations. We have engaged in joint meetings and provided critical training on evidence as one way to help facilitate movement in this area. We are also looking at other strategies such as compiling definitions of evidence, looking at critical components such as implementation, fidelity, and sustainability, defining activities to build and support a culture that values and uses evidence and finally describing the various types of evidence, including the strengths and weaknesses of each. We are off to a great start but still have lots of hard work ahead of us!

## Child Maltreatment Prevention Work Group

**Marty Banks, BS**, Executive Director, of Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina, Inc..

**Arlene Bowers Andrews, PhD.**, Professor and Director, Institute for Families in Society, University of South Carolina

**Emalee Flaherty, MD**, Medical Director, Protective Service Team, Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois

**David Finkelhor, Ph.D.**, Co-Director, Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire

**Jill Gentry, Parent and kinship care provider** in Salem, Oregon, and member of Parents Anonymous® Inc. Board of Directors

**Ruth Taylor, BA**, Executive Director, Parents Anonymous® of Oregon

**Robert Hall, MDiv, DAPA**, Executive Director, Parents Anonymous® of Delaware

**Art Hernandez, Adoptive Parent** in San Jacinto, California, and former Co-Chair of California Parent Leadership Team

**Tanya Long, Parent** from Columbus, Ohio, member of Parents Anonymous® Inc. Board of Directors and Board Chair of National Center on Shared Leadership.

**Kathleen Roe, MA**, Executive Director, Parents Anonymous® of New Jersey, Inc.

**J. C. Shay, MS**, Operations Specialist, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and member of Parents Anonymous® Inc. Board of Directors

**Patricia Cronin, LCSW-C**, Executive Director, Parents Anonymous® of Maryland

**Eliza Cooper, Parent and Speech Pathologist**, Co-Chair of Parents Anonymous® Inc. National Parent Leadership Team, and board member of National Center on Shared Leadership.

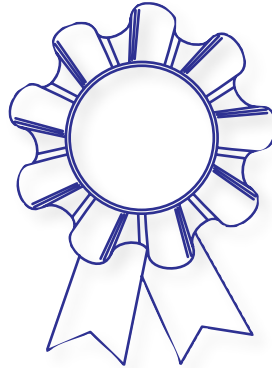
**Kinaya Sokoya, CSWM, MBPA**, Executive Director of Parents Anonymous® of DC and Northern Virginia, and the D. C. Children's Trust Fund.

**Mary Spoerl, AA, Mother and Grandmother** and member of the Ottawa Indian Nation from West Bend, Wisconsin

**Linda Thompson, Dr.PH, RN, FAAN**, Professor and Dean of the School of Nursing, Oakland University, Michigan

## Special Awards

### 2007 National Jolly K. Award Presented to Sharon Kirby



*The Jolly K. Award is given to a Parents Anonymous® Parent Leader who exemplifies the courage, tenacity and strong Parent Leadership first demonstrated by Jolly K., the founding parent of Parents Anonymous® Inc.*

**Sharon Kirby** knew she needed support as a parent of two children, ages 2 and 14 years. She found it on a playground. As other parents waited for their children to take a turn on the swings and the slide, she boldly reached out to them and helped establish the first Parents Anonymous® group in the Charleston Tri-county area in August 1999. A Parent Leader from the moment she became involved, she offered her home as an initial meeting place, garnering support for herself and reaching out to others experiencing similar parenting concerns. Much like Jolly K., Sharon partnered with the Group Facilitator to create her own support system and served as the Parent Group Leader for three years. Sharon has taken on a wide range of leadership roles including the start-up of the first South Carolina Parent Leadership Team. As a co-presenter and trainer for Parents Anonymous® Programs, Sharon consistently shares her experiences as a parent in a way that both engages professionals and allows them to see first-hand results of the model. She was recently appointed to the National Parent Leadership Team®. Sharon Kirby is a true Parent Voice in Action.

### 2007 National Juanita Chávez Award Presented to Dreama



*The Juanita Chávez Award recognizes a Parents Anonymous® staff member or volunteer for his or her work in promoting Parent Leadership and helping parents grow to their full potential. Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders submit nominations of potential candidates for this award.*

**Dreama Storer** began working with Parents Anonymous® in 1999. In partnership with parents, she started the first Parents Anonymous® Group in South Eastern Kentucky and she has continued to be instrumental in the development and implementation of new Parents Anonymous® programs over the last 8 years. She is a dynamic Group Facilitator who works tirelessly to empower parents to become leaders. One parent became so empowered that he developed a support group for fathers. Through her leadership and in partnership with parents, she helped to develop the Kentucky Parent Leadership Team in 2002. In 2005, she was awarded the local Juanita Chávez award. Dreama is an excellent role model for parents and like Juanita Chávez, she recognizes the potential for growth in every parent who has the courage to reach out and ask for help.

## Parent Leaders Honored at National Parent Leadership Month Celebration

Representative Donald M. Payne (NJ)



*Congressman Donald Payne, New Jersey, graciously hosted a National Parent Leadership Month celebration in Washington DC in collaboration with Parents Anonymous® Inc. on February 13, 2007. Many Congresspersons and key staff attended to honor Parent Leaders from state and local districts.*

Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD)



Representative Patrick J. Kennedy (RI)



Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA)



Senator Frank Lautenberg (NJ)



Representative Grace F. Napolitano (CA)

### Congratulations to Local Winners!

*In addition to the award recipients features on page 8, we congratulate the following individuals who received local awards from their accredited Parents Anonymous® organizations.*

#### Parents Anonymous® of Phoenix, Arizona

- Jessica Caltabiano (Jolly K.)
- Roni Zeman (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of East Los Angeles, CA

- Deborah Gonzales (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Long Beach, CA

- Idalia Razo (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Madera, CA

- Melinda Soster (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Pacoima, CA

- Sylvia Franco (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Pomona, CA

- Thelma Lopez (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of South Los Angeles, CA

- Margaret Edmonds (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Delaware

- Megan Dennis (Jolly K.)
- Rebecca Levin (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Metropolitan District of Columbia

- Andrea Morgan (Jolly K.)
- Michelle Minor (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Lithia Springs, Georgia

- Doreen Finley (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Chicago, Illinois

- Andrea Evans (Jolly K.)
- Chalonda McIntosh (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Iowa, Inc.

- Jay Rains (Jolly K.)
- Elaine Howard (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of South Eastern Kentucky

- Andrea Hughett (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Maryland

- Bob Coufal (Jolly K.)
- Dr. Patricia Stewart (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Liberty, New York

- Theresa Hague (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Plattsburgh, New York

- Heather Thibault (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Stark County and Northern Oh

- Cheryl Nelson (Jolly K.)
- Cheryl Lukaszewski (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Central & Southern Ohio

- Cory Pariseau (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Oregon

- Jeni Goodwin (Jolly K.)
- Ben Root (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina

- Sanquinita Martin (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of North Central Texas

- Bernadette Coffee (Jolly K.)
- Heather Ward (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Tyler, Texas

- Robert Blackwell (Jolly K.)
- Cheryl Staggs (Juanita Chávez)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Northeast Texas

- Paul Elmore & Michelle Northcutt (Jolly K.)

#### Parents Anonymous® of Washington County, Wisconsin

- Gloria Wabanimkee (Jolly K.)
- Erin Roemer (Juanita Chávez)

## Parents Anonymous® Inc. Offers Innovative Services



### Program Evaluation & Needs Assessment Services in Riverside County

Parents Anonymous® Inc. has been working successfully with Riverside County, California Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County (PCARC), the lead Child Abuse Prevention Council in the county, to develop and implement *Program Evaluation Services* for their federally-funded Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention (CAPIT) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Programs. The focus of the CAPIT/PSSF services and programs is to prevent the occurrence or reoccurrence of child maltreatment; prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families; improve the quality of care and services to children and their families; and ensure permanency for children, by adoption or by another permanent living arrangement. The overall goals of the evaluation plan we developed are to:

- Determine client satisfaction with services on an ongoing basis
- Determine year-end actual outcomes of services provided
- Determine service engagement outcomes related to client recruitment, and participation
- Determine short-term outcomes of service participation related to changes in client knowledge, attitudes, skills and aspirations
- Determine intermediate outcomes of service participation related to changes in clients' applied skills and behaviors
- Determine long-term outcomes related to changes in individual and community status and conditions reflecting family strengthening

These overall goals apply to all Riverside County-DPSS funded CAPIT

and PSSF services, including Adoption Promotion and Support services and the pilot Differential Response Program. According to Dr. Peggy Polinsky, Director of Research, Parents Anonymous® Inc., "This groundbreaking child abuse prevention evaluation provides vital data on county-funded practices and programs to determine the effectiveness of the services received by individuals and families."

Furthermore, Parents Anonymous® Inc. is conducting a *Community Needs Assessment* of their child abuse and neglect prevention, intervention and treatment services to guide future directions for prevention services for Riverside DPSS and PCARC. We designed a customized needs assessment tool that is being distributed to staff and Parent Leaders countywide to: (1) determine the utility and feasibility of existing services for primary prevention of child maltreatment and (2) determine service gaps. It has been exciting and gratifying to work in partnership with Riverside County to provide these innovative evaluation and needs assessment services!

### Strategic Planning in Texas



Given the forward thinking of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division (DFPS), Parents Anonymous® Inc. was recently called upon to facilitate a strategic planning process with key staff of the Prevention and Early Intervention Division. Sandra Williams, Ph.D., Vice President of Programs, Parents Anonymous® Inc., facilitated this vital planning process to assist them in developing a comprehensive prevention framework to implement effective programs and build statewide capacity to reduce child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency.

- ❖ **Assessment of Population Needs** – Parents Anonymous® Inc. focused on assessing the nature of the child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency problems, where it occurs, who it affects, and how they are manifested through client/service utilization statistics and issues related to racial and ethnic disproportionality. The resources required to address each problem area and their readiness to act were also examined.
- ❖ **Building Capacity** – Various strategies were discussed to build state and community-level capacity to address the needs and problems identified through gap analyses.
- ❖ **Development of a Strategic Plan** – Two Logic Models were developed for organizing specific effective prevention strategies, programs, policies and practices in the areas of child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency problems statewide.
- ❖ **Evidence-based Programs** – Evidence-based practice frameworks for implementation of child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency prevention programs, strategies, practices and policies were explored.
- ❖ **Monitoring, Evaluation and Sustainability** – Strategies to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation, as well as sustaining of effective programs to address child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency problems were also discussed.

According to Dr. Sandra Williams, "The strategic planning proved to be an extremely valuable process for the DFPS -- the support and participation of the Division Administrator, Carolyn Francis, was vital to making this process so successful. DFPS is off to a great start in building their state and local capacity to implement effective policies and practices to address the child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency problems throughout the state of Texas."

## Parents Anonymous® Inc. Offers Innovative Services

### Wraparound Survey & Summit Help Identify Needs & Supports for California Parent Partners

We are excited to share our groundbreaking collaborative work with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Child Protection and Family Support Branch on an innovative Wraparound Parent Partner Project over the past year. Under the leadership and direction of the Integrated Services Unit of CDSS, efforts were undertaken to gather information about the role, training needs and supports of Parent Partners in Senate Bill (SB) 163 Wraparound Programs throughout the state. Parents Anonymous® Inc. spearheaded this project and worked with a dedicated 19-member Wraparound Work Group to develop survey tools to collect information from County Coordinators/Administrators, Program Staff and Parent Partners. A total of 211 surveys were submitted and Parents Anonymous® Inc. compiled the results and developed a written report on the findings. On June 5, 2007, we hosted a one-day Summit at the University of California, Davis, where we reviewed the survey results with SB 163 Wraparound Program representatives and sought further input and recommendations.

The Summit was a first time opportunity to bring SB 163 Wraparound Program staff representatives and Parent Partners together to discuss needs and supports of Parent Partners in carrying out their critical roles in this program. Five Breakout Groups were facilitated by seasoned Parent Leaders and professional staff. These Breakout Groups developed recommendations and strategies for implementation in the following areas:

1. Ways to update and expand training for Parent Partners
2. Ways to provide ongoing job supports for Parent Partners

3. Ways to measure the impact of Parent Partners on family outcomes
4. Ways to expand position guidelines for Parent Partners
5. Ways to address the Parent Partner's role in ensuring cultural sensitivity with families.

Lots of exciting and innovative ideas were recommended in these areas. Based on all of the valuable feedback we received and taking into consideration available state resources, CDSS decided to move forward with two key recommendations to further strengthen the critical role of the Parent Partner within SB 163 Wraparound Programs. These recommendations are:

**1. Development of an Outcomes Measurement Work Group** that will focus on designing a Fidelity Tool for measuring outcomes when Parent Partners follow the Wraparound model.

**2. Development of a Training Work Group** that will focus on reviewing Training Curricula for Parent Partners and making recommendations to CDSS on Training Standards for Parent Partners.

We are now ready to forge ahead and we are seeking volunteers interested in participating in one of these new Work Groups. Overall, the SB 163 Wraparound Parent Partner Project has proved to be an excellent platform to move forward in developing and implementing strategies to address the training needs and supports for Parent Partners throughout the state. The Summit provided the opportunity for key stakeholders, including Wraparound county administrators, program staff and Parent Parents to share and learn from one another and make recommendations for further planning, integration and evaluation of the role of the Parent Partner in the Wraparound Program. During the next contract year, Parents Anonymous® Inc. will work with the CDSS staff in assisting the two new Work Groups in

carrying out their tasks to strengthen and support Parent Partners and ultimately improve outcomes for children and families served in Wraparound Programs throughout California.

### Michigan Advisory Board Trained in Shared Leadership in Action

Parents Anonymous® Inc. successfully introduced the *Shared Leadership in Action* Program to the state of Michigan through an innovative partnership between the Parent Leadership in State Government Advisory Board in Michigan and the National Center on Shared Leadership. The 25-member Parent Leadership in State Government Advisory Board, consisting of parents and staff, has been collaborating with three key state agencies, Michigan Department of Human Services, the Michigan Department of Community Health, and the Michigan Department of Education along with the Michigan Public Health Institute to develop a comprehensive statewide plan to implement Shared Leadership in the Michigan State Government. Parents Anonymous® Inc. provided comprehensive training and follow-up technical assistance to assist the Advisory Board members in developing and implementing a Shared Leadership Plan with specific attainable goals and realistic timelines to ensure progress. Through this collaboration, Parents Anonymous® Inc. has designed a customized web-based software application and database to facilitate this statewide process. The Advisory Board has set forth an ambitious agenda. It is clear that Board members, including Parent Leaders and staff, are committed to developing the vision for Shared Leadership in the Michigan State Government. Their Advisory Board structure provides a strong foundation for turning the commitment to Shared Leadership into reality.

**For More Information on these and other innovative Parents Anonymous® Inc. Services:**  
*Shared Leadership in Action* Program • Evaluation • Strategic Planning • Needs Assessment  
 call: 909-621-6184, ext. 220 or visit [www.parentsanonymous.org](http://www.parentsanonymous.org)

# Parents Anonymous® Inc. Partners with U.S. Office of Child Abuse and Neglect

As a key partner with the U.S. Office of Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN), Parents Anonymous® Inc. served as a Co-Sponsor to help plan the 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, the largest child abuse and neglect conference in the nation. Every other year, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, OCAN holds this state-of-the-art conference, where thousands of providers in child welfare come together to forge new partnerships, exchange cutting-edge information and research and learn innovative techniques. The conference entitled, "Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families and Preserving Communities," was held in Portland Oregon during the week of April 16-21, 2007.

Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff and Parent Leaders presented several workshops including "Parents as Advocates in Child Welfare," "Shared Leadership and Conflict Resolution: An Effective Way to Handle Parent Grievances, and "Strengthening Families and Preventing Child Abuse through a Community Partnership." Presenters included: Parent Leaders, Eliza Cooper, Tanya Long, Bernadette Coffee and Jill Gentry, and Donna Norris, Program Specialist, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and Parents Anonymous® Inc. representatives including Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Meryl Levine, Vice President of Development, and Dr. Sandra Williams, Vice President of Programs.

In addition, during a plenary session, Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin announced the 2007 Jolly K. and Juanita Chávez Award Winners. Hundreds of participants stopped at the Parents Anonymous® Inc. Booth to pick up materials and speak with staff and Parent Leaders about the effective Parents Anonymous® Program and Shared Leadership Training materials.



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