
Parents for Parents Program: Summary of Research

Based upon findings from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), King County Superior Courts Parents for Parents program was identified as a Promising Practice by the University of Washington's Evidence Based Practice Institute.

The Parents for Parents program was evaluated by NCJFCJ in both 2011 and 2013. Some key findings from these evaluations included:

- Increased compliance in the court-ordered case plan by both mothers and fathers (2011)
- Significant increases in parents' compliance with court-ordered visitation at the review hearing (2011)
- Increased participation by the mother at key court events; mothers were more likely to be present for court hearings by 13% (2011)
- Dependency 101 participants had greater rates of reunification and lower rates of termination of parental rights compared to non-participants-*not statistically significant* (2013)
- Caucasian families who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be reunified and less likely to have their parental rights terminated-*statistically significant* (2013)
- Native American women who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be in some form of compliance at their review hearing-*statistically significant* (2013)
- African American men who participated in Dependency 101 were more likely to be in some form of compliance with services at review and permanency hearings-*statistically significant* (2013)

Findings were also reported in the *Children and Youth Services Review* (volume 34, 2012, pp. 2036-2041) on the effectiveness of the program participants and include:

- Positive change in attitudes
- Increased trust in Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Better understanding of the role of stakeholders
- Increased awareness of case issues
- Increased belief that parents have control over their case outcomes
- Increased engagement in the juvenile dependency court process
- Increased compliance with court orders and case plans
- Increased participation in visitation

In 2014, Partners for Our Children analyzed rates of reunification in counties with Parents for Parents programs and found these rates are significantly higher ($p < .0001$) than for comparable families in counties in which there is not yet a Parents for Parents program.

In 2016, Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago conducted a Phase I Evaluation of the Parents for Parents program. Key findings included:

For more information, please contact:
Heather Cantamessa, national family impact program manager at Children's Home Society of Washington
Heather.Cantamessa@chs-wa.org

Parents for Parents Program: Summary of Research

- Parents' attitudes toward the dependency process were more positive after attending Dep 101
- Dependency 101 participants' trust in CPS being fair increased after participating in the class
- Parents who attended Dependency 101 classes were much more likely to believe there is something they can do to improve their chances of reunification

The most recent phase II evaluation was conducted by the Child Welfare Capacity Building, Center for Court. The quasi-experimental designed evaluation examined data from three P4P programs in Washington State. The evaluation focused specifically on the relationship of P4P and its effectiveness on parental engagement in services and case outcomes. The findings unveil:

Parent Engagement

- A positive relationship between Dependency 101 attendance and service compliance at the first review hearing and permanency planning hearing for mothers and fathers
- A positive relationship between Dependency 101 attendance and visitation compliance at review and permanency planning hearings for mothers; a relationship between Dependency 101 and visitation compliance at the permanency planning hearing for fathers

Case Outcomes

- A relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 and increased reunification rates
 - 70% of parents who participated in Dependency 101 reunified with their children
 - 53% of parents who did not participate in Dependency 101 reunified with their children
- A relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 decreased TPR rates
 - 26% of parents who participated in Dependency 101 had their parental rights terminated
 - 39% of parents who did not participate in Dependency 101 had their parental rights terminated
- When parents participated in Dependency 101 and received additional mentoring from Parent Allies
 - 79% of parents reunified with their children

No relationship between parent participation in Dependency 101 and length of time until permanency. This may suggest that future studies should explore the additional parent support components the program offers and their time to permanency.

Evaluations can be accessed at: <http://www.uwcita.org/parents-for-parents-education-and-engagement-for-parents-in-dependency/>



For more information, please contact:

Heather Cantamessa, national family impact program manager at Children's Home Society of Washington
Heather.Cantamessa@chs-wa.org