



# Parents & Practitioners

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## Bring, Brag and Borrow

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The 2012 CBCAP Grantees Meeting will include CBCAP leads and Parent Advisory Council members sharing knowledge and resources with each other. The morning session will highlight exemplary practices from the field related to data management, parent leadership, sustainability, and promoting fidelity in evidence-based/evidence-informed programs and practices. The afternoon session will follow a **Three-B format; Bring, Brag, and Borrow**. Representatives from state lead agencies and PAC members will share materials and ideas related to *"Telling the Prevention Story: sharing results to improve services, engage stakeholders and the community, promote public awareness, and garner sup-*

*port for prevention."* The goal of the Bring, Brag, and Borrow is to ensure that parents and practitioners have the opportunity to share knowledge and resources with each other.

The triple B format is an excellent way to share how the parent voice can be used to "Tell the Prevention Story". During the triple B, PAC members will share examples of how parent leaders are effective in promoting the improvement of services, engagement of stakeholders and promotion of public awareness. Meeting participants are encouraged to bring one copy of any materials from their state or program related to the topic of *Telling the Prevention Story*, such as promotional materials, brochures, public service

announcements, newspaper articles, reports and report templates. The audience will hear a 3 minute elevator pitch from practitioners and a parent leader on how they effectively use resources and strategies to tell the prevention story. The audience will then participate in small group triple B at their table. As in the style of a community café, participants will share their resources and hear from others before switching to a table of new participants. Individuals granting permission will have their materials posted and accessible on the FRIENDS website, so we all can benefit from the combined wisdom and experience of our CBCAP colleagues and PAC members.

~Submitted by MaryJo Alimena Caruso

**FRIENDS National Resource Center is a program of Chapel Hill Training Outreach Project, Inc.**

### FRIENDS Partners are:

- \* Child Welfare League of America. [www.CWLA.org](http://www.CWLA.org)
- \* Circle Of Parents [www.circleofparents.org](http://www.circleofparents.org)
- \* Human Systems Dynamics [www.hsdinstitute.org](http://www.hsdinstitute.org)
- \* Independent Living Resources Inc [www.independentlivingresources.com](http://www.independentlivingresources.com)

## Parent Leaders Meet at CBCAP Grantees Meeting

Are you bringing a parent to the CBCAP Grantees meeting? For the first time parent leaders at last year's CBCAP Grantees Meeting held their first parent networking meeting to discuss issues pertinent to their roles. This year parent leaders will meet again, with an agenda of developing action steps to implement in the year to come. It is exciting for the parents to have this opportunity to voice their opinions, develop a plan of action and coordinate nation-

ally to make this happen. National Parent Leader Tanya Long had this to say last year after the meeting, "Parents and parent leaders have had to face various difficulties in working with organizations and agencies to bring about change to their families and communities. We have persevered and learned to not give up or give in. Such perseverance and inner strength have served to enable us to be the best partners with our organizations and

agencies. We are positioned to serve and to partner with social workers, administrators, educators, health officials and others to do our part in making sure we strengthen ourselves, our families, communities and eventually, working together, our nation."

~Editor



**Tanya Long**

## Get Involved! Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. It's the month each year when efforts are redirected to keep children safe so they never experience abuse, such as sexual abuse.

As parents, professionals and in organizations, institutions, and communities, **All TOGETHER we CAN prevent child sexual abuse.**

**Stop It Now!** was founded on the belief that adults are in the best position to keep children safe from sexual abuse. By adults, we mean parents, survivors, family members, law enforcement, and professionals of all types. We also believe that people who might sexually abuse a child have an important role to play in prevention.

No other prevention program has ever directly challenged all adults to take full responsibility for ending sexual abuse.

Challenging individuals to hold themselves accountable is an important and bold first step towards stopping the sexual abuse of children. But it is not enough. We must broaden the notion of adult responsibility to inspire families and communities to push for a corresponding change in societal attitudes and government policies. As a society, we can't identify effective solutions until we have the courage to face the real problem—people we care about who have lost control.

### What You Can Do:

Plan for [Summer Safety](#) if you're a

parent or program administrator.

Link to [10 Things to Remember When You Talk with Kids about Sexuality](#) to promote the 2012 theme of healthy sexuality.

Sign [Stop It Now's petition](#) that calls for U.S. federal agencies to [require prevention policies](#) for youth-serving organizations.

Connect on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to speak out and share [tools for action](#).

To get advice on how to stop child sexual abuse You can call the Help Line at 1-888 PREVENT (1-888 773-8368) to get your questions answered.

For more information and to link to information mentioned in this article go to <http://www.stopitnow.org>.

## Tips for Parents: Teen Driving

The DMV Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Teen Safe Driving Wants Parents to Know:

- **Crashes Kill Teens:** Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of death for 15-19 year old teenagers. Most teen crashes occur during the first two years of having their license. The first six months are most dangerous for the newly-licensed teen. **Provide as much supervised practice as you can during the licensing period.**
- **Brain Development:** Research shows that the portion of the brain that assesses risk and danger does not fully develop until the mid 20's. Teens are risk-takers, lacking the experience, judgment and maturity to recognize many potentially hazardous situations.
- **Passenger Restrictions:** Enforce at home state laws on passenger restrictions. Crash risk goes up when teens drive with other teens in the car. This risk also increases with the number of passengers, whether sib-

lings, family or friends, in the vehicle.

- **Restrict Night Driving:** Fatal crashes are more likely to occur at night. Young drivers are at higher risk for drowsy driving, which causes thousands of crashes each year. Enforce the state curfew.
- **It's the Law - Require Your Teen to Buckle Up:** Teens have the lowest rate of seatbelt use. The simplest way to prevent car crash deaths and serious injuries is to buckle up.
- **No Drinking and Driving:** Have **Zero-Tolerance Law** for teens drinking and driving. Even one drink impairs a teen's driving ability and increases the risk of a crash. Be a good role model: Don't drink and drive, and reinforce this message with your teens.
- **Teach Your Teen About Distracted Driving:** Talking on the phone or with passengers, texting, dialing radio stations, unrestrained pets and other distracting activities in the car increase the risk of a serious crash.

- **Vehicle Selection Matters:** Avoid having your teen drive high performance vehicles or older model vehicles that lack improved safety technologies.
- **Financial Liability:** Make your teen aware of the financial consequences of a crash or a citation, including higher family insurance rates and liability for injuries or damage.
- **Know Your State Teen Driving Laws. Go to your state DMV website and look up teen state driving laws**
- **Get Involved:** Be a role model. Establish your own household rules and consequences. Stick to them no matter the hassle you receive from your teens. Your determination could save their lives.



## New Hampshire, Unsung Hero's Awards Celebration

Concord, NH - February 21, 2012 - Over 150 parents, children and supporters gathered in Governor and Council Chambers at the New Hampshire State House for the [5th annual Unsung Hero Awards Celebration](#). With Governor John Lynch, the New Hampshire Children's Trust/Prevent Child Abuse New Hampshire presented 29 awards, one for each day of the month to honor and recognize parents and caregivers. The honorees were nominated from all regions of New Hampshire and were selected by a committee comprised of last year's recipients, a community provider and board and staff from the New Hampshire Children's Trust.

Dr. Peirce Hunter of Bow, chairman of the board of the New Hampshire Children's Trust, welcomed families and friends representing all regions of New Hampshire. Hunter stated that, "as a group, the Unsung Heroes reflect the diversity of our population and the values and traditions that make New Hampshire a wonderful place for chil-

dren and families."

Dr. Hunter went on to say that "the Unsung Heroes have attributes known as [Protective Factors](#) present in their lives which play a major role in building a strong healthy family and a vibrant community. These Heroes show resiliency; have good support systems; know where to go for help; and they have compassion and knowledge of their child's development. With these attributes a family can handle most anything that comes their way in times of stress and uncertainty *and* children are happier! With protective factors, parents parent effectively, even under stress. As more parents build Protective Factors, more families will thrive."

Governor Lynch issued a Proclamation declaring February as Parent Recognition month, acknowledging that more parents each year are developing vital partnerships with service providers, policymakers, and key stakeholders to shape policy and serve as responsible role models for parents across the

state, creating safer communities for children. Following the proclamation, Governor Lynch went on to say "I've had lots of titles in my life and the most important is Dad." The Governor went on to congratulate each awardee and greet their families, later saying that "their stories are inspirational."

*~Press Release from NH Children's Trust, March 5.*



**Governor Lynch declares Feb. Parent Recognition Month**

## Parent Leader Profile: Melony Storm

Melony Storm is a proud and grateful mother of two children. She has been a full-time Parent Partner in Northwest Iowa since December 2007 and advanced to the Coordinator position in August 2009 covering the Sioux Cluster and added Woodbury County last year.

The Parent Partner program is a parent advocacy program partnering with families that have experienced the removal of a child from their home by the Department of Human Services. Parent Partners serve as mentors who support other parents who are struggling to keep their family together and to successfully parent. Parent Partners are parents whose life experience is seen as valued education. Staff members match parents with a Parent Partner who has gone through similar circumstances. Parent Partners are willing to commit to working with parents, not as counsel-

ors but as people whose life experience has taught them a lot about both success and struggles.

Melony also serves on Planning Councils in 5 Counties in Northwest Iowa, DEC (Drug Endangered Children) teams in 3 counties, Sioux Cluster Decat Governance Board, and the Northwest Early Childhood Iowa Board where she represents the Parent's voice. She has co-facilitated the Mom's Off Meth support group in Cherokee and is also trained in facilitating Strengthening Families, and is a master Trainer of Building a Better Future curriculum which is the foundation training for the Parent Partner Program. Melony also has an Associate Degree in Nursing and celebrated 6 years of recovery from substance abuse on March 1st.

Melony is a member of the FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council.



**Melony Storm, left and the Iowa Parent Partners she works with below.**



## Parents & Practitioners

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Family Resource Information, Education, and Network Development Service (FRIENDS)  
National Resource for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

**FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) is a service of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. We are a federally mandated Training and Technical Assistance Provider for CBCAP lead agencies. The Parent Advisory Council is a way that this agency leads by example; creating avenues for Parent Engagement and Involvement is one way we do so. This Newsletter is a result of parents being supported in their efforts to bridge the way between parents and practitioners working together in effective partnerships.**

**Next Issue : We'd love to hear stories about the CBCAP Grantees Meeting and OCAN conference and how you were impacted by parent leader participation.**

**We'd love to share your stories!**

We're on the web

[www.friendsnrc.org](http://www.friendsnrc.org)

## FRIENDS NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER INFO

### Welcome to Karina Forrest-Perkins Join The Network For Action

Linda Baker, FRIENDS Director, is pleased to announce that Karina Forrest-Perkins has assumed the lead position for the Circle of Parents national work with FRIENDS. Karina is the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. She is a long time child and family advocate serving in this role for over seventeen years. Karina is married and the mother of four children. She resides in St. Paul, MN. Strengthening families and helping to create stable communities is personally important to Karina.



Karina

Karina will be at the CBCAP Grantee's Meeting and the Network for Action so please join us in welcoming her to her new role.

The Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well-Being: Network for Action Project is sponsored by the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN), at the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Violence Prevention's Knowledge to Action Child Maltreatment Prevention Consortium Leadership Group (K2A), FRIENDS, and other national organizations and networks that support prevention efforts.

To join the conversations, visit <http://networkforaction.ning.com>. This social networking tool allows for ongoing collaboration among practitioners, academics, parent leaders, researchers, and other groups.

### Legislation Highlighting Parent Leadership

Parent involvement is an important part of prevention and is a mandatory part of the CBCAP program. Here is one section of CAPTA that explains the requirement to have the meaningful involvement of parents. This requirement helps to support our work to strengthen families.

Title II: Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA)

Section 205: A grant may not be made to a State under this title unless an application therefore is submitted by the State to the Secretary and such application contains the types of information specified by the Secretary as essential to carrying out the provisions of section 202, including—

- (6) an assurance that the State has the capacity to ensure the meaningful involvement of parents who are consumers and who can provide leadership in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the programs and policy decisions of the applicant agency in accomplishing the desired outcomes for such efforts: ~