



NEW YORK STATE
PARENTING
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL
REPORT
2020



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Message from NYSPEP Co-Chairs

Tim and I are pleased to share the 2019 NYSPEP Annual Report with you. We are now in our 12th year of collaborative work supporting parent educators! In 2019 we began our work with a second cohort of communities focused on enhancing the parenting education systems at a local level to increase knowledge, skills, and resources to nurture children. All of the NYSPEP communities have adopted a narrative of strength and resilience guided by the Protective Factors with an emphasis on promoting parents and families as leaders. NYSPEP's cross-systems state level efforts are reflected in the work of these community coalitions as they work to bring diverse systems representatives to their local table.

The 2019 Summer Training Institute entitled *Building Supportive Relationships While Working Respectfully with Families* was a success. The day focused on the impacts of structural racism and implicit bias on family structure and parenting practices. It featured Julika von Stackelberg, NYSPEP Credentialed Parenting Educator and Certified Parenting Coach at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Don Campbell, a fathering specialist and Master Coach for The Mount Sinai Hospital, Priscilla Shorter, Parent Partner at the IDEAS Center, Jackie Campbell, Director of ROC the Future, Michael Campbell, co-owner of North Star Rites of Passage, and Kara Georgi, Parent Leader.

As our NYSPEP membership has grown and changed over the last year, Tim and I launched a series of listening sessions with the Steering Committee members. The feedback from the sessions provided an opportunity to identify strategic priorities around recruitment of key member organizations, strengthening partnerships, parent leadership, and promoting a model of and commitment to equity for all families and children. These collective discussions help us and use a quality improvement approach to assess where we are, how we can grow and where we may change to ensure we remain connected to pulse of the parents and parenting educators in our communities.

As always we would like to thank the Convener organizations; Office of Mental Health, Office of Children and Family Services, State Education Department, Council on Children and Families and Prevent Child Abuse NY. Without their continued support NYSPEP would not be able to advance this work with such effectiveness!"



Timothy Hathaway
NYSPEP Co-Chair
Prevent Child Abuse NY
Executive Director



Kristin Weller
NYSPEP Co-Chair
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About Us

The New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) is a statewide cross-systems initiative designed to ensure all children grow in nurturing families, by enhancing parents' knowledge, skills and behavior. NYSPEP informs and supports close to 2,300 practitioners, program managers, researchers and policymakers to promote, provide and improve evidence-based parenting education. Parenting education is a core component of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen family and community approaches to healthy child development and help prevent child abuse and neglect. When the rate of indicated reports of child abuse is as high as 45/1000 for children ages 0-17 years in some counties in NYS, the capacity of families to raise healthy children and the cost to the larger community must be considered a public health issue. Effective parenting education programs have been linked with better physical, cognitive and emotional development in children; increased parental knowledge of child development and parenting skills; improved parent-child communication; more effective parental monitoring and discipline; reduced youth substance abuse; and decreased rates of child abuse and neglect.

2019 Progress

In 2019, New York Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) celebrated twelve years of collaborative work supporting parenting educators, defined broadly as all professionals with the expertise and knowledge to provide parents with developmentally appropriate strategies to guide healthy development of the children in their care. NYSPEP leaders have taken significant steps this year to advance our mission “To enhance parenting skills, knowledge and behavior by developing a strong, statewide network that promotes, provides and improves parenting education.” We are pleased to share our recent accomplishments.

Community Coalition: 2019-2020 Awards and Reports

Cohort 2

In March 2019, NYSPEP awarded three grants, of \$5,000 each, to help providers increase access to research-based parenting education programs and proven practice models that impart knowledge, skills and resources to nurture children. Funds were awarded to three counties (Cohort 2**) in New York State including, Tioga, Niagara and Clinton County. Focused criteria asked applicants to demonstrate how their program builds upon the Protective Factors, engagement of families and parents and facilitation of community café conversations. The grant year concluded with a one-day professional development *Strong Roots* training in each community.

Cohort 1

NYSPEP concurrently awarded three grants, of \$1,000 each to continue partnership in Orange, Steuben and Tompkins County (Cohort 1*). Funds were awarded to support the community café opportunities in each respective county. Additionally, NYSPEP award one grant, of \$1000 to Steuben County to host a one-day professional development *Strong Roots* training day.

NYSPEP *Strong Roots* trainings offer full-day, high-quality content developed by experienced professionals in the field and are associated with effectiveness in parenting education. NYSPEP delivered four Strong Roots in conjunction with our community coalition cohorts.

**** signifies Cohort 2 activities. * signifies Cohort 1 activities.**

Clinton County**

The mission of Parenting Education Coalition of Clinton County is to work together to expand parenting education opportunities that help parents buffer and protect their children from trauma; improve their parenting skills, knowledge, behaviors and protective factors so that children grow up healthy and well-adjusted.

The Coalition's vision is to ultimately improve outcomes for the children in Clinton County through the expanded delivery of a variety of evidence-based parenting education opportunities. The Coalition especially focus on parents who are at risk for child abuse and maltreatment. This initiative provided the opportunity for the Nurturing Parenting Program to be introduced to Clinton County and coordinated the delivery of several parenting education series using the evidence-based curriculum offered to parents.

The Parenting Education Coalition of Clinton County accomplished 5 community cafe discussions over five communities within Clinton County. A total of 98 participates attended the café conversations, including 32 parent leaders.

Strong Roots

On January 17th, 2020, The Parenting Education Coalition of Clinton County hosted a regional Strong Roots event, *Ambiguous Loss with Deborah Langosch*. A total of 69 attendees participated in the professional development day. Participates learned about distinguish ambiguous loss from other forms of loss and bereavement as well recognize the impacts of these types of losses on children, adolescents and families.

Niagara County**

The Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies Coalition was initially formed over 20 years ago and was initially known as the Niagara County Breastfeeding Coalition. Over the years, the various

agency and community representatives came to realize the value in incorporating a broader scope of the supports needed to encourage healthy and thriving families. With the new vision, the Coalition went through a variety of iterations until it was relaunched in 2010 as the Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies Coalition.

The mission of the Coalition is to improve birth outcomes and promote healthy families by facilitating and providing systems and resources for families to access care, education and support for those facing the physical, emotional, economic and social challenges of pregnancy and parenting.

The Coalition's vision includes Increased and ongoing cultural competency trainings available to all service providers. Being educated on the history and cultural background of the people each agency serves would further show compassion and caring and help to gain trust with those families. As well, men's awareness of their importance in the life of their child would be increased and their understanding of positive parent-child interaction would be improved. Children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy, and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity compared to children who have uninvolved fathers.

The Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies Coalition accomplished 5 community cafe discussions within Niagara County. A total of 32 participates attended the café conversations, including 9 parent leaders. Topics included developing a parent support group and sustainability.

Strong Roots

On February 25th, 2020, The Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies Coalition hosted a regional Strong Roots event, *Protective Factors and Self-Care*. A total of 52 attendees participated in the 2 part professional development day. Gerald Smith presented the session on the Five Protective Factors as the foundation of the Strengthening Families Approach: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Support in times of need, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, and Social and Emotional Competence of children. Adrienne Garr presented on Self-Care, highlighting the importance for the health and wholeness of all social and human services workers. The session explored the differences and the effects of compassion fatigue, burnout and vicarious trauma and how self-care can reduce the effects of all three for those in the helping professions.

Tioga County**

Tioga Strong Families coalition will be established through the existing CCE Tioga Family Development Program Advisory Committee. The mission of the current Family Development Program is to support the five protective factors known to prevent child abuse and neglect: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Supports in Times of Need, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children. The

Coalition's vision is that all children in Tioga County will be raised in safe and supportive families within supportive communities. The Tioga Strong Families Coalition will work to educate the community about the protective factors framework, engage community members in discussion about community strengths and needs specific to family supports, and identify action steps to increase the protective factors in our community. The Tioga Strong Families Coalition accomplished 5 community cafe discussions over five communities within Tioga County. A total of 20 participants attended the café conversations, including 12 parent leaders.

Strong Roots

On February 12th, 2020, The Tioga Strong Families Coalition hosted a regional Strong Roots event, *Building Blocks for Resilience* in Waverly, New York. A total of 39 attendees participated in the full day training. Participants explored the concepts of Parental Resilience, Mindfulness and Stress Identification. Judy Wolf presented the interactive workshop on Parental Resilience. Participants learn how to identify and support resilience in their work with families. Jackie Spencer led Incorporating Mindfulness Techniques into Your Work. This session explored the research base connecting mindful practice with resilience throughout the lifespan. Liz Myers and Sarah DiNunzio co-facilitated The Stress Stairway workshop. This workshop highlighted stress identification as an important skill in strengthening relationships and communicating effectively for caregivers, for youth and for those working with families.

Orange County Parenting Coalition*

The Orange County Parenting Coalition (OCPC) is dedicated to children and families in Orange County. The OCPC provides members of the community with resources for parenting education and support services that strengthen families. The OCPC was founded on the premise that good parenting is not a learned skill and formal teaching and support are necessary to learn, build and develop parents' capacity.

OCPC accomplished 5 community café discussions within Orange County. Over 100 participants engaged in the community café conversations. Café topics included screening of the film *Resilience* followed by a community café to identify how members of the Tabernacle in Middletown can support families in creating nurturing environments for the children of their community. The OCPC collaborated with Port Jervis School District and local law enforcement to host a community café organized by parent leaders.

Kids on Track Steuben County*

Aligned under the Southern Tier Kids On Track outcome framework, Kids on Track Steuben implements the common agenda to increase the number of children who are proficient students by third grade. To accomplish this, Kids on Track Steuben advance cross system work to promote foundations of school success including: (1) safe, nurturing environments where

children are cared for by adults with the capability to foster healthy development and model self-regulation; (2) early detection and treatment for delays; and (3) developmental play and learning experiences for children. The Steuben coalition as an early childhood initiative, is focused on the birth to 8 age group.

The Kids on Track Steuben County Coalition accomplished 5 community café discussions. Café topics included parent leadership and the screening of the film, *Resilience* followed by a discussion on how to buffer toxic stress for children. The coalition partnered with a local MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group as well.

Strong Roots

On February 27th, 2020, NYSPEP and Kids on Track Steuben County held a Community Coalition Strong Roots training event, *Culturally Responsive Communities* in Painted Post, NY. A total of 55 participants attended the training day. The morning session on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion was presented by Michelle Caulfield with the Corning-Painted Post Area School District. Following Michelle's presentation, attendees heard from a panel of program participants and program staff on shared learnings from navigating differences in background, experience and understanding. The afternoon session included a Cultural Exchange Exercise followed by "Open Space" small group discussion.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County*

Tompkins Families! Coalition Strengthen and support parents, families and communities through education. The focus of the coalition is on the well-being of children, reducing child abuse and neglect through parenting education. The vision of Tompkins Families! Coalition is "Every child in Tompkins County will have optimal developmental outcomes." To achieve this vision, the coalition's mission is through a "collaborative of multiple perspectives, including parents, grandparents, community members, organizations, businesses, and government agencies," who:

- Focused on prenatal – 0 – 5, recognizing the vital importance of the first five years of life in the physical, social-emotional and cognitive development of children
- Maximize resources, assets and fill gaps to assure children have what they need to grow and flourish and those who care for them have information and access to the level of support they need when they need it
- Champion the needs of children during their early years by taking individual and collective action

Tompkins Families! Coalition accomplished five community café conversations in and around the Enfield community. Over 70 community members including parents, children and professionals benefitted from the programming and outreach to the rural community. Café topics included school activities, community engagement and education through the film, *DNA is not Destiny*. The coalition plans on continued use of the community café model to keep the collaborative engaged, strong and responsive moving forward.

Community Cafés

Community Café initiatives have been supported by NYSPEP and its member agencies since 2012. Community Cafés are culturally relevant, neighborhood-based opportunities for families and the community service providers to build relationships, develop leadership skills, and identify issues that ensure safe, secure, nurturing environments for the children and families who live in these neighborhoods.

Using the World Café Model and based on the Protective Factors Framework, Community Cafés are a series of guided conversations with four common objectives:

1. Build parent capacity to help families thrive.
2. Build community-based organizations' capacity to support parent partners in hosting Community Cafés.
3. Identify and strengthen community supports that engage and protect families.
4. Build community capacity to create action plans that enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of families.

In 2018, NYSPEP provided our community coalition grantees with a training of trainers on the community café model. Equipped with their training, the cohort facilitated over 40 community cafes throughout their counties. To learn more about the Community Café work in New York, please visit www.nyspep.org/community-cafes.

Annual Member Meeting

The Annual Member Meeting, or Spring Institute, is traditionally an opportunity to promote research-to-practice and emerging issues for a wide audience of parenting educators. The NYSPEP Annual Member Meeting was held on June 5th, 2019 at the Carondelet Hospitality Center in Latham, NY with 59 registered attendees present. The theme for the day was *Building Supportive Relationships While Working Respectfully with Families*. Our keynote speaker, Julika von Stackelberg kicked us off with a presentation on working respectfully with all families and discussed our current systems and structures as well as how implicit bias plays a role in all our lives. Julika shared a video created by PBS called "[Implicit Bias: Peanut Butter, Jelly and Racism](#)". In the afternoon, we were joined by a panel of four experienced individuals in the field of parenting education. Don Campbell shared his experience working as a fathering specialist in Queens, NY while Priscilla Shorter shared her experience raising her son as a young mother navigating through the healthcare systems. Jackie and Michael Campbell share their experience as facilitators of the Effective Black Parenting Curriculum in Rochester, NY. Our Parent Leader, Kara Georgi continued the conversation with participates through a community cafe discussion. Participates shared their thoughts, ideas and experience and the relevance of the theme for the day through the cafe discussion.

Webinars

NYSPEP also collaborated with steering committee members and other agencies to provide five professional development webinars at no cost for 419 total registrants on the following topics:

- What Divides Us: The Foundations of Implicit Bias and its Impact on Parenting
- Family (Home) Visits: An Effective Strategy for Relationship Building and Mindset Shifts
- The NYSPEP Parenting Educator Credential: What is it...Who should have it..and Why?
- Understanding and Challenging Implicit Bias
- NYSPEP Community Café ToT Pre-requisite

NYSPEP Parenting Educator Credential

NYSPEP's Parenting Educator Credential defines the knowledge and skills needed by all parenting educators to provide high-quality programs and successfully implement evidence-based curricula. The Aspire Registry is a required first step in the credential process, providing a resource for the parenting educators to track professional development events and employment history. Peer review panels assess applicant portfolios that document competence achieved through education, training and experience.

In this program year, one parenting educator was newly credentialed, and 4 completed their renewal. There are currently 46 Credentialed Parenting Educators. The Credentialed Parenting Educator Competency List update was implemented with applicants. This update increase alignment with the National Parenting Education Network document, Parenting Educator Competencies: A Resource Document for the Field of Parenting Education (NPEN 2018). Revisions were also made to more accurately identify competence in the areas of trauma, resilience, protective factors, and diversity. In fall of 2019, a webinar was delivered and recorded to introduce potential applicants to the credential application process. A webinar on Ethical Practice for Parenting Educators was developed and will be delivered in the summer of 2020. These webinars are designed to present competency content to parenting educators and support them in the development of their applications.

Online Database

NYSPEP actively posts on Facebook and between March 1st, 2019 to February 29th, 2020, NYSPEP's followers have increased by 50 followers totaling to 449 followers. NYSPEP's page reach for post during this period was 5,479 and the page was viewed 1,872 times.

NYSPEP extends many thanks to the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) for its continued support of excellence in parenting education across the state of New York. OMH provides a grant to NYSPEP's fiscal agent, Prevent Child Abuse New York. NYSPEP also wishes to thank our Conveners, Steering Committee members, partners, and individuals who have contributed to and supported our work.

Conveners of the New York State Parenting Education Partnership

- NYS Council on Children and Families
- NYS Office of Children and Family Services / Children and Family Trust Fund
- NYS Office of Mental Health
- Prevent Child Abuse New York
- NYS Education Department

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