



Parent Support Fact Sheet

February 2020

Effectiveness of Parent Support

- Parent support provides many important services for consumers to assist caregivers in effective caring for their children. According to the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (2011), this unique form of support is powerful due to the fact that it can “provide emotional support and information in especially meaningful ways because of the shared experiences. Many parents find it helpful to learn how other families have managed similar situations” (p. 2).
- Parent to parent mentoring programs may provide support groups and social gatherings, which allow for discussion, guidance, personal sharing and fostering connections between parents, leading to increased social supports for parents (Minnesota Technical Assistance for Family Support, 2011).
- Parent support programs can provide training around effective parenting, communication and child safety (La Alianza Hispana, 2012).
- Current literature supports the effectiveness of parent-to parent support in preventing child abuse and neglect. Statistics show that 75.8 percent of child abuse or neglect fatalities are caused by parent or caregivers. Parent support aims to reduce child abuse by providing social support to parents and caregivers who are at risk of abusing the children in their care. (Supharukchinda, 2006).
- Parent support can also be very beneficial to foster parents by providing guidance on navigating the foster care system, offering resources and referral services and empowering parents to make their own informed decisions based on gathered information. (Indiana Foster Care and Adoption Association, 2012).
- For families who have children with disabilities, parent support can discuss appropriate service providers and offer emotional supports (Singer et al., 1999).

Training and Reimbursement

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) provides a Resource Parent program available to caregivers of traumatized youth in Michigan. The program provides training for parents who wish to become mentors, or Resource Parents, to other adults in their community in order to share their knowledge and advise.
- Parent support can be reimbursed through Medicaid in Michigan to provide support to families. Parent support offers training opportunities to parents and caregivers around basic parent advocacy, legislation and emotional supports (MDHHS, 2011).

- Parent support services are funded by Medicaid under the Family Training Services Section. Specialists can be paid for service provided up to two times a day for participating in either parent-to-parent supports or Resource Parent Training. Parent-to-parent supports may include training, education and support to parents of children with serious emotional disturbance or developmental disabilities (MDHHS, 2011).
- Resource Parent or Parent-to-Parent trainings “must be provided by a trained parent using the MDHHS endorsed curriculum” (MDHHS, 2011). Parents eligible to receive the training must have experience parenting children who have experienced trauma.

Resources

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Contact: 517-241-3740

Family Alliance For Change
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Michigan Alliance for Families
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