



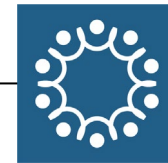
Session 4: Parents as Partners to Advance Health Equity

ITCP Health Equity Learning Series



**Center for the
Study of
Social Policy**
Ideas into Action

February 8th, 3:00-4:30pm ET



Safe Babies
A Program of ZERO TO THREE



CSSP Introductions

The Center for the Study of Social Policy works to achieve a *racially, economically, and socially just* society in which all children, youth, and families thrive.

We translate *ideas into action*, promote *public policies* grounded in equity, and support *strong and inclusive communities*. We advocate with and for all children, youth, and families marginalized by public policies and institutional practices.



Shadi Houshyar (she/her)
Senior Associate



Juanita Gallion (she/her)
Director, Capacity Building and
Leadership Development



Arthur Argomaniz (he/him)
Senior Program Analyst



Alexandra Citrin (she/her)
Senior Associate



Parent Leader Introductions

The National ITCP Advisory Group for Parents' Voices is made up of parent leaders from across the country, each with lived experience in child welfare, who are currently serving as peer mentors, supporting systems change/improvement efforts, and are advocating for parents across the country.

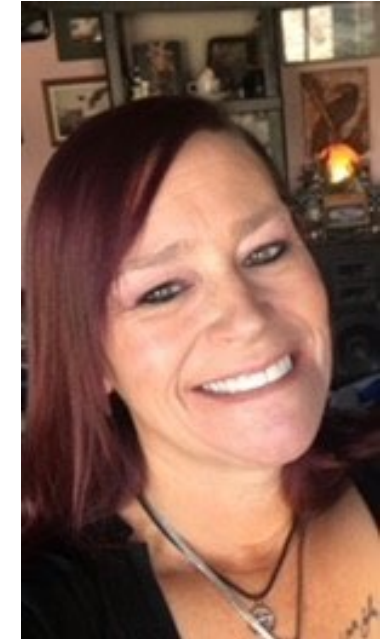
Zero to Three Parent Leaders are consultants with lived experience who inform all levels of our work. These Parent Leaders are integral members of the team, catalyzing early childhood system change with their experience and engagement.



Kim Nabarro
Zero to Three Parent Leader
Pearl City, Hawai'i



Lindsay Calveri
Zero to Three Parent Leader
Des Moines, Iowa



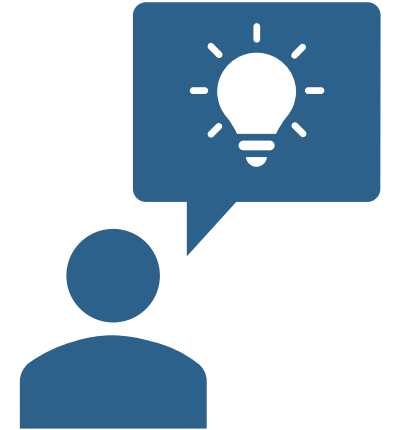
Crystal Hallock
Zero to Three Parent Leader
Reno, Nevada



Context Setting

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and The National Resource Center for the Infant Toddler Court Program are offering this virtual learning series to Infant Toddler Court Program (ITCP) state teams and their partners as they engage in the critical work of advancing health equity.

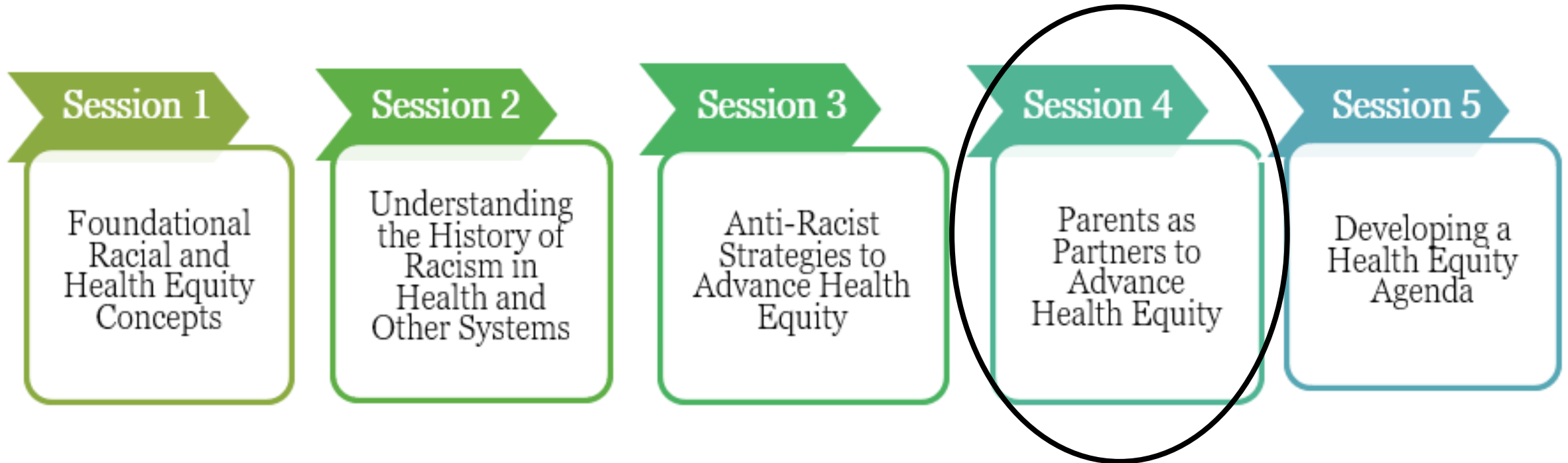
This series is designed to **provide state teams and partners with a foundational understanding of health equity and racial equity**, and how to develop anti-racist approaches in their work. For those states that have developed a Disparity Impact Statement to improve health outcomes for infants, toddlers, and their families, the series will also support their efforts.



This program was made possible through the support of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$7,560,000 with 0 percent financed from non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.HRSA.gov)



Learning Series Overview



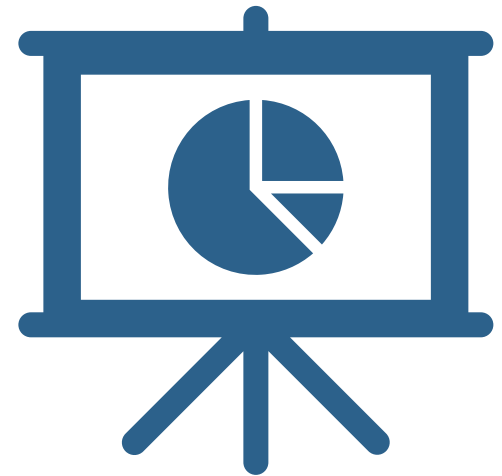
Sessions are designed to build upon each other over time, and we encourage you to attend them all.



Desired Results for Today's Session

Participants will:

- Learn about **strategies that center parent and family voices** in health equity efforts
- Develop a shared understanding of **how to integrate and sustain parent and family leadership**
- **Hear from parent leaders** who are helping to change systems
- Identify strategies they can employ to **increase parent and family partnership** in their work





Agenda for Today

- Welcome and check-in
- Defining parent partnerships and what it means to partner with parents and families
- Understanding parent experiences in partnering with systems
- Sharing examples of parent partnership strategies that can advance racial and health equity
- Reflections and Q&A
- Closing and check-out





Poll Question One: What role are you representing?

Poll Question Two: Are parents currently involved as partners in your racial and health equity efforts?

Defining a Shared Approach to Partnering with Parents and Families



How do you define parent partnership in advancing health equity?

Go to [Menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter code: 3925 6193



ITCP Parent Leaders

- ◎ **Parent leaders are individuals who are committed to making positive changes** in their family and community, at the state, and national level **by using their experiences as participants**. Parent leaders build upon their knowledge and skills to **take on meaningful leadership roles** within programs, agencies, and communities.
- ◎ Within the ITCP model parent leaders serve as a “**parent voice**” to **help shape the direction of services** for themselves and other families.
- ◎ The strategy for Parent Leadership at the National Resource Center/State or Site level of an Infant Toddler Court is to **work with Parent Leaders with lived experience** as parents who have navigated the reunification process within the child welfare system. Their **focus is on incorporating the lived experience** at the child welfare and court systems level.

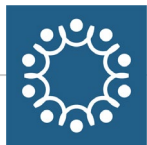
Source: [Safe Babies, Zero to Three](#)



Parent Leadership

- ◎ Focusing on parent leadership helps to **create a mutual benefit. Organizations can support parents in their leadership development. Parents support** by offering their knowledge, expertise, and voice to support organizations and programs.
- ◎ Parent leaders **engage decision-making, advocate for children and families, engage and educate other parents, and help develop and lead projects.**
- ◎ Systems and organizations should fully embrace parents as partners in order to **create a radical shift in the ways parents are seen and included.**

Sources: [EC-LINC Ripples of Transformation](#) and [Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Engagement](#)

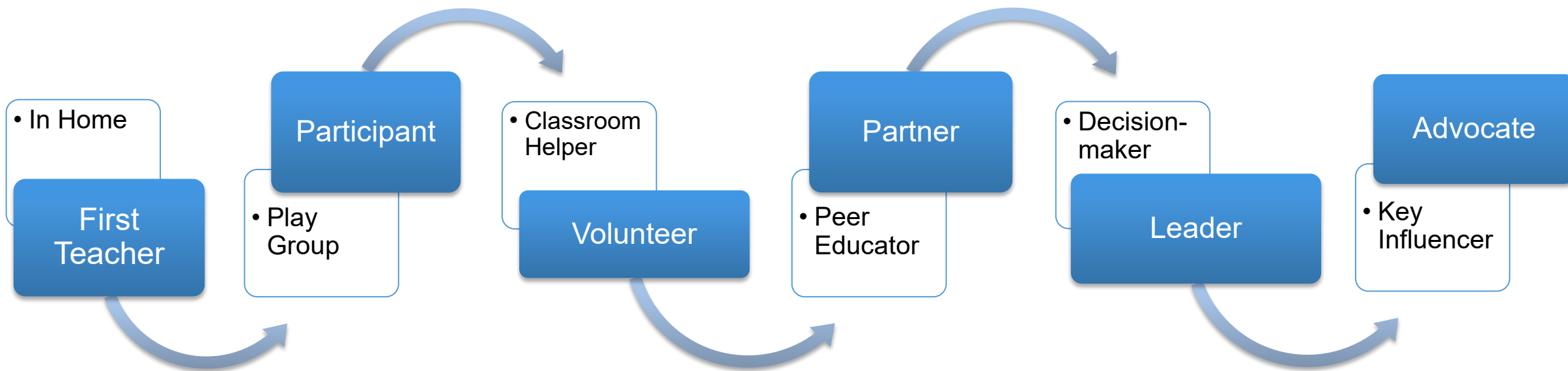


Parent Leadership at Multiple Levels





Continuum of Parent Leadership



Empowered parents:

- Are equal partners
- Have choices and agency
- Can see how they make a difference

Agencies centering equity:

- Are family-centered
- Create leadership pathways
- Work to eliminate structural barriers

Source: [EC-LINC Ripples of Transformation](#)



Principles for Parent Partnership

- Move from **engagement to partnering with parents**
- Value and respect their **lived experience as ONLY part of their expertise**
- **Value parent's time**, including paying stipends when appropriate
- **Partner with parents** in all aspects of the work that impacts the community
- **Transparency and clear communication** regarding the role parent leaders will play
- **Accountability** to parents and partnerships

**Lessons Learned from
Partnering with Parents and
Families**



What lessons have you learned in partnering with parents and families to advance equity?

Go to [Menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter code: 3925 6193



Learning From Parents: Partnering with Systems

- How have you **experienced or seen parent and family voices being centered** in healthcare? In other systems? Within the ITCP?
- What works to **sustain parent and family leadership**?
- **How can parents be meaningfully engaged** in advancing health and wellbeing? What works? What doesn't?
- Are there particular **barriers you've experienced or observed** in partnering with systems?
- Are there bright spots – **examples of how parent voices are centered, valued, or included**?



Learning From Parents: Partnering with Systems

- 1. Organizational commitment** (e.g., leadership buy-in, resource allocation, shared goals and values, policies and practices, transparency, workforce training and development, accountability)
- 2. Trusting relationships** (e.g., cultural humility and responsiveness, mutual respect, language justice, community connections)
- 3. Family voices** (e.g., inclusive and diverse representation, valuing and centering lived experience, intentional power sharing, co-creation and facilitation)
- 4. Family supports** (e.g., equitable compensation, reducing barriers to participation, training and leadership development)



Learning From Parents: Partnering with Systems

Areas to Focus on:

- **Workforce training and development** on family leadership to build capacity
- **Creating trusting relationships** through cultural responsiveness, cultural humility and respect
- **Language access and justice** to support cultural and linguistic diversity
- **Resource availability, access, and allocation** in communities and to services regardless of system involvement

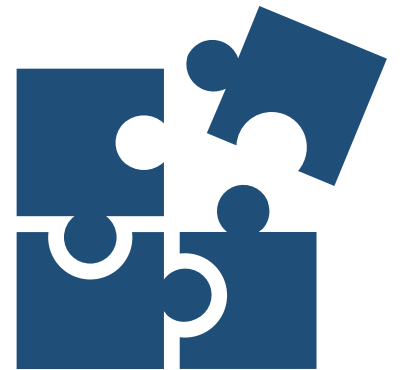
Reflections and Q&A

**Examples of Parent and Community
Led Efforts to Advance Health
Equity**



Examples of Parents and Communities Leading

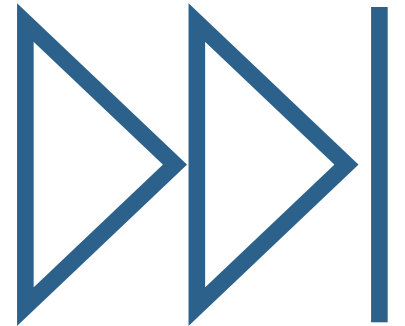
- [Vital Villages Networks](#)
- [Community Organizing and Family Issues \(COFI\)](#)
- [Hennepin Healthcare](#)





Next Steps

- Complete brief evaluation form
- Consider any strategies you may want to learn more about or begin to implement. What might be your next step in moving forward with this strategy?
- Attend Session Five on **Developing a Health Equity Agenda** on April 17th, 3:00-4:30pm ET





Thank You