During times of crisis, it is easy to point fingers of blame – if only that agency had stepped in, if only that person would have done more. The blame continues. Instead of pointing fingers, what if we stretched out our hands towards each other as if to say, “We will connect, so that there will not be a next time.”

In these perilous times, organizations that support families have the opportunity to create and strengthen their connections to other agencies that provide services to families including medical providers, mental and behavioral health agencies, substance abuse counselors, justice departments, housing agencies, among many others. These strong connections will provide a continuum of services to families through the vertical and horizontal transitions that may occur in their lives.

Building these connections could potentially start with evaluating your advisory committee members. To evaluate who is needed at the table, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this representative/organization an integral part of the community?
- How does this organization impact the quality of the lives of our families?
- Can individuals from this organization offer a different point of view?
- How does this organization influence the community?
- How can this collaboration move our mission forward?
- How can this collaboration move the organization’s mission forward?

Anchoring concrete support in times of need is not only essential for the families that we serve, but it is also necessary to produce program outcomes we desire to achieve. Building healthy connections to be used as a resource when needed, provides us a collective unified voice – a voice that is needed to move beyond tough times, a voice that will hopefully take us to new platforms and a brighter future.
Parents as Teachers News

Parents as Teachers offers many resources about implementing PAT and strengthening your services. This month we are promoting the following two resources:

**Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit**

Fathers play an integral role in the development of their children that is different from a mother’s role. Whether living with their children or apart from them, fathers can be actively involved in their children’s lives.

This toolkit is a resource for parent educators to help fathers increase their participation in Parents as Teachers, knowledge of child development and parenting skills, and engagement in their children’s lives.

Go to the Parents as Teachers website to find more information about the Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit.

**Diversity in Families, Children and You Online Training**

Diversity in Families, Children and You is an online training product designed for early childhood and family support professionals. It incorporates self-paced activities and reading materials within a three-module curriculum. The responsive design format allows participants access from any device via an internet connection. The content complements the Parents as Teachers approach to parenting education for families. Participants will receive 6 professional development hours from Parents as Teachers.

Go to the Parents as Teachers website to find more information about Diversity in Families, Children and You.

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**Resource Spotlight: Parent Translations of Protective Factors**

The Alliance National Parent Partnership Council (ANPPC) is a parent-led initiative created by the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds. The ANPPC is committed to serving as a national model for effectively partnering with parents. This dynamic group has created a series of resources to support community-based organizations, build parent leadership and relationships as well as magnify the voices of parents in their programs. The ANPPC recognizes that the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework resonates deeply with parents – so much so that many parent groups have put the five protective factors into their own everyday language.

Parent Groups Translate the Protective Factors, a new resource in the Need2Know series, explores how parents from around the country describe the five protective factors that are present in strong families. The resource includes materials that parent-led groups have created to remember the five protective factors as well as links to each initiative to learn more about how parents are building these protective factors.

This resource can be used in many ways in your program. Consider using it to begin a conversation about protective factors at your next parent council or advisory group, or share at your next staff meeting to generate new ideas about how to talk with families about protective factors.

For more information about other resources developed by ANPPC, go to the Need2Know web page from the National Alliance’s website.

**Sources**

Safe Kids Corner

Medication Safety

National Poison Prevention Week, March 18-24, 2018

Over 4 billion prescriptions are filled each year, which is 125 prescriptions filled every second. Each year more than 59,000 young children are seen in the emergency department (ED) because they ingested some type of medication. Ninety-five percent of those ED visits are children under the age of five. Finding medication on the floor is the most common incident for young children to ingest medication.

Tips to Prevent Medication Poisoning in Children

• Store all medication out of reach and sight; child proof lids do not prevent children getting to the medication

• Teach children to ask an adult before eating something of the ground

• Use a dosing device that comes with the medication when providing medication to children

• Write clear instructions for other people who may need to administer medication to your child

• Check all products that may cause harm, even those that might not be medication

• Save the Poison Help Line number in your phone and display it in a visible area at home – (800) 222-1222
Parents as Teachers

Until one month prior to the event, registration will only be open to Pennsylvania participants. If you have a new hire in the month before the event, contact Wenda Deardorff.

PAT Foundational & Model Implementation

For new parent educators & supervisors of affiliate programs

Apr 16-20, Camp Hill, Pa.
May 14-18, Camp Hill, Pa.

PAT Foundational

For new approved users

Apr 16-18, Camp Hill, Pa.
May 14-16, Camp Hill, Pa.

PA Foundational 2: 3 Years through Kindergarten

Apr 9-10, Homestead, Pa.
July 16-17, Camp Hill, Pa.

Parents as Teachers

Family Support Webinars
First Wednesday of the month
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Apr 11, Health Systems
May 2, Parent Advocacy

Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers Regional Meetings
Apr 23, State College, Pa.
Apr 24, Allentown, Pa.
May 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

PAT Knowledge Studio Course

The Sharing Corner

The Sharing Corner is for you, by you. Share your expertise, celebrations, testimonies and news. Send an email with the information you would like to share to Wenda Deardorff.

Family Support at the Center for Schools and Communities provides training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers providers, Children’s Trust Fund grantees and the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.

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Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers is based at the Center for Schools and Communities. Learn more at the following sites:
Children’s Trust Fund
Strengthening Families