

Families & Communities United (FCU)



What has FCU been up to?

March 2013

Families and Communities United (FCU) was formed in August of 2010. What a long way we've come! FCU continues to advocate for families involved in the PA Child Welfare System. Our goal is to improve services and outcomes for families in Pennsylvania. We want families to leave the system better than when they entered.

Members of FCU have participated in projects such as: parent engagement surveys to determine the level of parent engagement that is being done across the state; providing feedback on Judge's bench cards for father engagement; participating on family engagement panels; and assisting with training for youth and parents to participate on boards and committees. Our list goes on and we will continue to

build parent engagement efforts in counties and at the state level. It is our belief that we can make a difference in the lives of families by promoting family engagement on a local, county and state level.

Families and Communities United has participated in developing a training, "The Roadmap To Youth and Family Engagement". There are two parts to this training. One part is for the professionals and assesses their readiness to have parents and youth participate on their boards and committees. The second part is for the family and youth to prepare them to participate on boards and committees. We want our families to be at the table when decisions are made. It's not about them without them!



For more information about Families and Communities United (FCU), and how you can become a member, contact Denise Hoffman, Parent Ambassador, at the PA Child Welfare Resource Center. Phone: (717)795-9048 or on our website at: www.fcu.pitt.edu.

WAYS PARENTS CAN LEAD

1. *Members of task forces*
2. *Members of hiring committees*
3. *Serving on advisory committees/boards*
4. *Co-facilitators of trainings*
5. *Making outreach phone calls*
6. *Talking with/mentoring other parents*
7. *Talking with media, funders or legislators*

Check out our Website!

Families and Communities United (FCU) has a great website www.fcu.pitt.edu. Come check us out and learn all about FCU and its mission, vision and values. Our visitors will

find family engagement resources, links to other family engagement websites such as Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) and the PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC). Our website

also features personal stories of families that were in some way involved with a family serving system.

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