



# Parent Partner Training

## *"Building a Better Future"*

Building a Better Future is the 3 Module foundational training required for potential Parent Partners. It is designed to provide Parent Partners with the skills they will need to mentor families; to educate DHS workers, supervisors, and other child welfare providers on the Parent Partner Approach; AND to support a successful and strong Parent Partner Site by building teamwork and relationships.

### **Training Objectives:**

Have a better understanding of the Parent Partner Guiding Principles, Philosophy & Mission Statement.

Introduce participants to the feelings foster parents and kinship care providers may have when they care for children who have been removed from their parents.

Familiarize participants with the kinds of feelings parents may have over time about separation from their children.

Introduce participants to some of the tools that Parent Partners use in supporting parents involved with the Child Welfare System.

Help participants think about how to help parents assess the benefits and consequences of participating in their case plans.

Understand how a person's core beliefs impact his or her ability to advocate.

Help participants to better assist parents in having effective meetings.

### **The primary audience members for BABF workshops are:**

- Those who are in training to become Parent Partners
- Those who are currently serving as Parent Partners
- Those who are involved in their local Parent Partner site (as Program Allies or Parent Partner Aides)
- Adult foster care alumni
- Frontline Workers/Assessment workers from DHS and other child/family serving agencies
- Supervisors and administrators from DHS and other child/family serving agencies
- Foster Parents - CASA workers
- Juvenile Court Attorneys
- Family Drug Court providers
- Kinship Caregivers
- Community Partners and agencies that serve families and children

**When:** Registration starts at 8:30 am each day.

**April 9 (9am-3pm)**

**April 10 (9am-3pm)**

**April 12 (9am-3pm)**

**Where:** NIACC Center  
200 Harwood Drive  
Charles City, IA 50616

**To register** contact Rebecca Fayer  
(641) 229-5988 or  
[rebecca.fayer@lsiowa.org](mailto:rebecca.fayer@lsiowa.org)

**RSVP by** March 31

**THIS TRAINING PROVIDES 13.5 CONTACT HOURS/16.2 CEU FOR SOCIAL WORKERS & 13.5 FOSTER PARENT TRAINING CREDITS.**

## What is Building a Better Future?

*Building a Better Future (BABF)* is a three-session workshop designed to familiarize those attending the workshop with a greater understanding of the child welfare process. It is also designed to provide participants with tools and skills to assist parents involved with the Department of Human Services' (DHS) child welfare system to move through the system more successfully. **This course is not intended as a counseling program or as a replacement for other services.**

The goal of the workshop is to engage participants in recognizing their own individual and family strengths, and to support them in recognizing the individual and family strengths of those families and children they will be assisting. Ultimately, *Building a Better Future* should help everyone who serves families and children to work with parents more effectively.

## Why is this training necessary?

Even when parents are struggling to care for their children, being referred to DHS for child abuse catches most parents by surprise. And if the assessment results in their children being removed, many parents are forced to take a long hard look at what has been happening – sometimes for the first time. Parents are told that they must make major changes in their lives **now** or risk losing their parental rights. It may be a “wake-up call” or “hitting bottom.” Either way, it is extremely painful.

To be good parents, mothers and fathers need to provide their children with food, clothes, a warm place to sleep, and the resources they need to be healthy and safe. But many parents lack the confidence and skills necessary to meet their own needs let alone those of their children. Teaching Parent Partners and others who work with families and children to appropriately advocate for families involved with DHS helps those families make positive changes for themselves on behalf of their children.

## Guiding principles --

*Building a Better Future* is based on the belief that ***family is the foundation for all children, regardless of where they live***. Children understand their past and move towards their future based on relationships and experiences with family members.

*Building a Better Future* ***promotes a strengths-based approach to working with parents***. All parents have strengths no matter what challenges they face. It is the agency's job, in part, to help parents identify and build on those strengths.

In summary, *Building a Better Future* is a key strategy to improve practice with birth families, but it cannot stand-alone. Real practice reform must be led by committed, senior level leaders willing to make the policy, administrative, and resource allocation changes needed to ensure the success of this effort.

# **Parent Partner Training**

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April 9, April 10, and April 12, 2013

### **Parent Partner Training Registration Form**

*Participants should plan to attend all three days.*

*PLEASE cancel your registration no later than 48 hours before training if needed.*

Confirmation of your registration will be sent out by email within 5 working days of receipt.  
If you have not received confirmation, please contact me by email or phone. Thank you!  
Please complete this form then send to Rebecca Fayer at [rebecca.fayer@lsiowa.org](mailto:rebecca.fayer@lsiowa.org).

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>e-mail:</b>	
<b>My role in this training: (please check)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Partner in Training <input type="checkbox"/> DHS worker/supervisor <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Community Provider <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care Alum <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian Ad Litem <input type="checkbox"/> CASA worker
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>Questions:</b>	