

## Begin with your community...

- The following slides contain descriptions of “Knowing Circles” and what they can accomplish. Additional training exercises for your staff, instructions and guidelines for conducting effective parent action/Knowing Circle groups can be found at the:
- [www.childrensplanningcouncil.org](http://www.childrensplanningcouncil.org)

## Building relationships, strength and influence ...3 strategies supporting KC

- Community engagement
- Community organizing
- Shared decision making
  
- **The Case for Parent/Community Leadership and Advocacy – no one can do it alone!**
- Parents need support, information and assistance in developing their capacities and networks.

## Knowing Circles...

- Park, parent, community action groups
- Stakeholders address their interests and concerns
- Should reflect the culture and circumstances around parks and communities
- Don't need to call them Knowing Circles...
- What else could they be called???

## Develop and agenda... 15 minute small group exercise

- Welcome and introductions
- Purpose and role of Knowing Circles, if it's about Healthy Communities...
- Ground rules for discussion...
- What are some questions you could pose to the group??

## Developing “Knowing Circles”

### Logistics:

- choosing a good location
- child care
- translation, if required
- transportation, if required
- refreshments and paper goods
- easel, pad and markers
- equipment (i.e. television, VCR if required)
- written handouts, if needed
- sign in sheet (use to make a phone list)

## Possible questions ...

- What do you think is important to offer at our parks?  
What can you do?
- What are some difficulties and/or challenges in using your park?
- What are some ways to deal with those issues?
- How do we keep parents and communities involved?
- Are there resources and information that would be valuable to the group that we can provide?
- Other questions?

## Close the Meeting...

- Would you like to continue this discussion?
- It may take some time to get moving...

### Hints for staff leaders:

- Use staff who have knowledge in this type of community engagement (CPC website)
- Have commitment from the top!
- Be ready to get real busy

## The first four sessions...

- First Session: Who we are as community, vision for parks and community
- Second Session: Recognizing, appreciating and developing assets
- Third Session: Navigating the park/community
- Four Session: Planning and taking action

### The community will participate if...

- Their participation is part of something successful and worthwhile
- That feel they can make a difference in their park/community
- Are respected and acknowledged
- Receive training and guidance
- Have family supports such as childcare, food, transportation
- ??How would you make your knowing circle successful?? (large group discussion)

### They will continue involvement if...

- Successful steps attained
- Realistic goals and expectations
- Safe space to share
- Participants feel valued
- Highlight accomplishments
- Community ownership in successes
- Parents/community, staff receive leadership, advocacy skills training (website resources)



### Identifying Community Needs...

- Worksheet included in hand-outs
- Let's get into small groups and discuss
- Large group discussion
- Leads to developing partnerships
- Use community mapping as a tool



### Developing Staff Buy-in

“ Functional leaders build healthy cultures. In order have a positive impact on human activity, leaders must first practice focused leadership by modeling the partnering behaviors they expect from others. Leaders grounded in personal mastery lead by values and example, not by power or position. Envisioning a future that is grander than self and having a noble cause that excites others are vital characteristics of leaders. Rewarding collaboration, fostering interdependence, and creating networks and information-sharing environments exponentially increase task output and quality. Exceptional leaders embolden people by using techniques that encourage individuals to take accountability, rather than shunning them with a finger-pointing culture.”

“Powerhouse Partners” by Stephen M. Dent and James H. Krefft, Ph.D

## Staff Buy-in

- Find your "Champions"
- Techniques for staff "buy in"
  - selling the Healthy Parks message (or your wellness message) at every opportunity
  - verbal and non-verbal/formal and informal
  - ongoing training
  - "telling" them that what they are doing is good
  - empowerment and trust
  - relationships, relationships, relationships
  - top down and bottom up
  - give them the tools to make change happen!



## Partnership problem-solving

- Openly acknowledge a problem, diplomatic
- Be flexible
- Use lessons learned
- Keep your mission, goals and priorities clear
- Let information flow
- Accountability



## Recognize future opportunities...

- To facilitate positive change...
- Small group discussion on recognizing opportunities
- Large group discussion
  - Where are the opportunities
  - What might they look like?



## Examples of successful collaborations...

- Parks and community organizations
- Parks and individuals within the community
  - Youth, seniors, artists
- Parks and public institutions; Libraries, schools, police, community colleges, hospitals
  - Do you have some specific examples???



## Be the partner you want others to be!

- We've seen an overview of Healthy Parks in LA
- "Knowing Circles"
- Successful community participation
- Identifying community needs
- Staff buy-in
- 6 partnership problem-solving issues
- Recognize future opportunities
- Handouts on 10 partnership lessons learned
- Website resources
- [sagoodwi@co.la.ca.us](mailto:sagoodwi@co.la.ca.us)



**Questions???**