



# Serving on Groups That Make Decisions: A Guide for Families

Section 7:  
The Role of Families on Groups

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# Section 7: The Role of Families on Groups

Where do I start?

What do I need to know about my role?

What do I need to know about the group?

What ways might I represent the perspective of other families?

How might family organization(s) help?

What ways might I share my family story?



# The Group

Learn about:

- Mission, Purpose, & History
- Style of leadership
- Priorities and goals
- Structure
- Decision-making process

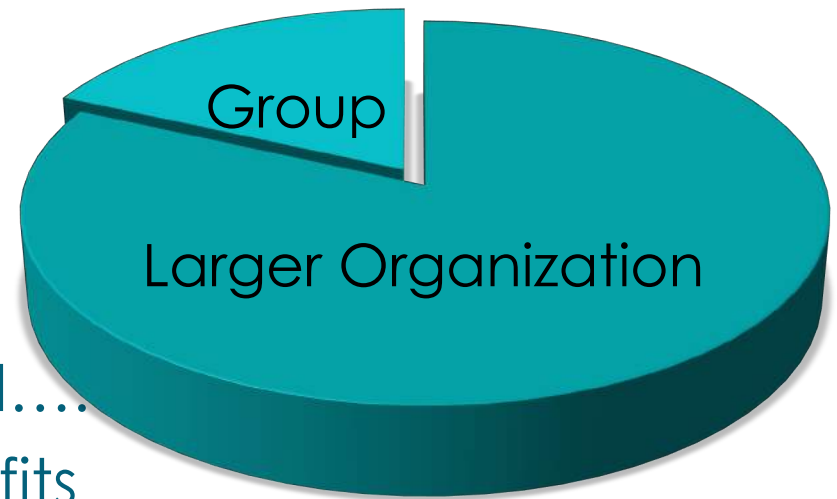


Reminder...

- Review past meeting minutes
- Attend a meeting before joining



# The Group



Important to understand....

- How the group's work fits into the work of the larger organization
- The process and timeline for getting things done
- Remember: Be patient and don't give up!

# Resource

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*What Information  
Do I Need to Know  
About the Group?*

## Uses:

- Learning Tool
- Reflection
- Assessment
- Mentorship

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### The Role of Families on Groups

What information do I need to know about the group?

**My Reason for Joining the Group**  
The issues I care about: \_\_\_\_\_  
My personal goal for making a difference: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Group**  
Name of group \_\_\_\_\_ Contact person(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_  
Leadership (names/contact info): \_\_\_\_\_  
Group's Purpose \_\_\_\_\_  
Group's Vision \_\_\_\_\_  
Group's Mission \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities of the Group**  
Group's Function:  governing  advisory  leadership  planning  evaluation  practice group  
Group's Authority:  budgets  services  programs  personnel  policy  advisory  
 public awareness  training and education  legislation  performance review  other  
How often does the group meet? \_\_\_\_\_ Time? \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership and Roles**  
How are members selected?  Volunteer  Appointed  Elected  Mandated  
Is there an application or nomination process? \_\_\_\_\_ Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of service? \_\_\_\_\_ Are additional committees required? \_\_\_\_\_  
My role description and responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is there an orientation for new members? \_\_\_\_\_ Is there on-going training? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is travel required? \_\_\_\_\_ Is mileage reimbursed? \_\_\_\_\_ Is a stipend provided? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is a computer required? \_\_\_\_\_ Is liability coverage provided? \_\_\_\_\_

Adapted from:  
Guidelines for Exploring Interagency Opportunities, ACTION Sheet: HHP- c59, FACER Center, 2004 <http://www.pacer.org/>  
Parent/zip/HHP-c59.pdf

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# Your Role on the Group

- Connect with past representative
- Connect with family-led organization(s)
- Ask for a mentor
- Come prepared
- Ask for group's written guidance
- Inquire about attendance support
- Plan introduction carefully



# Resource

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## Sharing Your Family Story

### Answer the questions:

- Who are you?
- What brings you to the group?
- What will YOU bring to the group?

**The Role of Families on Groups**

**Sharing Your Family Story**

*"Never underestimate the power of your story. A well-told story has the potential to touch hearts and change minds. While impersonally delivered facts can easily be forgotten or dismissed, a story lingers and mingles with the other stories that shape our shared human experience."*

This template will help you record and organize important points about your own family story. Start by jotting down experiences you have had. Put them in order and write a brief story. You may wish to use this template below to help organize your thoughts. Putting your thoughts down on paper now will help you prepare for opportunities to share your story in the future.

**The whole story...**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(You may wish to continue on additional sheets of paper.)

**Consider your audience**

Now connect your experience to an issue...These points should consider the listener's common experiences, concerns, goals, and position on an issue.

**Point 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Point 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Point 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Excerpt from: "From Experience to Influence: The Power of a Parent's Story", AC Tan Sheet: FHP-c121, PACER Center, 2006  
<http://www.pacer.org/parents/oh/pdp-c121.pdf>



# Best Ways to Represent Others

## Welcome Input

- Create a brief survey
- Go where the families are
- Connect with family organizations



## Be Accessible

- Attend meetings in the community
- Provide contact information
- Seek out and support involvement

## Communicate

- Write and post summary reports
- Be the link between families and the group



# Section 7 Resources

Family Voices National Center for Family Professional Partnerships

<http://www.fv-ncfpp.org/>

National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy and Community Empowerment

<http://www.parentsatthetable.org/>

Fostering Parent & Professional Collaboration – Center for Parent Information & Resources

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/improve-parent-professional-communication/>

Accessing Parent Groups – Center for Parent Information & Resources

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/parentgroups> EPIC– Every Person Influences Children

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bl4rqX\\_F69c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bl4rqX_F69c)

Guidelines for Exploring Interagency Opportunities ACTION Sheet

<http://www.pacer.org/Parent/php/PHP-c99.pdf>

From Experience to Influence: The Power of a Parent’s Story ACTION Sheet

<http://www.pacer.org/parent/php/php-c121.pdf>

Recruiting Families- Institute for Family-Centered Care

<http://www.familycenteredcare.org/advance/topics/med-recruit.html>

National Parents Council Primary - The Board of Management in Your Primary School: A Guide for Parents

<http://www.npc.ie/attachments/88f10722-40c1-4945-824f-59e8e22be306.pdf>

Local Interagency Team Parent Representative brochure – Vermont

<http://www.vffcmh.org/wp-content/themes/childrens-non-profit/images/prbrochureiast.pdf>

