

DREAMING BIG WITH FAMILIES: A COLLABORATIVE PARENT CAFE

FCC Annual Parent Cafe

2024 FCC Annual
Conference

Dreaming and co-designing the future
together: building a supportive community



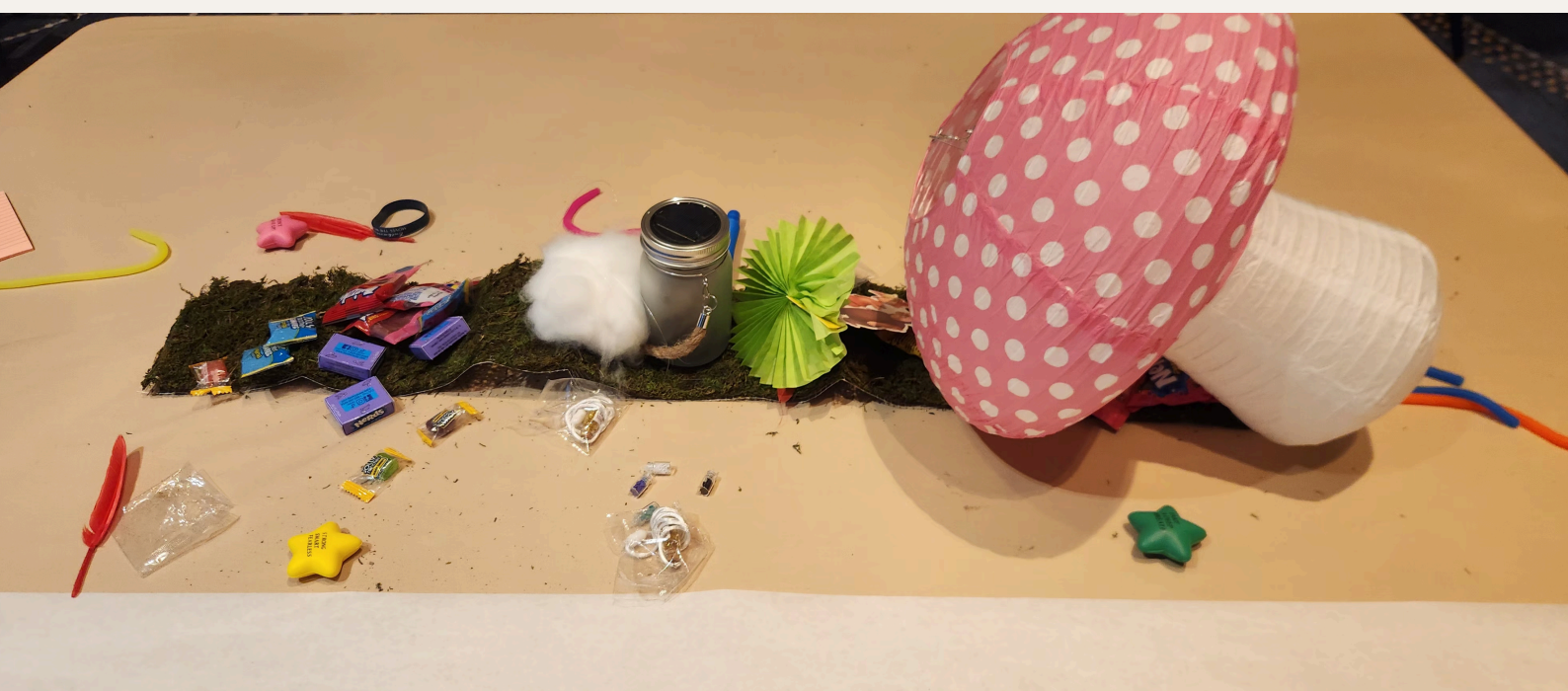
Actions To Take Together

- * Advocacy: Legal, Civic, Justice and Family Legacy
- * Raising awareness about systemic issues and advocating for change.
- * Building coalitions and partnerships with community organizations.
- * Community-Based Solutions: Investing in community-based programs and services.
- * Supporting local initiatives that address family needs.
- * Family-Centered Practices
- * Prioritizing family involvement in decision-making.
- * Providing culturally competent and trauma-informed care.
- * Building trust and rapport with families.
- * Systemic Reform: Start at the top
- * Advocating for policy changes to improve the child welfare system.
- * Supporting initiatives to reduce racial disparities and promote equity.



PONTE VEDRA BEACH FLORID

July 21-23, 2024



FROM THE FACILITATORS

D R E A M I N G

Envision possibilities beyond current limitations and understandings.

T H R I V I N G

"Imagine a world where parents (and family) are empowered in partnerships between parents, community and professionals are thriving.

B R I D G I N G

Working together seamlessly, embarking on a journey of moving towards peaceful freedom. imagining a new narrative of overcoming obstacles to achieve a common goal.

Imagine a world where parents feel empowered, communities are strong, and everyone's voice is heard. That's the vision that emerged from the Dream Big with Families workshop. This collaborative gathering brought together parents, youth, and community members to brainstorm ideas, share experiences, and build a supportive network.

Through interactive activities and open discussions, participants explored ways to strengthen their communities and empower parents. They dreamed of a future where parents could soar on wings of empowerment, collaboration blossomed like a magical garden, and support networks shimmered like a protective force field.

One of the key takeaways from the workshop was the importance of collaboration. Attendees discussed effective ways to work together, emphasizing the value of open communication, mutual respect, focus on justice for all, and shared goals. They also created a vision for a supportive community network, drawing inspiration from fantastical elements to symbolize strength, protection, and empowerment.

By the end of the workshop, participants had a clearer understanding of how parent voices can make a difference. They had developed strategies for building stronger relationships within their communities, and they had created a shared vision for a more supportive and inclusive future.

The Dream Big with Families workshop was a powerful reminder of the importance of community and collaboration. By working together, we can create a world where everyone feels empowered and supported to authentically thrive as unique individuals and cultures in a collective.

Challenges Identified in Collective Cafe

- * Limited Resources: Inadequate funding, long waitlists, and insufficient support services.
- * Systemic Racism: Bias within the system, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities.
- * Power Imbalance: Families often feel powerless and controlled by the system.
- * Generational Trauma: Historical trauma and its ongoing impact on families.

Family-Specific Challenges

- * Lack of Knowledge: Parents may be unaware of their rights, procedures, and available resources.
- * Forced Separation: Trauma associated with child removal and placement.
- * Stigma and Shame: Negative perceptions and judgments faced by families in need.
- * Lack of Economic and Concrete supports in time of need
- * Housing Insecurity: Difficulty finding affordable and suitable housing.
- * Poor Legal Representation: Inadequate legal support for families involved in the legal system.

Outcomes/Vision Identified in Collective Cafe

- * Parents as leaders in their own lives and decisions.
- * Families feeling valued, respected, and supported.
- * Systemic Reform: Starting at the Top
- * Empowerment: Lived Voice
- * Developing community-based support centers.
- * Prioritizing primary prevention and community-based solutions.
- * Family-Centered Care: Community Thriving
- * Personalized approaches tailored to individual families' needs.
- * Consistent and supportive relationships between families and service providers.
- * Increased involvement of natural supports and community resources.



"Imagine a world where parents (and families) are empowered in partnerships between community and professionals and we are thriving. Describe what that world looks like, sounds like, and feels like."



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO IMPACTED YOUTH, PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS



C H R I S T I N A R O M E R O

Impacted Birth Mother /
Knowledge Curator

Too often, “we are separating families and
destroying that culture, that community
they have together,”



J A R R E D “ J A Y ” V E R M I L L I O N

IWraparound & Peer Champion

“Partnering with lived experts/impacted
family members changes the future for
all, for better”