

# The Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare



## For Parents, By Parents

Parents who have been through Maine's child welfare system can become powerful leaders for change.

The Maine Child Welfare Action Network is working with parent leaders to establish a new initiative for the network, the Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare (CPLA).

The goal of CPLA is to build a coalition of policy advocates and parents who have lived experience with child protection and other family serving systems. CPLA supports parents to use their experiences to inform policy and affect practice change.

Participants in the coalition have lived and/or professional expertise in the most common issues faced by families who come into contact with child welfare: substance use disorder and recovery, mental health issues, domestic and intimate partner violence, and poverty.

Members meet monthly on a virtual platform to cross-train in issue areas, identify shared policy priorities, develop consistent messaging, and organize for change.

The Maine Child Welfare Action Network values working together with people who are closest to the issues to design solutions. Stipends are provided to CPLA participants who are not compensated by affiliate organizations.

For more information, please contact Melissa Hackett, Coordinator for the Maine Child Welfare Action Network.

The Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare brings together parents with lived experience to:

Build a strong foundation for advocacy and leadership

Reflect on lived experience and build a peer-to-peer network

Share expertise and cross-train in issue areas

Develop skills to share personal stories

Organize for policy change

For more information, contact

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