

Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare
For Parents, By Parents
An initiative of the Maine Child Welfare Action Network



In 2022, the [Maine Child Welfare Action Network](#) established a new initiative, the Center for Parent Leadership and Advocacy in Child Welfare (CPLA). The **purpose** of CPLA is to inspire changes in child welfare by supporting parents to share their lived experiences in ways that can inform policy and affect practice changes.

CPLA is committed to the **values** of honoring the unique perspective of lived experience, while protecting the wellbeing and privacy of every parent and family member.

We support parents to **practice** strategic sharing, a method of talking about experiences safely and effectively. We also encourage parents to determine their own preferences for sharing their lived experiences.

CPLA is currently seeking parents to join our efforts to inspire change in child welfare. We provide three different ways for parents to inform policy and practice change, based on their individual experience and preferences:

- Participating in parent focus groups to share views on policies and practices.
- Sharing their own experiences and insights for collective public statements
- Using their skilled experience to represent parents in public forums and groups – by invitation, based on experience and participation in focus groups and public statements

If you are interested in learning more/getting involved in any of these efforts, please contact Melissa Hackett mhackett@mekids.org.