Outcome Evaluation of the King County Parent to Parent Program

**Key Findings**

Participation in King County’s Parent to Parent Program increased:

- Participation by mothers at key court events by 13%
- Compliance by father in the court-ordered case plans
- Compliance by parents with court-ordered visitation at the six month review hearing

**Background**

The King County Parent to Parent Program (P2PP) engages parents early in the dependency process through education and peer support from “veteran” parents who have previously navigated the child welfare system. P2PP encourages parents to be active in the dependency process and has the potential to improve outcomes for children and families by increasing family reunifications. A process evaluation found that participation in P2PP was helpful in improving parents’ perceptions of the dependency process and in providing parents with a support system.¹ Click for full report.

**Summary**

Mothers who participated in P2PP were 13% more likely to be present at hearings than mothers who did not participate. P2PP was related to significant increases in findings of mother and father compliance with visitation plans at the first review hearing. Fathers who participated in P2PP were more likely to be in compliance with the court-ordered case plan in the first review and permanency planning hearings. Further analysis found that racial and ethnic groups benefited from P2PP differently (in terms of engagement): Caucasian families benefited the most from participation in P2PP, followed by African American fathers and Native American mothers.

**Implications**

Participation in P2PP was related to an increase in parental engagement in the dependency process. Participation in P2PP also had significant effects for Caucasian and African American fathers, who were more likely to be present at hearings and in compliance with court ordered case plans.

Given that engaging fathers in the dependency process may often be difficult, this finding suggests that P2PP can be a valuable tool for engaging fathers.

King County’s Parent to Parent Program is an effective tool for engaging parents, and especially fathers, in the dependency process.

† This research was conducted in partnership with the King County Juvenile Court and the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts.