



The Cultural Broker Family Advocate Program

“Supporting the Power of Families to Strengthen Communities”

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Program Goal:

The goal of the Cultural Broker Family Advocate Program is to increase the overall well-being for at risk children and families by providing culturally sensitive services that will enable them to successfully navigate various government agencies and programs as part of their efforts to address their needs.

Program Information:

The Cultural Broker Program is designed to raise and address concerns related to disproportionality and disparities that exist in the child welfare system, as well as concerns that involve issues of fairness and equity. The core belief that drives the work is that every family regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic status will be empowered to develop their own strengths and capacities. The Cultural Broker Program provides brokering, advocacy and support to families who are involved or who are at risk of involvement with the child welfare system. The Cultural Broker Program uses the model approach, Cultural Broker Paraprofessional... an Agency Community Partnership© with child welfare agencies to insure that their practice approaches with families from diverse populations are culturally congruent and specific to their unmet needs. Through partnerships the program has developed with the community and the child welfare agency, cultural interpretations are provided to decrease the likelihood of cultural misunderstandings.

This model of collaboration is made possible by partnering with the Child Welfare Agency.

Alonzo's Success Story:

Alonzo, a 34 year old African American male and recently married father of two became involved with the child welfare system when his toddler suffered an injury in the family home which the child welfare agency felt was not adequately explained. Alonzo and his young wife were outraged and demanded the agency provide proof of wrongdoing. A local doctor renowned as a child abuse specialist took offense at Alonzo's angry outbursts and assertions of innocence and felt it was further evidence that the child was physically abused. The child welfare agency petitioned the juvenile court for out-of-home placement for both of the children and embarked on a massive effort to remove the children and deny reunification services to the parents. The children were placed with a foster family who desired to adopt the children and provide a permanent home for the children. This further infuriated Alonzo and his communications with county officials. Alonzo heard about the Cultural Broker Program from another parent and immediately requested assistance. After several months of receiving advocacy, support and brokering services from CBFA, Alonzo was able to receive court ordered reunification services that were culturally congruent and specific to the needs of his family. Alonzo mastered the art of purposeful communication and was able to successfully reunify with his children. Days before the Christmas holiday, the children returned to Alonzo and his wife's care. Several months later, dependency was dismissed by juvenile court. Alonzo and his family are no longer involved with the child welfare agency and the entire family is thriving and doing well. Alonzo, a very talented and gifted artist wanted to thank the CBFA Program by "giving back". He offered to design a program logo that would exemplify the work of the CBFA Program. Alonzo's drawing was received with utmost gratitude. It was later adopted as the CBFA Program logo.