

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- It is important that the Public Child Welfare Agency casts a wide net in **reaching out** to potential partners recognizing that the most significant future partners may be the least visible stakeholder.
- It is important for all partners to understand and **agree on the goal and the role** that they are expected to play in achieving that goal.
- When the partnership includes the PCWA as a major partner, the work of the partnership must address the most **significant issues of child protection**.
- A trusted **community person can bridge the gaps**, educate, mentor, and develop trust between the community and the bureaucracy.
- When Community Partnerships develop neighborhood-based services for families and work to increase the number of Resource Families in the neighborhood they **bring child protection closer to home**.
- No one wants to ask a stranger for help. Community Partnerships provide **services that are more accessible and culturally familiar** to the families they serve.
- It is important that all of the partners learn to look for and **recognize the gifts that other partners bring** that may not be mainstream or come with a degree.
- Strong Community Partnerships **strengthen the safety net** for children and families when they assure access to support, resources and services before a PCWA social worker is involved and after she has closed the case.
- Community Partnerships are **about relationships** and require letting go of stereotypes, distrust cynicism and blaming.
- The **geographic assignment of cases** in the PCWA enables both the PCWA and the neighborhood front line staff to develop personal relationships and to become more knowledgeable about the other's resources, culture, constraints and strengths.
- Community Partnerships require straight talk with other partners: to share concerns, admit errors and express doubts with clarity, respect and sensitivity.