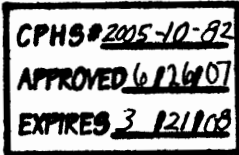




CENTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE
120 HAVILAND HALL #7400
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-7400
(510) 642-1899
(510) 642-1895 (FAX)
<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/>



“Partnering for Permanence”: Parent Partner Program Satisfaction Interviews

Consent to Participate in Research

Our names are Edward Cohen, Ph.D. and Professor Jill Duerr Berrick, Ph.D., with the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley. Our research team is interviewing parents who have been involved with child welfare services and the Parent Partner Program, involving other parents who were assigned to help you.

The purpose of this research is to get information about whether or not you found the Parent Partner Program helpful, and whether the program helped you meet your goals. A maximum of 40 parents will take part in this study.

You have been invited to participate in a focus group about the Parent Partner Program with other parents who have also received the services of a Parent Partner. The procedures for your participation are as follows:

- A group of no more than 8 parents who have received the services of a Parent Partner will meet together with two graduate student researchers, who will conduct the group interview.
- We will explain the research in more detail to give you time to decide whether or not to participate
- If you agree to participate, you will be asked to sign this form.
- Two graduate student researchers will ask the group questions related to your experiences with and feelings about the Parent Partner Program, including how your Parent Partner did or did not help you complete your case plan goals.
- We would like to audio record the focus group, but we will do so only with your permission. If you would like the recording to be stopped at any time during the group, you may request that we stop the recording.
- The group interview will last from 90 to 120 minutes.

The study presents minimal risks to you. While there is a small chance that the confidentiality of the information collected could be compromised, we will take care to prevent this from happening. Some questions might be uncomfortable for you to answer. Should this be the case, our interviewers are trained to help you feel at ease. All questions are optional – you do not have to answer any questions you don't want to.

While there are no direct benefits to you for participating, by helping to evaluate the Parent Partner Program you may improve interventions for future parents in the child welfare system.

The information you give us will be handled as confidentially as possible. We will ask all group members to help us maintain confidentiality, but we cannot guarantee that all group members will

do this. Your name will only be recorded on this form. We will not disclose your personal information to anyone outside of our University research team. There are two exceptions to this confidentiality: 1) if you tell us information about suspected child abuse we are required by law to notify the proper authorities, and 2) if you present a risk of danger to yourself or others we may notify the proper authorities to ensure safety.

We won't tell County staff whether or not you decided to participate in the research. We may present our research at scientific meetings, but your name and personal information will not be used. All of our written notes will be locked in a secure office at the University. We plan to retain the information from the interviews for possible use in future research projects related to this subject.

To thank you for your participation, you will receive a Safeway gift card for \$35 upon completion of the group interview. Also, light refreshments will be provided during the group interview.

If you have given permission for us to record the interview, then we will ask you to review and sign a separate audio records release form after you have completed the focus group. You will have the opportunity to decide at that time how we may use the audio recording.

If you have any questions about this research, you may contact Edward Cohen, Ph.D., at 877-263-9012 or ecohen@berkeley.edu.

Should you wish to talk to some one about your concerns or rights as a research subject you may contact the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, 2150 Shattuck Avenue, Ste. 313, Berkeley, CA 94704, phone 510-642-7461, or email subjects@berkeley.edu.

Since *participation in this research is voluntary*, you are free to refuse participation or discontinue participation at any time, without penalty or loss of benefits or services to which you are otherwise entitled.

You will be provided with a copy of this consent form to keep.

If you have considered all the information in this form and wish to participate in our research, you may indicate agreement by signing below.

I have considered the information in the Consent Form, and I agree to participate in this research.

Signature of Participant

Date

I give my consent for this interview to be recorded and for the audio records to be used in the research project.

Yes No

Signature of Participant

Date