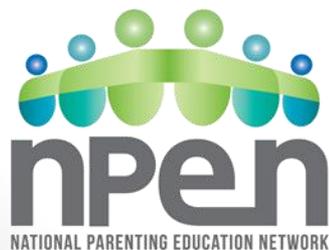


Recognizing Diverse Roles and Identifying Competencies: Is Parenting Education Moving in the Right Direction?

April, 25, 2014



Professional Preparation and Recognition
Committee

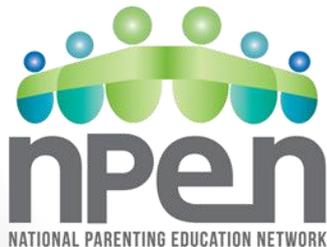
What is NPEN?

The National Parenting Education Network (NPEN) is a national umbrella organization that encourages information sharing, professional development and networking opportunities for the over 250,000 professionals, paraprofessionals and volunteers who serve as parent educators.

We Believe

We believe all parents/families should have the information, resources and support needed to provide a nurturing relationship and an optimal environment that will encourage their children's healthy growth and development.

Where can you find us? www.npen.org



Standing Committees of NPEN

- Professional Preparation & Recognition
- Communication & Website Resources for Parenting Educators
- Leadership & Advocacy
- Networking & Membership
- Nominating
- Financial Resource Development
- Advisory Panel

Professional Preparation and Recognition Committee (PPRC)

- The PPRC is tasked with:
 - addressing NPEN's role in defining, identifying and providing guidelines for parenting educator competencies
 - providing information about the professional recognition and preparation that promotes development of these competencies in a manner that is inclusive of the diverse practitioners in the field of parenting education.
- The PPRC is also charged with development and promotion of recommendations for criteria for parenting educator recognition systems based the work of the PPRC to promote best practices and advance the parenting education field.

PPRC's Workgroups

Diverse Roles in Parenting Education

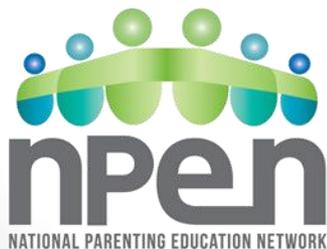
- Judy Wolf
- Gayle Hart, Stephanie Jones, Sandra McClintic, Mary Kay Stranik, Laura Galovits

Parenting Educator Competencies

- Betty Cooke, & Stephanie Jones,
- Pam Langer, Dana McDermott, Eleonora Villegas-Reimers, Jerri Wolfe, Harriet Heath, Glen Palm, Judy Wolf, Aoife R. Magee

Diverse Roles of Practitioners in Parenting Education

Professional Preparation and Recognition
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National Forum on Professional
Development Systems for
Parenting Education – May 2011

PPRC Diverse Roles Workgroup

*A Closer Look at Diverse Roles of
Practitioners in Parenting
Education: Peer Educators,
Paraprofessionals and Professionals*

National Survey of Peer
Educators and
Paraprofessionals in
Parenting Education

A Closer Look at Diverse Roles ...

Purpose: To draw attention to parenting education contributions by peer educators and paraprofessionals and to further discussion in the field about their value? role?

- Myths, contributions, limitations, issues and challenges, (Chart II, pp. 21,22)
- Similarities and differences among professionals, paraprofessionals and peer educators (Chart I, p. 13)

White paper can be found on NPEN website www.npen.org

A Closer Look at Diverse Roles ...

Recommendations (pp. 23-24)

- Resource investment by employers
- National job title list with sample job descriptions
- Standard pre-service screening
- Unique education / training processes
- Supervision by a professional parenting educator
- Core competency areas
- National certification/credential

Survey of Peers and Paraprofessionals

Purpose: to get input from the practitioners to further inform, confirm, and/or challenge issues addressed in the white paper

- Survey developed and reviewed 2012-13
- Survey distributed through NPEN listserv and other networks

Survey – preliminary results

- 241 respondents; 218 completed surveys (90% completion rate, need at least 70% to be valid)
- 1/2 of the peer educators/ paraprofessionals had been doing the work for over 10 years
- 85% were paid
- 1/2 were involved with home visiting and 1/2 did group work
- 1/2 had some college or higher degrees
- supervisors received good comments from the respondents

Survey – preliminary results

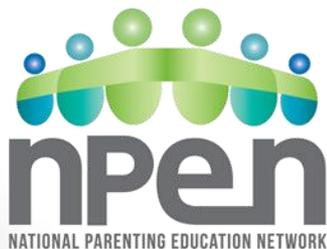
- job titles may not describe the work that is done
- high rate of job satisfaction (94%) but job is challenging (91%)
- lower rate of stress (48%) and frustration (43%) with the job than above
- the desire for credentialing did not relate to salary increase (38%), but rather the hope that their skills would be recognized and respected (64%)

Further results will include training, role with parents, use of curriculum, continuing education, etc.

Next Steps

- Discussion of content in *A Closer Look...*
- Further analysis of survey data
- Conducting Focus groups
- Pursuing Publication
- Development of a manual for organizations employing peers and paraprofessionals for parenting education work with families

Competencies in Parenting Education



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Parenting Educator Competencies Resource Document

- Currently in draft form
- Describes the competencies related to effective parenting education practice
- NPEN's purpose in creating this document is to capture
 - the critical **knowledge base**,
 - the important **practice skills** and
 - the **dispositions** that are foundational to effective practice.

Basis of NPEN's Draft Competencies

- Based on the work of Dana McDermott at DePaul University in Chicago.
 - She compiled a master list of competencies from a number of university, state, national and international sources.
- **NPEN's goal:** To create a simplified, user-friendly document adapted from Dana's work that can be used for multiple purposes by practitioners.

Three Core Areas of Competencies

- **Human Growth & Development**
 - **Parent, Child, Family & Community Relationships**
 - **Parenting Education Professional Practice**
-
- First two core areas consist of knowledge competencies
 - Third core area relates to the practice of parenting education –the knowledge and skills needed to teach/communicate the knowledge reflected in the first two core areas to parents.

Dispositions

- In addition, created a list of dispositions* needed by parenting educators that cross all three domains

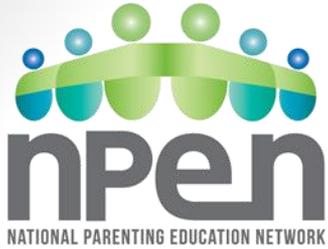
*Dispositions refer to prevailing tendencies or habits of mind encompassing values, commitments, and professional ethics that tend an individual toward positive actions supporting parent and family well-being.

Current Status

- Currently refining the list of competencies for:
 - (1) further, unnecessary redundancies,
 - (2) gaps and
 - (3) level of specificity.

Examples of Potential Uses

- Doing own self-assessment as a parenting educator
- Planning parenting education professional development opportunities – workshops, conferences, non-credit and credit courses
- Identifying levels of knowledge and skills needed by parenting educators in various roles with parents and families
- Assessing parent educator competencies and teaching practices



Professional Preparation and Recognition Committee

- How have you worked with Paraprofessional and Peer parenting educators?
- Reflecting on the white paper and the work on the competencies, are we moving in the right direction? Why or why not?
- Some people in the field have expressed concerns about expanding the field to include diverse practitioners. Is this concern warranted or not?
- What is the most provocative element of our presentation and work? Were you surprised by any of the results in our national survey?
- Do you have any advice for either workgroup?