



## National PLACE Annual Report Summary 2022-2023

**We had a BUSY, EXCITING and IMPACTFUL year!**

### *In the Education field, we:*

- Met periodically with Secretary Cardona's National Family Partners; we meet quarterly with Secretary Cardona and monthly with US Department of Education family engagement staff
- Met monthly with Katherine Neas, Acting Assistant Secretary, US Department of Education (US ED) Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS); topics of discussion included expanding the role of families and family-led organizations such as Parent Centers in state on-site monitoring visits, as well as in the requirements for State Performance Plans/Annual Performance Reports
- Met every 4-6 weeks with Valerie Williams, Director, US ED Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP); topics of discussion included holding regular listening sessions with Parent Centers to hear about what families are experiencing in the field as well as creating tools to help disseminate important OSEP Guidance to families and professionals
- Met monthly with the Education Task Forces of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) and Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (Leadership Conference) and with the State and Local Education Resource Equity coalition, and co-led the SLERE's discussion on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support during their forum on What Works for Student Safety and Positive School Climate
- Held a national input session with our members on proposed Section 504 education regulations; worked with the Education Task Forces of the CCD and the Leadership Conference to help shape their comments; and submitted comments on behalf of National PLACE focused on strengthening the parent voice
- Worked with the Education Task Forces of CCD and the Leadership Conference on comments, and submitted comments on behalf of National PLACE, on:
  - US ED Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and OSEP Discipline Guidance
  - OSERS General Supervision (including the critical role of Parent Centers and parents as well as an increased focus on equity)
  - US ED OCR Civil Rights Data Collection
  - US ED Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) on interpreters and translators working in educational settings (after soliciting input from members on their experiences in the field)
  - Accountability under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
  - Proposed priority and requirements for national TA Centers on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and Significant Disproportionality in Special Education
  - Parents' Bill of Rights proposed legislation, and Parent and Student Bill of Rights resolution
- Met with the Policy Director of the Education Trust to discuss recommendations for strengthening parent involvement requirements in ESSA reauthorization
- Met with the US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Educational Opportunities Section to discuss priorities for their enforcement actions around equal educational opportunities for children of color, immigrant and LEP children, children with disabilities, and children who are LGBTQ+, and their families

### *Around Early Childhood, we:*

- Met monthly with the Leadership Conference Education Task Forces' Workgroup on Civil Rights Principles for Early Childhood, and shared them with representatives of the US ED Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) and OSERS to encourage their incorporation into US ED guidance as well as during a Congressional briefing where we led the discussion of the principles related to family engagement and leadership
- Met with the lobbyist for Parents As Teachers on family engagement in early childhood
- Participated in meetings of the cross-agency Early Childhood Systems Collective Impact Technical Working Group, focusing discussion and adding recommendations on partnership with family-led organizations

*In the health/mental health field, we:*

- Worked with the Health Task Forces of CCD and the Leadership Conference on comments, and submitted comments on behalf of National PLACE, on:
  - The Affordable Care Act “Family glitch”
  - Surprise billing
  - Non-discrimination in healthcare on the basis of race, language, ethnicity, and disability
  - Equity in mental healthcare access
  - Implications of the ending of the public health emergency and Medicaid “unwinding”
- Arranged for the National Health Law Program (NHelp) to present to the Family to Family Health Information Centers (F2Fs) on Medicaid unwinding and what advocates can do to reduce “churning” and denials of coverage
- Participated in Leadership Conference planning for a series of Hill staff legislative briefings on healthcare
- Discussed the need for increased funding for F2Fs with Congressional staff and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- Submitted comments on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s proposed peer Certification Standards, focusing on the need to differentiate between parent peer certification and adult peer certification standards

*In Relation to Human Services, we:*

- Participated in several meetings with CCD Ad Hoc Guardianship/Supported Decision-Making Committee & Senators Blumenthal and Casey to ensure a focus on reaching families about alternatives to guardianship, and submitted comments at their request to the US Senate Special Committee on Aging’s Hearing on Guardianships, Conservatorships, Protective Arrangements, and Alternatives, focusing on the importance of starting early, supporting families, and stopping the “school-to-guardianship” pipeline

*Specific to Disability, we:*

- Co-sponsored and participated in a panel discussion, along with Senator Bob Menendez and disability rights activist Judy Heumann, in a national Congressional briefing on the International Children with Disabilities Protection Act

*And of course, PLACE did other collaborative work with many other partners! We:*

- Planned and co-hosted a well-attended (over 300 participants, including both Democratic and Republican legislators and aides) National Parent Leadership Reception on the Hill with Family Voices, the SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (home of the National Parent TA Center, the Center for Parent Information and Resources), Family Voices (home of the F2F National TA Center), and PACER Center

*And we provided multiple learning and collaboration opportunities for our members and other family-led, family-serving organizations! We:*

- Facilitated national webinars with National PLACE member The Advocacy Institute on filing state complaints under IDEA, and on State Performance Plan target setting
- Presented multiple fee-for-service workshops on topics including Avoiding the Unauthorized Practice of Law, Policy Updates of interest to family-led, family-serving organizations, and Leading by Convening, as well as a comprehensive Public Policy Advocacy series for National PLACE member the National Family Associate for Deaf-Blind; met with the Executive Director and key leaders of Prevent Child Abuse America to discuss family engagement in child welfare and prevention activities, and discussed the potential for a contractual relationship
- Shared information on current and upcoming policy initiatives and opportunities to sign onto national letters on important policy priorities for families and family-led organizations

In short, we represented YOUR interests, YOUR views, and YOUR priorities in meetings with elected officials and their aides and administrative agency leadership across the systems that serve children and families as well as other national advocacy organizations, always honing in on OUR mission: to strengthen the voice and impact of diverse families and the family-led organizations that serve them at decision-making tables at all levels!