

## Community Outreach and Engagement- Getting started

### What are the objectives of the initial community meetings?

Use data to determine the neighborhoods or community with the highest number of cases with the PCWA. Target those neighborhoods first.

- Make a connection with a respected community person; ask in your agency “Who lives, plays, or worships in this neighborhood”. There may be someone who works for the PCWA who knows just the right persons to contact.
- Convey understanding of PCWA struggles
- The community and the PCWA should walk away from the first meeting agreeing on a COMMON concern.

### Who do we invite to these meetings?

- Go beyond the usual entities who are already have contracts with the
- Invite grassroots organizations and community members.
- The PCWA can use existing organizational partners as a bridge to new partners.

### What's the agenda for these meetings?

- Use data.
  - ⇒ How many open cases are in the overall system
  - ⇒ How many children are in out of home care
  - ⇒ Then bring it closed to home- How many of those children are from the target neighborhood
  - ⇒ How many have been placed back in their neighborhood
- Ask for advice.
  - ⇒ Tell your community partners the reality the PCWA is facing and the impact on the children
  - ⇒ Tell them the outcomes you are trying to achieve
  - ⇒ Tell them that you need their advice and assistance
- Anticipate a values-driven conversation.
  - ⇒ Do we all believe children belong in families? Their own families, their kin, or foster care in their neighborhood?
  - ⇒ Do we all believe that the community can participate in child welfare work? What could that look like?
- Use the advice provided to build the agenda for the next meeting.