

Position Description Director, Partner Engagement

About the Organization:

Partners for Our Children was founded in 2007 to focus new thinking, resources and expertise on the state's child welfare system. We are a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, the University of Washington School of Social Work and private sector funding. We are based on campus at the UW and have the opportunity to leverage the academic community to optimize our work.

POC performs needed research and data analysis and translates its findings for key partners in the child welfare system. Partners for Our Children's focus is on identifying the most promising practices, policy changes and programs that will have the most significant impact for kids and families in Washington State.

About the Position:

The Partner Engagement Director is responsible for translating POC's research into sustainable change for Washington State's child welfare system. You'll have the opportunity to create impact on a variety of policy, practice, systems and legislative levels within the state.

The Director will work to establish and maintain ongoing relationships with our partners in the child welfare community to ensure maximum engagement and leverage of change opportunities. In this newly developed role you will develop a vision for the engagement and translation opportunities with our partners with input from the POC leadership team, staff and board. Our Director will lead a team of trained professional staff who understand Foster Care, engagement and reform from the ground up.

Essential Functions:

- Proactively **identify engagement opportunities and projects that will support POC's mission.**
- In partnership with the Director of R&D and the Executive Director, **evaluate all new opportunities for engagement with POC partners on new project work**, expansion of scope or opportunities to replicate work for maximum impact and sustainable change.
- Define/architect **strategic goals and outcomes which increase the value of our relationships** with partners and community stakeholders (i.e. Children's Administration).
- **Understand our partner's priorities**, key issues, learnings and areas where POC can provide best impact. Identify innovative programs and practices and support replication within the WA state systems that POC impacts.

- Define the strategy for dissemination of POC's using a **variety of communication vehicles** (i.e., presentations, briefings, web-based education, tools, etc.) to share our work for the highest level of impact.
- Lead/guide the Partner Engagement team to ensure effective delivery. Foster teamwork and a constructive work environment. Provide team leadership that rewards creativity.
- **Set priorities for POC's activities so that our work has the highest level of impact.** Manage and track priorities, schedules and commitments and follow through to measure and validate that change is happening within the systems POC influences.
- **Maintain and build long term-relationships with partners,** stakeholder and allies (at institutional and individual levels), including managing those relationships through organization transition. Continuously build trust, credibility, and engagement.

Required Qualifications and Experiences:

- 7-10 years experience leadership experience in organizations whose mission is to support and engage with at-risk children and families. Ideal background and experience working in Foster Care management, reform or support agency or non profit.
- Demonstrated experience leading and facilitating a cross functional team with diverse skills and professional experiences.
- Experience working in the capacity of change agent within Child Welfare. Demonstrated understanding of complex systems and outcomes and ability to employ a wide variety of strategies that support large scale systems transformation.
- Exceptional communication skills with both internal and external audiences. Ability to build relationships that effectively share POC's work with a wide variety of constituencies.
- Strong leadership and motivation skills.
- Ability to manage large and complex projects from inception to completion, including project tracking, resource allocation and accountability for results.
- Experience working within a child welfare agency; ideal experience includes professional track record in Washington state.
- Demonstrated commitment to use evidence based research in social welfare setting and ability to translate research into practice settings. Ideal work experience within academic institution or environment.
- Commitment to knowledge development and working with applied researchers for systems wide change.
- Ability to use creative solutions and innovative approaches to solving systemic systems issues working across organizational boundaries and leveraging relationships to create change.
- A master's degree in social work or other relevant academic qualifications required.