February is National Parent Leadership Month which highlights the many opportunities available for parents, staff, policymakers and other community members to engage in partnerships with the goal of building and supporting strong, safe families.

To build successful partnerships with parent leaders, the Prevention and Community Support Section (PCS) of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) formed the Georgia Parent Advisory Council (GAPAC). The new GAPAC launched in June 2019 with nine parents each representing one of the 14 DFCS regions. The role of the GAPAC is to advise DFCS about making changes to child welfare services and systems, particularly prevention programming. The GAPAC is a sounding board for decisions, ideas, and questions that help shape the future of PCS and DFCS. PCS selected a group of parents from across the state who have a range of expertise and personal experiences using community-based prevention services or experience within the child welfare system.

Parent leadership is successfully achieved when parents and practitioners build effective partnerships based upon mutual respect and shared responsibility, expertise and leadership in the decisions being made that affect their own families, other families and their communities.

**GAPAC Vision: Resilient communities where families are strengthened through authentic parent voices.**

**GAPAC Mission: Parents and caregivers working with GA DFCS and our partners to build relationships with families, to develop parent leadership, and to advocate for parent informed policy and practice.**

We are still accepting applications! If you are interested in applying to join the Georgia Parent Advisory Council, please fill out an application by clicking on this link: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eg3rlewrjs3bi6z5/a005js40dhpu/greeting>

For questions or more information, please contact, PCS Program Specialist, Lindsey Dale, at Lindsey.Dale@dhs.ga.gov.