



## Parent Engagement Summit 2024

### SUMMARY

In January 2021, Kentucky submitted a letter of intent to join round two of the national Thriving Families, Safer Children initiative. The guiding principles of this movement include partnering with lived experts, addressing issues of racial equity and disproportionality, centering the work in communities, and emphasizing upstream strategies for prevention, health promotion, and well-being. To advance these priorities, Kentucky took the next bold step by bringing more parents to the table as true partners and real-time collaborators.

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I was truly surprised when I first started advocating. I couldn't believe that leaders and decision-makers actually wanted to hear from me. But I quickly realized that systemic change requires more than just my individual experience. We needed more powerful voices from other parents at the table. Just as importantly, we must prepare those already at the table to collaborate effectively with those who have traditionally been left out. The Parent Engagement Summit was another crucial step in the journey to help to ensure that parents are not only invested in, but also developed as leaders in the process of change.

**Valerie Frost**  
Community Advocate, Parent Leader

### AT A GLANCE

- 90 total participants, 50% lived experience
- Representation from all 9 child welfare agency service regions
- 7 entities served on planning committee
- At least 7 partner exhibits during networking and informational fair

### HIGHLIGHTS

This exciting one-day experience brought together service providers, child welfare agency staff and leadership, and individuals with lived experience. Participants learned key principles of co-design and immediately applied this knowledge in a hands-on exercise using LEGO® kits. Together, they designed physical models of centers aimed at supporting lived experience in Kentucky, which will inform real plans to create an evolved framework and structure moving forward.

### THANK YOU PARTNERS

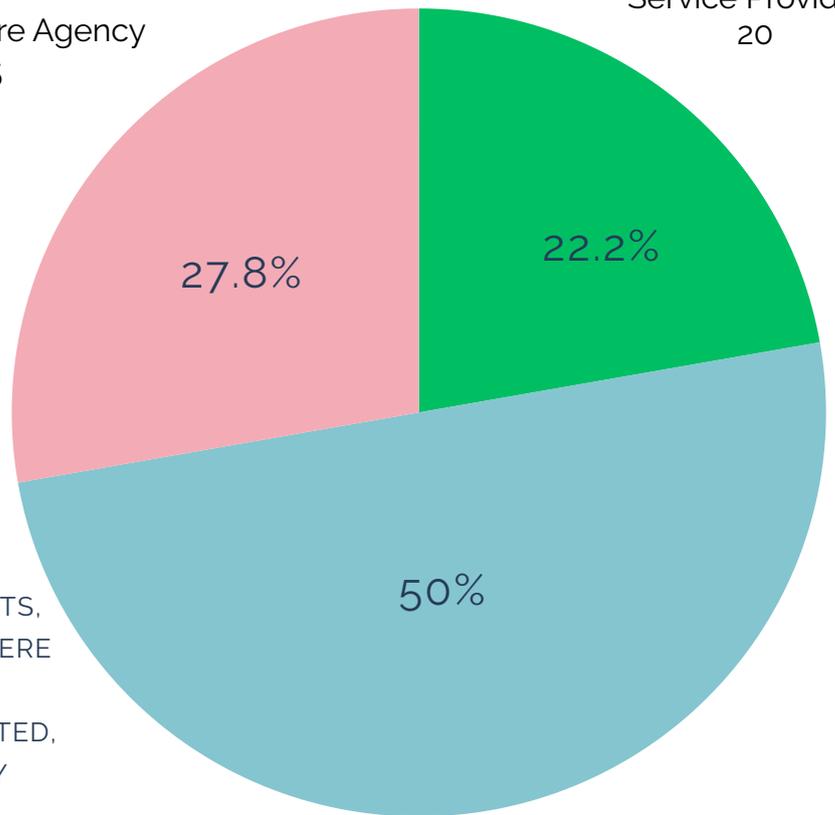
Thriving Families, Safer Children Kentucky • Commonwealth Center for Fathers and Families • Voices of the Commonwealth • UK College of Social Work • KY SEAT • DCBS's Trusted Advisor Council • Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities • Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children • Community Collaboration for Children • The Brighton Center • The Nest • The Administrative Office of the Courts • State and Regional Interagency Councils • DCBS's Division of Service Region's Field Quality Branch CQI Team

Service Providers Lived Experience

Child Welfare Agency

Service Providers  
20

Child Welfare Agency  
25



# Attendees

OF THE LIVED EXPERIENCE PARTICIPANTS, 24.4% WERE FATHERS, AND OVER 22% WERE PARENTS OF COLOR. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WAS NOT FULLY COLLECTED, SO THESE FIGURES MAY BE SLIGHTLY ADJUSTED.

Lived Experience  
45



PARTICIPANTS AT THE PARENT ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT, SEPTEMBER 2024

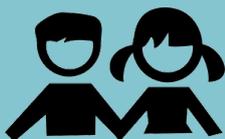
# Parent Engagement Summit Agenda

9:00 AM	REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST
9:30 AM	OPENING REMARKS
9:45 AM	CO-DESIGN TRAINING
NOON	LUNCH
12:30 PM	CO-DESIGN EXERCISE
1:30 PM	GALLERY WALK, REFLECTION, AND WRAP UP
2:10 PM	CURRENT LIVED EXPERIENCE LANDSCAPE IN KENTUCKY
2:30 PM	LIVED EXPERIENCE FAIR AND NETWORKING

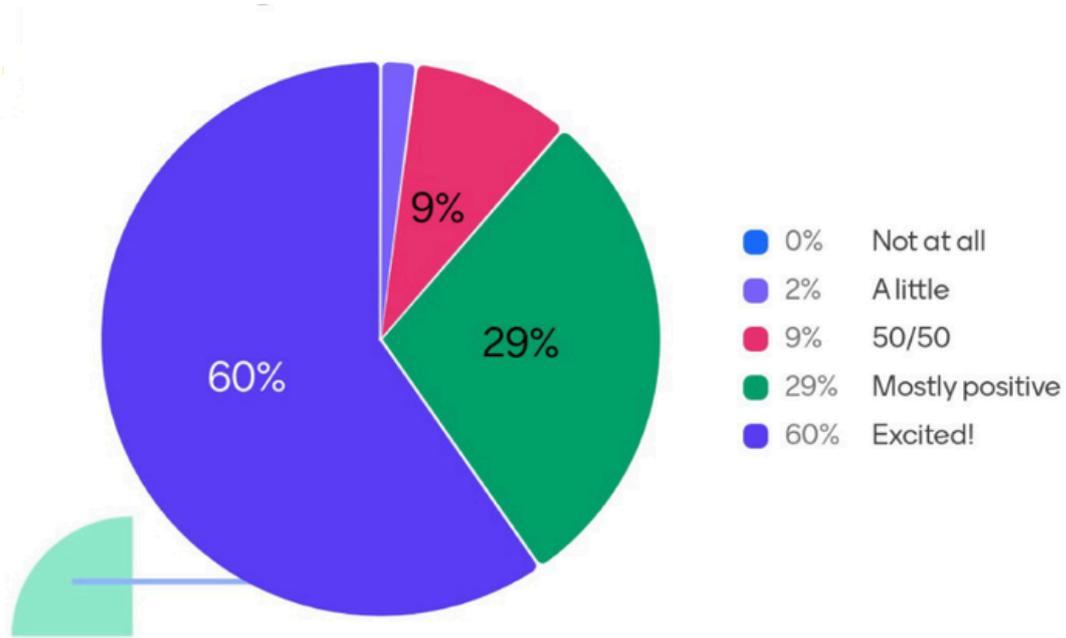
# LIVED EXPERIENCE PARTICIPATION SUPPORTS

FOR DIRECTLY IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE AN EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO FULLY ENGAGE AND COLLABORATE WITH SYSTEM PARTNERS TO DRIVE CHANGE, THE FOLLOWING ONSITE RESOURCES WERE PROVIDED:

- ONSITE CHILDCARE
- ONSITE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
- GIFT CARD FOR EXTRA MEALS (DINNER)
- DIETARY ACCOMMODATIONS
- LODGING
- PARKING
- ASL INTERPRETATION
- TRANSPORTATION/MILEAGE COVERAGE
- DESIGNATED LIVED EXPERIENCE POINT-OF-CONTACT PERSON
- COMPENSATION FOR TIME AND EXPERIENCE (GIVEN SAME DAY)
- SELF-CARE ROOM



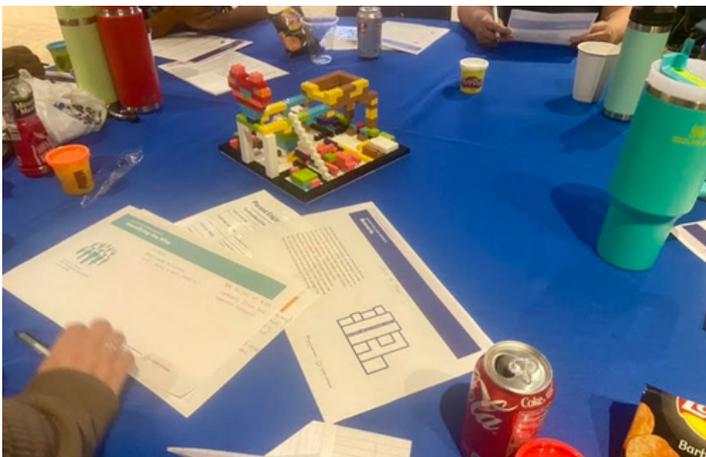
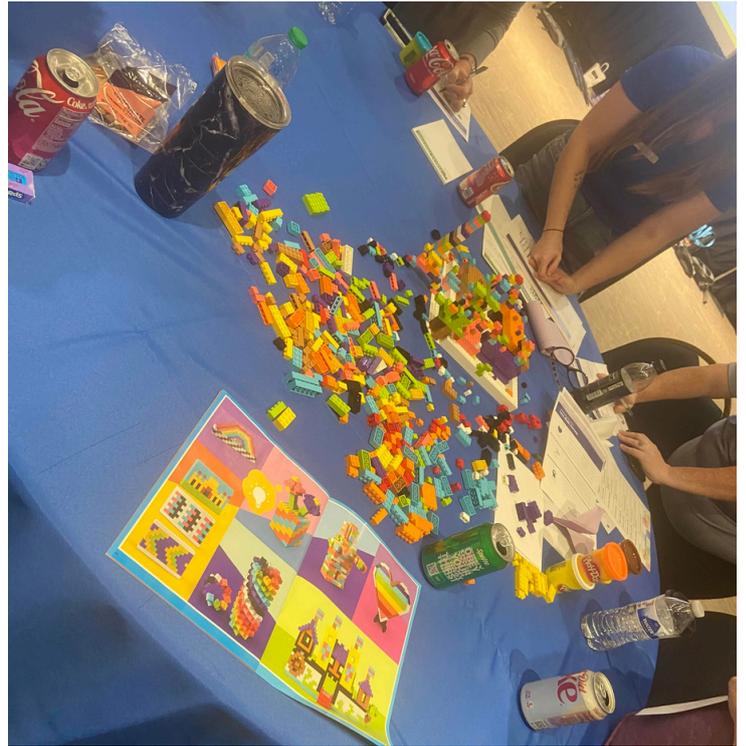
# PRE-ACTIVITY CHECK-IN: HOW HOPEFUL ARE YOU CURRENTLY FEELING ABOUT TRANSFORMING KENTUCKY INTO A COLLABORATIVE WELLBEING SYSTEM?



MIXED SEATING TO ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION ACROSS ROLES AND POWER DIFFERENTIALS

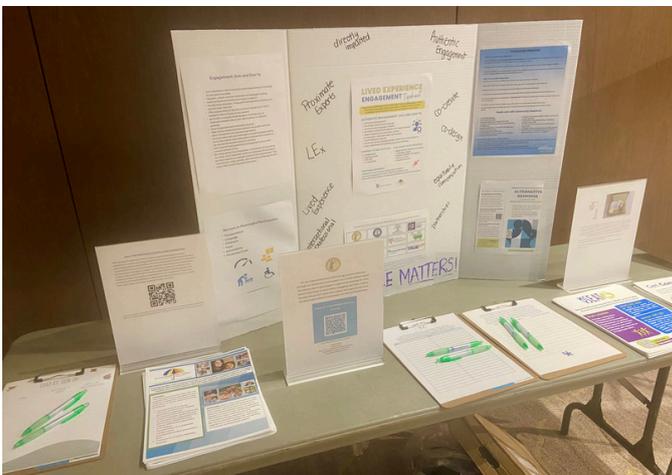
# CO-DESIGN EXERCISE

To model a key aspect of co-design, decision-making **with** and not **for** others, participants engaged in a hands-on, collaborative real-world exercise. The goal was to build a physical space where individuals with lived experience could co-create alongside service providers, child welfare workers, and leaders. Each group was tasked with crafting a LEGO® prototype of this space, including its layout, the people it would serve and employ, and the resources it would be equipped with.



# LIVED EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY FAIR

A SHOWCASE OF EXHIBITS AND ENGAGEMENT ROLES FOR LIVED EXPERIENCE PARTNERS, WITH OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE STATEWIDE AND NATIONALLY. THIS TIME ALSO PROVIDED A CHANCE FOR OPEN NETWORKING.



THIS EVENT WAS FUNDED AND HOSTED BY STATE LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS. IT WAS ORGANIZED BY A PARENT LEADER WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE, VALERIE FROST, WHO IS THE AUTHOR OF THIS REPORT.



THE PES WAS TRULY ONE OF THE BEST EVENTS/EXPERIENCES.

TODAY WAS AMAZING!

THANK YOU FOR THE EXPERIENCE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE AND ALSO TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S BROKEN AND HELP NAVIGATE BETTER SOLUTIONS.

I TREASURE THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO BRING EVERYONE INVOLVED CLOSER AND INTO A SEASON OF BEING BETTER EQUIPPED TO GET FAMILIES ON TRACK AND SEE KIDS' WELFARE AS A PRIORITY.

THANKS SO MUCH.

IT WAS TRULY AN AMAZING TIME! I'M EXCITED FOR NEXT YEAR NOW!

IT WAS AN AMAZING WEEK AND MAKING SO MANY CONNECTIONS AND MEETING NEW PEOPLE.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR INVITING ME. I ENJOYED IT AND I REALLY THINK THESE ENGAGEMENTS ARE GOING TO MAKE A CHANGE.

WE ALREADY CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE-THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO ATTEND!

THE ACTIVITIES WERE GREAT. IT WAS SO NICE TO BREAK DOWN THE WALLS THAT SEPARATE US AND WORK TOGETHER.

I TRULY ENJOYED MY TIME AND LEARNING SOMETHING NEW.



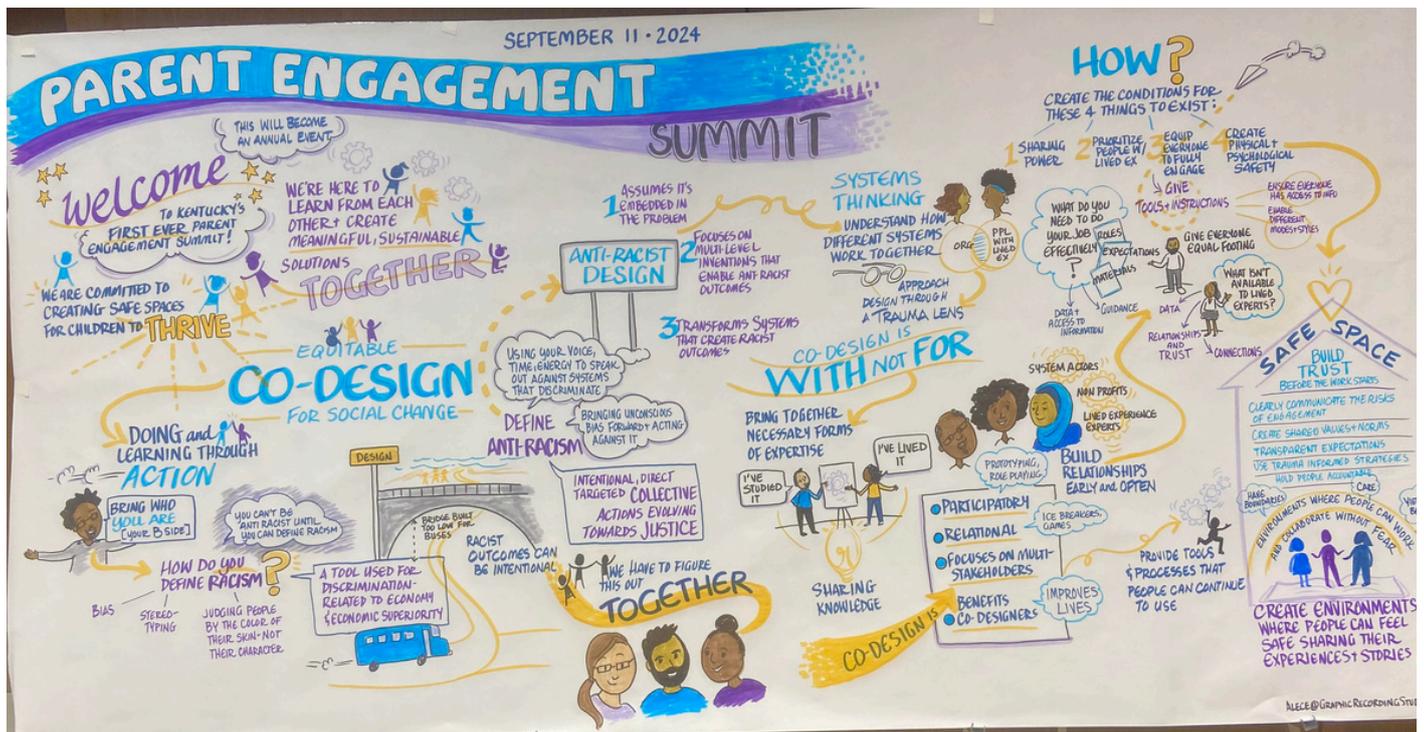
THE 2024 PARENT ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT MARKED A KEY STEP IN ADVANCING KENTUCKY'S PARTNERSHIP WITH LIVED EXPERTS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING ON THIS MOMENTUM AS WE ADVANCE IN FORMALIZING SUPPORTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SYSTEMS INVOLVEMENT AND FURTHER EVOLVING OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

KEY THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM THE DAY INCLUDED:

- A NEED FOR CULTURAL COMPETENCE
- A DESIRE FOR HOLISTIC SUPPORTS
- MORE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE
- A BALANCE OF POWER
- APPRECIATION FOR HAVING A VOICE AND BEING PART OF THE PROCESS

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE EVENT SPONSORS AND TO THE PARTNERS WHO SERVED ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE



GRAPHIC RECORDING BY ALECE BIRNBACH, GRAPHIC RECORDING STUDIO

**ABOVE ALL**, WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE COURAGE OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE SYSTEM, WHO HAVE SO GENEROUSLY SHARED THEIR VOICES AND DREAMS ALONGSIDE OUR SYSTEMS PARTNERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MAY NOT ALWAYS BE EASY, BUT YOUR LEADERSHIP IS TRULY ESSENTIAL IN DRIVING MEANINGFUL CHANGE. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE INVALUABLE, AND WE ARE HONORED TO WORK ALONGSIDE YOU.

### QUESTIONS?

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