

**The Brookdale National Relatives As Parents Program
(RAPP)
Orientation and Training Conference
Kansas City, MO
May/June 2003
Continuity and Expansion Brainstorming Session**

HOW CAN RAPPs CONTINUE AND EXPAND?

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

- Visit www.aarp.org – Grandparent Information Center (for information, to register your RAPP).
- Connect with state chapters of AARP, since they conduct most of the work on Grandparenting
- State Offices
- Retired Educators as a resource
- Contact State Office
- Develop Local Coalitions
- Work with Junior Leagues
- Connect with people that grandparent's trust
- Department of Health and Education
- Alliance for Children
- Have Advisory Committees that include professionals and grandparents
- Join your RAPP Statewide Coalition
- National Legislators on Taskforce
- Grandparents are stable partners
- Changing agency staff is a problem, every state has a land grant u. which can provide tangible supports for meetings, provide speakers for classes, grandparents raising grandchildren, etc.
- School Counselors
- School Nurses
- Medical Associations
- Communities in Schools [this is a national organization that provides “community services” in schools. Local groups have provided access to schools for some RAPP programs]
- Parish Nurses
- Schools of Nursing
- America's Promise

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MARKETING AND OUTREACH

- Articles in Newspapers
- Request a Mailing List of Licensed Professionals from the state
- Advertise on grocery bags
- Register with the Grandparent Information Center (www.aarp.org) and with your State Department on Aging
- Put yourself in places where you can get out information on your RAPP; on the issues confronted by relative caregivers (advisory boards, task forces, coalition meetings)
- State legislators' newsletters

EXPAND YOUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Conduct a Needs Assessment
- Engage caregivers in Advocacy/Empowerment
- Training – Seniors/Caregivers **A & SFA**
- Empowerment! Use grandparent raising grandchildren resources and educate professionals
- Grandparent Raising Grandchildren volunteers
- Have recreational activities together – intergenerational activities
- Holiday parties
- Potluck dinners/gatherings
- Zoo visits
- Hiking trails
- Support groups
- Mentors
- Hold your meetings at parks – Have picnics

MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH CAREGIVERS, COMMUNITY, STATE RAPP

- Conference Calling
- Electronic Communication

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FUNDRAISE, SEEK ON-GOING FUNDING

- State and local Offices on Aging
- Local Foundations
- Departments of Human Service
- Adoption and Safe Families Act – funding may be available
- States Attorney's Offices
- HUD
- Administration on Aging (AoA) Special Grants
- United Way Funding