Partnering with Families to Promote Early Childhood Mental Health in a System of Care

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www.mdcoalition.org
Maryland Coalition of Families for Children’s Mental Health

- Family Organization – established in 2001
- All 39 staff are family members
- One of 48 Statewide Family Networks
- Eight offices throughout MD
Maryland Coalition of Families for Children’s Mental Health

• One-to-one support
• Family Leadership Institute
• Newsletters/webinars for families
• Public policy
What is a Family?

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. A guiding principal in systems of care is that the families of children with emotional disabilities are full participants in all aspects of the planning and delivery of services.
What Term to Use When Talking About Families?

- Family Involvement
- Family Collaboration
- Family-Centered
- Family-Focused
- Family-Driven
- Family Partnership
What is Family-Driven?

Families have a primary decision making role in the care of their own children as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community, state, tribe, territory and nation.
What is the Partnership?

Based on:

• Unconditional acceptance
• Mutual respect
• Acknowledge each other’s contributions
• Non-judgmental
## Family Partnership Continuum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Centered</th>
<th>Family Focused</th>
<th>Family Allied</th>
<th>Family Driven</th>
<th>Partnership - Team Centered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Adversarial Relationship</td>
<td>✓ Families as helpers</td>
<td>✓ Families are customers</td>
<td>✓ Professionals are one down to family</td>
<td>✓ Wrap-around model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Professional is the expert</td>
<td>✓ Caregiver is one below</td>
<td>✓ Families/ Caregiver is equal</td>
<td>✓ Families know best</td>
<td>✓ Team makes decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Parent is the problem</td>
<td>✓ Professional is the expert</td>
<td>✓ Family and Professionals work in collaboration</td>
<td>✓ Professional role is to support family</td>
<td>✓ Team includes family, provider, child, and natural supports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Structuring Family Partnership
### At All Levels of The System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>• Voting on governing bodies&lt;br&gt;• Members of teams to write and review RFPs and contracts&lt;br&gt;• Members of systems design workgroup and advisory boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>• As part of quality improvement process&lt;br&gt;• Evaluators of system performance&lt;br&gt;• Trainers in training activities&lt;br&gt;• Advisors to selecting personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>• Members of our own child’s Team&lt;br&gt;• Family Support Partners, Care Coordinators, peer mentors, system navigators for other families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Roles for Families in Maryland’s System of Care

• Service providers:
  – Family Navigators: Assist families to find information and resources
  – Family Support Partners (FSP): Peer support to families with a child in wraparound
Roles for Families in Maryland’s System of Care

- Advisory Councils/Boards
- Trainers
- Evaluators
- Advocates
Building Partnerships with Families

- Values
- Commitment – top down
- Openness
- Resources
- Building a movement – not filling a committee seat
- Connect with Statewide Family Network
- Utilize early childhood partners
Maryland

- Funding
- Family Leadership Institute
- Focus groups
- Webinars
- Newsletters
- Day in Annapolis
- Children’s Mental Health Awareness Campaign
Partners

• Head Starts
• Judy Center
• Family Support Centers
• County Health Department Moms & Tots
• Center for Fathers, Families & Workforce Development
• The Family Involvement Subcommittee of the Early Childhood Mental Health Steering Committee