

“NOT ABOUT US WITHOUT US”

**The Importance of
Family Voice and Family
Driven Care**



WHAT IS FAMILY-DRIVEN?

Family-driven means “*families have a primary decision making role in the care of their own children as well as the policies and procedures governing care of the children in their community, state, tribe and nation*”



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT WITHIN SYSTEM OF CARE

- Needs of the child and family dictate the types of services provided
- Families are partners and therapeutic allies
- Family driven at every level
- Empowers families with shared decision-making and responsibility at the services and system level (i.e. policy, management, and monitoring)



THE RISE OF THE FAMILY VOICE

Mid 80's Family movement began to gather strength into a national, organized, family voice

1986 Congress passed the *State Comprehensive Mental Health Service Plan*, which required all states to develop and implement plans to create a community-based service system with serious mental illness, including adults and children and mandated participation of family members in the development of the state plans

1989 Creation of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (Texas had a representative), along with NAMI Child and Adolescent Network

1991 Texas Federation of Families was founded

1993 Anne E. Casey Foundation began an initiative which focused system-building with the inclusion of parents as equal partners in the governance of systems of care

2001 The Surgeon General's Report of the Conference on Children's Mental Health first identified family involvement as a guiding principle to improve children's mental health across the nation

2003 New Freedom Commission on Mental Health addresses families as key role in expanding delivery and focus on recovery

2005 Texas began training Family Partners

2011 Family Partner Certification began in Texas



BENEFITS OF FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Help families develop more positive feelings about their child's treatment and improve parenting skills
- Changes ways in which services are delivered
- Ensures family voice has full and meaningful incorporation
- Outcomes improve
- Ensures that the work of programs, systems, agencies is relevant and effective
- Allows staff and programs to operate in the "Real World"
- Can increase community support leading to expansion of programs
- Communities are healthier as their capacities to better support families are enhanced.

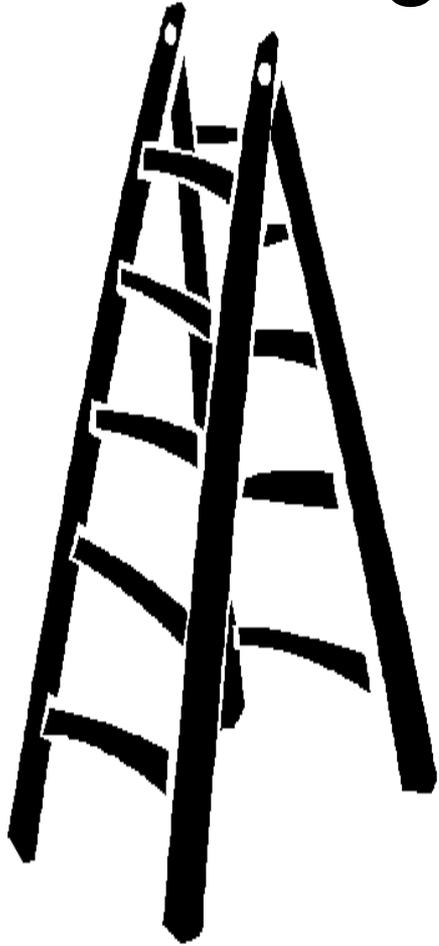


CHALLENGES TO FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Tokenism
- Lack of clear understanding of the family roles
- Lack of long-term vision
- A lack of resources available for supporting family involvement
- Problem solving need for “Out of the Box” thinking



THE CONTINUUM OF FAMILY DRIVEN CARE



- Families help bring state-wide systemic changes
- Community Collaboration with Family Voice “at the table”
- Agency Boards
- Staff Roles (i.e. Family Partner)
- Family Support and Education
- Active Role in Treatment Plan

“Offering a ladder of opportunities within an organization allows parents to stay involved and grow as leaders”.

(Treichel, Christa & Devich.Sue 2002-Study findings and implications for the Field. Executive Summary)



**Family Involvement
requires
deliberate attention
dedicated resources, and
capacity building
at
EVERY Level
to build an
effective
system.**



RESOURCES

- SAMHSA

<http://www.samhsa.gov/>

- Technical Assistance Partnership

<http://tapartnership.org/>

- Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

<http://www.ffcmh.org/>

- Building Systems of Care: A Primer, Sheila Pires

- Family Involvement: Strategies to develop family-driven mental health services, Wilder Research, Ferris, 2008

<http://www.wilder.org/download.0.html?report=2070>

