

FAMILY/PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- I. Mission Statement: It is the mission of the interagency system of care to involve parents and families of children and youth with serious emotional disturbances as full partners in every aspect of the system.**
- A. Administration
- Goal: Create an administrative structure which supports the development of family partnerships
1. Family/Professional Partnership Plan
 - a) Develop a family/professional partnership plan which reflects the range and depth of diversity within the community.
 2. Family Partnership Committee
 - a) Create a committee of staff, providers and families to evaluate the implementation of the family/professional partnership plan.
 - b) Promote services which are family-centered and built on family strengths.
 - c) Promote a service system which values family involvement and empowerment.
 3. Local Mental Health Board
 - a) Actively encourage membership of family representatives and youth on the LMHB.
 - b) LMHB reviews Family/Professional Partnership Plan.
 4. Skills and Leadership Development for Families and Staff
 - a) Provide resources and opportunities to promote leadership development.
 - b) Promote staff development activities that build staff competence in family centered service provision including staff understanding of family situations and conditions.
 - c) Promote parents training development that builds family competencies in mental health and other system of care issues.
 5. Policy and Procedures
 - a) Families should be included in all levels of policy making.
 - b) Family perspectives should be reflected in complaint and grievance resolution processes.
 - c) Provide supports to families to promote participation in Family/Professional Partnership activities.
 6. Evaluation
 - a) Ensure that families' input and feedback is solicited as part of evaluation of the organization and services.
 7. Human Resources Development
 - a) Ensure participation of parents in human resource development activities including recruitment and hiring.
 - b) Families should be compensated for providing technical assistance.

- B. Policy
Goal: Develop policies which define and support family/professional partnership services to the community.
 - 1. Mission Statement
 - a) Integrate family/professional partnership advocacy in the Mental Health mission statement.
- C. Contractors
 - 1. Include family/professional partnership principles in the contracts with community based organizations.
 - 2. Maximize family involvement in the contracting process including design of services to be contracted and provider selection.
 - 3. Encourage parent hiring policy by contractors.
- D. Staff
 - 1. Ensure job descriptions and performance expectations for staff which reflect family/professional partnership principles.
- E. Family Centered Services
Goal: Develop and implement a service program which empowers and supports families to become equal partners with service providers.
 - 1. Ensure services meet the identified needs of families and promote self-reliance and empowerment by building on family strengths.
 - 2. Ensure development of services that respect and are sensitive to the ethnic/cultural context and history of each family.
 - 3. Ensure families have an equal voice and a vote in all decisions that affect their family's services.
 - 4. Provide services in community settings and in the context of the child and family's culture.
 - 5. Promote collaboration between families, family advocates, mental health providers, health care providers and other agency/school personnel.
 - 6. Provide a mechanism for development of family support services and of a local parent family network to be run by and for the parents.