



Family-Driven Approaches for State, Regional & Local Agencies

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 and state.

Family is defined as the person(s) who provides love, guidance, care, support and nurtures all members especially its children. A family can be biological, relative (also known as kinship), adoptive or foster care.

What family driven care looks like:

- The family is an equal partner in decision making, planning and oversight in services and treatment.
- Family members participate in state and local reform efforts
- Family members serve on state, regional, and local committees
- Family members who are representatives in agencies and systems have the training and skills necessary to work with state, regional and community partners with a clear understand how to problem solve and be solution focused
- Families may be involved in multiple venues (such as: delivery of training, quality assurance efforts, policy review and development, etc)
- Family organization/networks, consumer groups, and peer to peer groups provide training and support to develop family leadership to meet state, regional and local needs
- Agencies and systems provide opportunities and information that assists families to be actively engaged in policy and program committees and quality assurance efforts
- Agencies and systems provide training for families and professionals in family-driven care
- Agencies and systems discuss issues in language families understand, and provide definitions for agency jargon
- Agencies and systems provide funding/resources associated with family involvement, including but not limited to compensation for their involvement, transportation, etc.
- Agencies and systems utilize family leaders to conduct focus groups, satisfaction interviews, and other initiatives related to family involvement.
- Agency and system policies and practices define family involvement (participation, information sharing, meetings time and location, input, final decision, etc)
- Agencies and systems provide education and assistance in understanding agency policy, financial statement, quality management reports, policies, programs, and organizational structure
- West Virginia provides resources to existing family-run organization/networks to train family leaders to serve on statewide committees and boards.