

## **Definition of Family-Driven Care:**

Family driven means families have a primary decision making role in the care of their children as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community. This includes:

- choosing supports, services, and providers;
- setting goals;
- designing and implementing programs;
- monitoring outcomes; and
- determining the effectiveness of all efforts to promote the mental health and wellbeing of children and youth

## **10 Guiding Principles**

1. Families and youth are given accurate understandable and complete information necessary to make choices for planning for individual children and families.
2. Families and youth embrace the concept of sharing decision-making and responsibility for outcomes with the providers.
3. Families and youth are organized to collectively use their knowledge and skills as a force for systems transformation.
4. Families and family-run organizations engage in peer activities to reduce isolation, gather and disseminate information, strengthen the family voice.
5. Providers embrace the concept of sharing decision-making and responsibility for outcomes with the families and youth.
6. Providers take the initiative to change practice from provider driven to family driven.
7. Administrators allocate staff, training, resources, and support to make family-driven practice work at the point where services and supports are delivered to children, youth and families.
8. Community attitude change efforts focus on removing barriers and discrimination created by stigma.
9. Communities embrace, value and celebrate the diverse cultures of their children, youth and families.
10. All who connect with children, youth, and families continually advance their cultural and linguistic responsiveness as the population served changes.

## **6 Characteristics of Family-Driven Care**

1. Family and youth experiences, their vision and goals, their perceptions of strengths and needs, and their guidance about what will make them comfortable, steer decision making about all aspects of service and system design, operation and evaluation.
2. Family run organizations receive resources and funds to support and sustain the infrastructure that is essential to an independent family voice in their community.
3. Meetings and service provision happen in culturally and linguistically competent environments, where family and youth voices are heard and valued, everyone is respected and trusted and it is safe for everyone to speak openly and honestly.
4. Administrators and staff demonstrate their partnerships with families and youth by sharing power, resources, authority, responsibility and control with them.
5. Families and youth have access to useful, usable, and understandable information and data as well as sound professional expertise so they have good information to make decisions.
6. All children, youth and families have a biological, adoptive, foster, or surrogate family voice speaking on their behalf.

Source: Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, SAMSHA