

Family Driven Care

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 for all children in their community, state, tribe, territory and nation. This includes:

- *Choosing supports, services, and providers;*
- *Setting goals;*
- *Designing and implementing programs;*
- *Monitoring outcomes;*
- *Partnering in funding decisions; and*
- *Determining the effectiveness of all efforts to promote the mental health and well-being of children and youth.*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Families and youth are given accurate, understandable, and complete information necessary to set goals and to make choices for improved planning for individual children and their families.
- Families and youth, providers and administrators embrace the concept of sharing decision-making and responsibility for outcomes with providers.
- Families and youth are organized to collectively use their knowledge and skills as a force for systems transformation.
- Families and family-run organizations engage in peer support activities to reduce isolation, gather and disseminate accurate information, and strengthen the family voice.
- Families and family-run organizations provide direction for decisions that impact funding for services, treatments, and supports.
- Providers take the initiative to change practice from provider-driven to family-driven.
- Administrators allocate staff, training, support and resources to make family-driven practice work at the point where services and supports are delivered to children, youth, and families.
- Community attitude change efforts focus on removing barriers and discrimination created by stigma.
- Communities embrace, value, and celebrate the diverse cultures of their children, youth, and families.
- Everyone who connects with children, youth, and families continually advances their own cultural and linguistic responsiveness as the population served changes.

Characteristics of Family-Driven Care

1. Family and youth experiences, their visions 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 insure an independent family voice in their communities, states, tribes, territories, and the nation.
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 honestly.
4. Administrators and staff actively demonstrate their partnerships with all 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. Funding mechanisms allow families and youth to have choices.
7. All children, youth, and families have a biological, adoptive, foster, or surrogate family voice advocating on their behalf.



Adapted from Osher, T and Blau, G. 2007. Gaithersburg, MD: Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Family Driven IEP Resources

Tennessee Department of Education

The department promotes educational services and programs for all Tennessee's students with special education needs. The department is committed to systematic planning along with plan implementation, tracking, and accountability as a vehicle for providing the leadership necessary for fulfilling this purpose. <https://www.tn.gov/education/student-support/specialeducation.html>

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

U.S. Department of Education's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) website, which brings together IDEA information and resources from the Department and our grantees. For students, parents, educators, and service providers looking for information and resources on infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and their families.

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/?src=search>

Wrightslaw

For parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.

<https://www.wrightslaw.com/>

Special Education Guide

SpecialEducationGuide.com is the go-to online resource for parents and educators who want to master the terminology, procedures and best practices in special education. Our expert writers cover everything from early intervention to ISFPs; IEPs and RTI, inclusion, classroom and behavior management; disability profiles for each category under IDEA and a Special Education Dictionary to master "SPED" jargon.

<https://www.specialeducationguide.com/>

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents - STEP

Empowers parents through information, training and support to become effective partners with professionals in planning appropriate educational programs for their children.

<https://www.tnstep.org/>

Tennessee Voices for Children

Tennessee Voices for Children exists to build the emotional and behavioral health of children, young adults, and families. Our Mission Tennessee Voices for Children provides leadership, advocacy, and hope to advance the emotional and behavioral well-being of children, young adults, and families. www.tnvoices.org