FAMILY VOICE & CHOICE

What Does It Really Mean?
OBJECTIVES

Define and implement “family-driven” and “youth-guided” within a Systems of Care perspective

Learn strategies to support family and youth involvement

Develop skills to infuse culturally competent practice within a systems of care

Use of technology as a tool while understanding its associated barriers
Worried how he will pay for this.
SYSTEM OF CARE

“A system of care is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that are organized to meet the challenges of children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families. A system of care helps children, youth, and families function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life.”

• Family-driven and youth-guided
• Home and community based
• Strengths based and individualized
• Addresses cultural and linguistic needs
• Coordinates across systems and services
• Connects to natural helping networks; and
• Outcomes oriented
“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 communities, states, tribes, territories and nation. This includes:

Choosing supports, services, and providers

Setting goals

Designing and implementing programs

Monitoring outcomes

Partnering in funding decisions

Determining the effectiveness of all efforts to promote the mental health and well being of children and youth”
“Youth-guided means young people have the right to be empowered, educated, and given a decision-making role in the care of their own lives as well as the policies and procedures governing the care of all youth in the community, state, and nation.” This could include:

- Involvement in treatment planning
- Input in decision making
- Identification in strengths and needs
- Youth-run organizations in locality
- Facilitating Child and Family Team Meetings
- Asking youth for feedback
- Acknowledging the youth’s interests
BARRIERS TO YOUTH PARTICIPATION

AS IDENTIFIED BY ADULTS

Time
Funding
Staffing
Access to youth
Lack of training (in how to work with youth)
Politics
Parents
Adult staff not empowered
Program evaluation requirements
Weak leadership
Racism

AS IDENTIFIED BY YOUTH

Ageism/Adultism
Money
Racism, sexism, homophobia
Stereotyping by appearance
Time/Transportation
Language
Lack of access to information
Lack of access to opportunities
Lack of support from adults
Few role models
Lack of motivation

ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. (1996). BARRIERS TO YOUTH PARTICIPATION. WASHINGTON, DC: THE CENTER FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY RESEARCH.
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

• Youth and/or family agree to participate
• Youth and family assist in scheduling meetings
• Youth and family submit agenda topics
• Focus on the strengths and successes of the family
• Needs are determined by the family
• Opportunities to say “no”
• Respecting and understanding family culture
• Youth and family as facilitators of the process
CASE EXAMPLES

• 18 year-old on probation. Client lives at home with mom and siblings. Mother is requesting meeting with client’s probation officer and care coordinator without the presence of the client.

• 15 year-old recently released from probation; referred to Wraparound by CSA. Client resides at home with immediate family members. CPS staff and school are also involved with the family. Client requested that only the care coordinator and natural supports be on the team. Nevertheless, team members included UR Analyst, CPS worker, school representative, natural supports, family, and youth.

• 7 year-old with developmental disabilities. Client has a large team consisting of ten natural supports and additional formal supports. Client does not attend the CFT meetings, but does voice his interests in individual meetings with Care Coordinator and family.

• 10 year-old with ADHD and SED. Child and Family team meeting to be held at the school. An additional three school staff members attended the meeting who were not invited by the family.
THINGS TO REMEMBER

Tone of voice
- I never said he stole the check

Word choice
- “I” versus “You”

Addressing Agency/Policy Requirements
- Team participation (probation, CPS, school, CSA)
- Other agency goals and expectations

“EACH OF YOU HAS BEEN GIVEN A SIMPLE, YET POWERFUL TOOL...”

IMAGE SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.CANVASCREEKTEAMBUILDING.COM/BLOG/5-TIPS-FOR-EFFECTIVE-COMMUNICATION
Culture is not limited to race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. Culture can be different within families and be defined by the family unit.

What is normal to this family?

The family composition

How do you use what the family brings you?

IMAGE SOURCE: HTTP://BOOKCOVERIMGS.COM/
Understanding the language of technology is important in being able to communicate with your clients.

Disregarding social media/technology today is similar to misunderstanding a person’s voice.

http://www.jellyfish.net/social-media-quiz/
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What social service has Facebook not acquired?

A) WhatsApp
B) Instagram
C) Snapchat
How many pictures are sent via self-destructive photo sharing service Snapchat each day?

A) 125 Million
B) 350 Million
C) 475 Million
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What image posted on Twitter broke the record for the number of retweets it gained?

A) President Obama's picture hugging Michelle Obama following his re-election in 2012

B) Justin Bieber offering fans a glimpse of his underwear modelling campaign

C) Ellen DeGeneres' "selfie" with Hollywood stars at the 2013 Oscars
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Social news and entertainment website BuzzFeed receives 130 million unique site visits a month, but what percentage of these come from social shares alone?

A) 25%
B) 50%
C) 75%
HOW TO MAKE USE OF THE TECHNOLOGY AGE

• Snapchat as a real time way to check-in with youth as written in their safety plan
• Calendar applications to alert families of meetings, medications, and other obligations
• Utilizing social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to share youth and family successes
• Skype/Face Time to incorporate team members who cannot participate in person
• Applications such as games and music utilized as coping mechanisms
• Use of technological devices to target skill building
• Other programs to assist individuals with special needs
Any questions before the family story?
QUESTIONS?

Maria Torres, Program Manager
Maria.Torres@Loudoun.gov
703-771-5562