



2018 FTNYS Family Peer Network Policy Survey

Throughout the year, Families Together in New York State gathers ideas and feedback from our statewide network of families, young people, and system partners to help guide our advocacy and policy efforts. This year, FTNYS held listening sessions with Family Peer Support Coalitions throughout the regions of New York to help us reflect the family voice. Please take 10 minutes to weigh in on these ideas from our network and offer any input you might have. When completed, please share this survey with 10 more families and/or young people you know. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Hansen, Public Policy Coordinator at bhansen@ftnys.org or 518.432.0333 x28. Kindly complete this survey by January 12, 2018.

To see the family voice in action, visit our website at www.ftnys.org to register for Legislative Awareness Day!

To submit the survey, you may:

Scan the completed survey to bhansen@ftnys.org

Fax the survey to 518.434.6478

Mail the completed survey to 737 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12208

To complete online, follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018FTNYS>

Note: Please feel free to skip questions that do not pertain to your family's experience. If you are a young person, answer questions 3 and 4 on your own behalf.

1. County of residence where services are accessed.

2. I am a (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/caregiver of a child or youth involved with mental health services | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parent or Kinship Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Young person with developmental challenges or disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/caregiver of a child or youth involved in foster care, kinship and/or the child welfare system | <input type="checkbox"/> Young person with experience with mental health services | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional in children's behavioral health or other child serving services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/caregiver of a child or youth involved with substance abuse services | <input type="checkbox"/> Young person with experience in foster care, kinship and/or the child welfare system. | <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a local, county or state government child serving agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/caregiver of a child or youth involved in the juvenile justice system | <input type="checkbox"/> Young person with experience with substance abuse services | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Peer Advocate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/caregiver of a child or youth with developmental challenges or disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Young person with experience with the juvenile justice system | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Peer Advocate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/caregiver of a child or youth with vocational/employment challenges | <input type="checkbox"/> Young person with vocational/employment challenges | |

Other (please specify below)

3. The child or youth in my family is having/has had: (check all that apply; if you are a young person, answer on your own behalf):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Justice Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse or addiction issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Court Involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional challenges | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning challenges | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Justice Involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty graduating | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare System/Family Court Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Health challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social challenges | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational or employment challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A developmental disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Police Involvement | |

Please describe any details you wish to share about the experiences you selected above.

4. Do you feel your family has enough say in directing your family's services including setting your goals? (Check all that apply; if you are a young person, answer on your own behalf)

Yes

No

In what ways should your family be involved in directing services?

5. When discussing the **education** system, families at our listening sessions considered the following ideas. Let us know if you agree that these are important.

	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Increase school-based mental health services and supports for students and families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote the use of restorative justice and other alternative disciplinary approaches to reduce suspensions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide schools with resources and training on positive behavior interventions and trauma-informed approaches.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Offer multiple pathways to receive a diploma beyond passing five Regents exams and simplify graduation options.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide educational programming for students and their families on behavioral health, trauma, resiliency-based skills, and wellness.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase support for transitions from settings such as the juvenile justice placement, in-patient mental health and substance use, residential treatment centers, and other situations that disrupt a student's education.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support school and community-based anti-bullying efforts.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve support for parents and students as they develop their Individualized Education Plans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase access to and improve the quality of pre-school and kindergarten programs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have you or someone you know been personally affected by these issues? Do you have your own ideas? Tell us more below.

6. When discussing the **mental health and substance use (behavioral health)** service systems, families at our listening sessions considered the following ideas. Let us know if you agree that these are important.

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Less Important	Not Important
Ensure high-quality community-based behavioral health care is available, timely, affordable, and sustainable by ensuring adequate rates for children's clinics to maintain quality services and a well-trained workforce.	<input type="radio"/>				
Preserve Medicaid funding, protections for pre-existing conditions, and the essential health benefits mandates included in the Affordable Care Act.	<input type="radio"/>				
Reauthorize the federal Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) designed for non-Medicaid families who cannot afford private insurance for their child.	<input type="radio"/>				
Make services available before during, and after a crisis or threat of hospitalization or residential placement.	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve coordination with other systems to ensure youth transitioning from treatment receive an appropriate education, connect with aftercare services and participate in ongoing recovery supports that include the family.	<input type="radio"/>				
Expand State-aid funding for Family Peer Support Services, Youth Peer Support Services, and other vital community-based services to ensure non-Medicaid families have access to these essential supports.	<input type="radio"/>				
Enforce mental health and substance abuse parity laws by requiring insurers and health plans to submit data and key metrics to the Department of Financial Services and the Commissioner of Health	<input type="radio"/>				

Have you or someone you know been personally affected by these issues? Do you have your own ideas? Tell us more below.

7. (Continued) When discussing the **mental health and substance use (behavioral health)** service systems, families at our listening sessions considered the following ideas. Let us know if you agree that these are important.

	Very	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in efforts to change a minor's sexual orientation, so-called "conversion therapy," and define such efforts as professional misconduct.	<input type="radio"/>				
Ensure that trauma informed care is practiced in mental health facilities and that practices such as forced medication and restraint and seclusion are not imposed onto youth.	<input type="radio"/>				
Ensure that the Justice Center may coordinate the prosecution of egregious cases in local courts.	<input type="radio"/>				
Encourage service providers to offer parents services, supports and skill-based learning that run parallel to their young persons treatment.	<input type="radio"/>				
Ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing for young people in transition, including integrated supportive housing.	<input type="radio"/>				
Continue to fund and establish new Youth Clubhouses and Recovery Community & Outreach Centers to support recovery.	<input type="radio"/>				
Offer financial incentives for counties and service agencies to adopt family-driven, youth guided practices and develop family peer and youth peer advisory panels.	<input type="radio"/>				

Have you or someone you know been personally affected by these issues? Do you have your own ideas? Tell us more below.

8. When discussing the **juvenile justice** system, families at our listening sessions considered the following ideas. Let us know if you agree that these are important.

	Less Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Fund a broad continuum of services that help young people avoid becoming involved in the justice system, prevent re-arrest, and prepare for re-entry into the community, including access to family peer support and youth peer support.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support efforts to reform the bail system and enhance the right to a speedy trial to assure youth are not held for indeterminate lengths of time because an inability to afford bail or unnecessary court delays.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pass the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act to create alternatives, restrict criteria for placement, and end the practice of long-term isolated confinement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extend eligibility for the Youthful Offender status from 18 to 20 years of age, allowing eligible offenders to have their record sealed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All justice system contacts should be trained on trauma-informed approaches, de-escalation tactics, and understand behavioral health and developmental challenges, with an emphasis on diversion to treatment over punitive approaches.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have you or someone you know been personally affected by these issues? Do you have your own ideas? Tell us more below.

9. When discussing the **child welfare** system, families at our listening sessions considered the following ideas. Let us know if you agree that these are important.

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Less Important	Very Unimportant
Strengthen family-based care by offering counties incentives to recruit and retain quality foster parents, encourage more formal kinship care (relative-based foster care and direct custody) and provide young people and their foster/kinship families more support to encourage permanency, reunification, and successful transitions into adulthood.	<input type="radio"/>				
Establish a Statewide Ombudsman official to investigate the complaints filed by foster youth, foster families, kinship families, and birth families.	<input type="radio"/>				
Ensure preventative support services and programming are available for all families within their communities, especially those at risk of or are currently involved with child protective services.	<input type="radio"/>				
Improve coordination with other systems to ensure youth transitioning from foster care, kinship, or congregate care settings receive an appropriate education, connect with aftercare services and have ongoing supports as they transition into adulthood.	<input type="radio"/>				
Encourage the utilization of Family Peer Support Services and Youth Peer Support Services for families and young people involved in foster care and kinship.	<input type="radio"/>				
Encourage Kinship Care (relative-based foster care) by establishing a kin-first firewall that requires documentation of a search for a kin placement within 45 days and requires sign off from supervisors for placements that are not with kin.	<input type="radio"/>				
Educate family court judges on importance of formal kin placements and encourage a review of efforts to set-up formal kinship care at every step of the legal process.	<input type="radio"/>				

Have you or someone you know been personally affected by these issues? Do you have your own ideas? Tell us more below.

10. Families Together believes the family voice is absolutely necessary for effective policy-making. Please identify statewide policy efforts you may be interested in participating in:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forums | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislator Visits | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter-writing and phone calls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Press Conferences | <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion editorials | <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Committees | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) | | |

11. If interested in any of the advocacy opportunities mentioned above and being added to our e-news list, please provide your contact information:

Name _____

Address _____

ZIP/Postal Code _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

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