

The Family Needs & Strengths (FANS)

WHAT IS THE FANS?

- In 2007 the **FANS** was developed in partnership between Dr. John Lyons and the Western Region Family Peer Support Services Program Directors.
- The **FANS** tool is modified from the Child Needs & Strengths (CANS) developed by Dr. John Lyons. The tool is continually vetted by Dr. Lyons.
- **FANS** is used In Family Support programs in New Jersey and Florida and endorsed and encouraged by the NYS OMH for use in Family Peer Support Services.
- **FANS** is used as a self-assessment completed by the family to support the family's outcome.
- **FANS** is administered by Family Peer Advocates in partnership with parents, creating a platform on which to articulate the shared vision of the work to be done in partnership with the family (Lyons 2013).

WHY IS THE FANS USED?

- **FANS** is an effective engagement and decision support tool for measuring outcomes for parents' skills, empowerment, and to use as a decision support tool in the work of Family Peer Advocates that is Family Driven.
- **FANS** is used to maintain focus on the progress made by the family and the reason for the family's involvement with Family Peer Support Services.
- The outcomes demonstrated by the **FANS** illustrate that when parents are connected with the Family Peer Support experience; parents experience an increase in their knowledge, and they enhance the skills needed to meet the challenges of raising a child/children with social, emotional, developmental, behavioral, substance use, juvenile justice, educational, child welfare challenges.

WHAT IS THE FANS USED FOR?

- The **FANS** tool documents proof of successful outcomes for Family Peer Support Services (FPSS) highlighting the need for continued inclusion, development, and expansion of FPSS within all child serving systems.
- To build a Family treatment plan for the benefit of the child's goals being met.
- In the Medicaid Managed Care Environment, Family Peer Support Services has become a State Plan Service which is a Medicaid billable. Managed Care Organizations will look for data to ensure that the Family Peer Support providers they contract with are effective and timely in the delivery of services that they provide to families.

THE FANS IS NOT

- A tool to determine medical necessity for Family Peer Support Services.