

Youth-Guided Practice and Family-Driven Care Principles

Youth-guided and Family-driven means young people and their families have a primary decision making role in the care of their own lives as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all youth in their community, state, tribe, territory and nation.

This includes:

- Choosing culturally and linguistically competent supports, services, and providers;
- Setting goals;
- Designing, implementing and evaluating programs;
- Monitoring outcomes; and
- Partnering in funding decisions.

Guiding Principles of Youth Guided Practice and Family Driven Care

1. Youth and families, providers and administrators embrace the concept of sharing decision-making and responsibility for outcomes.
2. Youth and families are given accurate, understandable, and complete information necessary to set goals and to make informed decisions and choices about the right services and supports for individual youth and their families.
3. All children, youth, and families have a biological, adoptive, foster, or surrogate family voice advocating on their behalf and may appoint them as substitute decision makers at any time.
4. Youth and families and youth and family-run organizations engage in peer support activities to reduce isolation, gather and disseminate accurate information, and strengthen youth and family voice.
5. Youth and families and youth and family-run organizations provide direction for decisions that impact funding for services, treatments, and supports and advocate for youth and families to have choices.
6. Providers take the initiative to change policy and practice from provider-driven to youth guided and family-driven.
7. Administrators allocate staff, training, support and resources to make youth guided and family-driven practices work at the point where services and supports are delivered to children, youth, and families and where youth and family run organizations are funded and sustained.
8. Community attitude change efforts focus on removing barriers and discrimination created by stigma.
9. Communities and private agencies embrace, value, and celebrate the diverse cultures of their children, youth, and families and work to eliminate mental health disparities.
10. Everyone who connects with children, youth, and families continually advances their own cultural and linguistic responsiveness as the population served changes so that the needs of the diverse populations are appropriately addressed.