

Fam-VOC Information for Participating Councils/Committees

The Family Voice on Council & Committees (Fam-VOC) is an assessment of organizational support for family voice and is intended to gauge the extent to which councils, committees and advisory boards welcome family voice by engaging and supporting family members to be active and influential members. By participating in the assessment, your council/committee will receive a measure of the current level of support for family voice within your group as well as gain an opportunity for learning and growth.

The assessment is done through a confidential online survey and takes about 15 minutes to complete. The Fam-VOC assesses support for family voice in the following four themes:

Theme 1: Overall Vision and Commitment

- *The committee/council* has formalized its commitment to promoting meaningful participation of family members in organizational leadership and decision-making.
- **Questions address:** *Commitment to meaningful participation; formal policy; appropriate representation; culture of partnership; equal participation; leadership roles; assessment of participation efforts.*

Theme 2: Collaborative Approach

- *The committee/council* has adopted policies and practices that foster collaboration at all levels.
- **Questions address:** *Collaborative process; evidence of impact; meeting best practices; information sharing and communication; transparency in decision making.*

Theme 3: Empowered Representation

- *Committee/council* ensures that family members have the information and support they need to participate actively and influentially.
- **Questions address:** *Sufficient and consistent representation; orientation; support for meaningful participation; leadership development*

Theme 4: Support of Family Members Participation

- *Committee/council* works to eliminate barriers that can prevent family members from actively participating.
- **Questions address:** *External partnering; addressing barriers to participation; stipends and incentives.*

Each theme contains a set of items that provide illustrative examples of what fully developed family voice looks like in a specific area. Respondents rank their council/committee's current level of development for each item on a scale from **least developed** (to reflect that none of the aspects described in the item are true for *council/committee*) to **fully developed** (to reflect that all of the aspects are consistently in place).

For more information about how your council/committee or advisory group can implement the FAM-VOC assessment tool, contact Malisa Pearson, FREDLA Project Coordinator, at mpearson@fredla.org.