

# Continuum of Family Partnership: What does it look like in residential care?

## Family Involvement {individual family level}

### Examples:

Family input into the initial and ongoing clinical evaluation and treatment planning processes

Participating in family therapy

Parent training events

RTC covers transportation expenses for families to visit/attend events

Open door visitation (no set hours/dates)

Families have opportunities for input through surveys, pre- and post surveys

Parent support groups run by staff or clinician

Systems and methods of ongoing contact with family NOT tied to youth behavior

# Family Engagement (programmatic level)

### **Examples:**

Family input into type, frequency, and modality of services offered

Choosing and/or co-leading parent training events

Activities, therapies, & skill building happen at the home with family present, not just at the RTC

Families evaluate program and its policies

Families provide recommendations

RTC provides resources for family chosen trainings and programs

Parent peer support offered throughout intervention

Parent support groups run by another parent

Families as "greeters" and program guides for other families

## **Family Driven**

{organizational level}

### Examples:

Parent peer support as part of treatment team and decision-making groups

Supportive services are provided when and where families need them, rather than solely in facilities

Families facilitating or co-facilitating training events based on input by parents

Families part of hiring, training, policy development, CQI, and evaluation across entire organization

Families help design spaces and the facility

Families have leadership roles with the organization and on the Board

Families initiate programs

RTC provides resources for families to be full partners (stipends, childcare, travel, meeting time according to family availability, etc.)

Integrating family voice and expertise into residential treatment for children and youth is crucial for achieving positive outcomes. There is a continuum of family partnership in treatment programs and facilities that differs in intensity and authenticity. *Family Involvement* occurs at the individual family level. Families are an important and essential source of information in developing treatment goals and approaches; they know the needs of their child, the effectiveness of past treatment, and the supports they need to be involved in treatment. *Family Engagement* builds on *family involvement* to incorporate family experience and expertise at the programmatic level. Family perspective in program design, delivery and evaluation helps programs become more effective. *Family Driven* (*i.e., FULL family partnership*) refers to full integration and support of family perspective and partnership approaches at the organizational level. This includes family representation in executive groups, in paid positions within the program/facility, and into operational functions including hiring decisions, organizational development, and continuous quality improvement processes.