



FAM-VOC: Strengthening Family Voice on Councils & Committees

Developed in partnership with Portland State University, the Family Voice on Councils & Committees (Fam-VOC) is an assessment of organizational support for family voice, gauging 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, group members receive a measure of the current level of support for family voice within the group and gain strategies and tools 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 a 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 *their group*) 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 FREDLA at info@fredla.org