



Portland, Oregon

Contributions of Family & Youth Voice to Building Systems of Care

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Contributions of Family & Youth Voice to Changes in Thinking and Practice

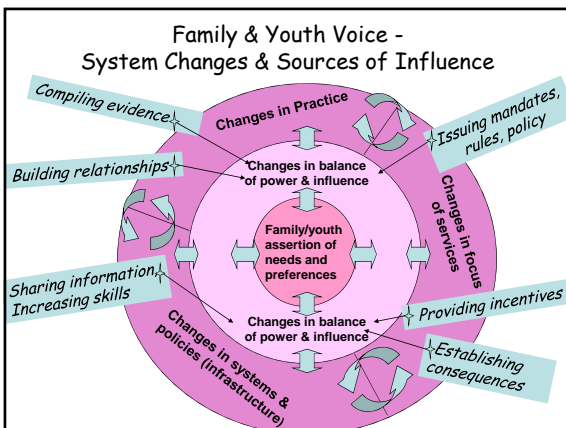
- ❖ How things have changed
- ❖ Why things have changed
- ❖ Lessons learned: Ideas for the next 25 years.
- ❖ Platinudes to live by.

Changes in Systems of Care (What has changed?)


- **Changes in focus of services**
 - Expanded attention to needs of the entire family;
 - Addition of family & youth support services (e.g., respite, individual support for education & recreation, peer-peer, family-family support) to traditional mental health treatment services.
- **Changes in practice**
 - Wraparound as a process for planning & coordination;
 - More authentic inclusion of family caregivers & youth in service planning;
 - Emphasis on strengths-based, as well as problem-focused work.

Changes in Systems of Care (What has changed?, Cont.)

- **Changes in systems & policies (infrastructure)**
 - Flexible funds reflect comprehensive approach to services;
 - Family members increasingly important part of SOC workforce;
 - Policy recognition of importance of family & youth input in decision-making.



Lessons Learned: Implications for Next 25 Years



**Lessons Learned:
Implications for Next 25 Years**

- Contributions of family/youth voice to system development were neither recognized nor planned 25 years ago.
 - *Strategic use of information about building influence could accelerate positive change.*
- Much progress has not been linear, but rather evolutionary and opportunistic.
 - *Long-range, big-picture goals help recognize and build on opportunities.*

**Lessons Learned:
Implications for Next 25 Years**

- Much change in family/youth influence has been linked to government-stimulated initiatives (mandates, incentives, consequences).
 - *These strategies are also available to agencies, organizations, systems of care.*
- Families and family organizations excel at building relationships, training, and sharing information. Also some capacity to provide incentives, establish consequences.
 - *Focused training on these strategies that builds intent, skills could accelerate change.*

PLATITUDES TO LIVE BY

MAYBE IT'S NOT A NAIL



**DIVERSIFY;
Funding sources & collaborators**



ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE



PERSERVERE:
What doesn't kill us will make us stronger

