


## Family and Youth Roles in Systems of Care: The Evolution of Influence

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## A Bit of History



## National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

**Promoting Positive Mental Health from Birth to Adulthood**  
May 2-8, 2010

The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health declares the first full week in May as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. This week is dedicated to increasing public awareness about the triumphs and challenges in children's mental health and emphasizing the importance of family and youth involvement in the children's mental health movement!

## National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

- Green ribbon campaign-over 150,000 sold in 2009
- Poster Contest
- Legislative Awareness Day-May 6, 2010
- Tip Sheets and other Resources
- Support to statewide and local chapters



## Families and Youth in Evaluation

**Families & youth are integrated into every aspect of the national and local evaluation. Especially:**

- Providing feedback on the design and objectives of the evaluation
- Recruiting and introducing families & youth to the evaluation
- Conducting interviews
- Analyzing data
- Interpreting data and identifying findings
- Reporting results
  - o To families & youth
  - o To the system of care staff
  - o To the system of care governance
  - o To the community at large
  - o To the national community (i.e.: regional TA meeting presentations)
- Providing input into decisions about the management of the evaluation budget
- Identifying and/or meeting training needs of the evaluation team

## Families and Youth In Evaluation

- Families & youth are appropriately compensated for their time and experience-based expertise.
- Families & youth are provided training in evaluation and in the policies and procedures of their team.
- Families & youth receive supportive supervision that guides their development as an evaluation team member bringing experience-based expertise to the evaluation.
- Families & youth working in evaluation are supported to link with and have access to other families & youth, thereby strengthening the "family/youth voice" in evaluation and the "family/youth" use of data. I.e.: the Key Family Contact, Youth Coordinator, families/youth in need of services, families/youth receiving services, the family-run organization, and families/youth enrolled in the evaluation

## Public Policy

- Annual Legislative Awareness Day-2010 focus on Early Childhood
- Reauthorization of SAMHSA
- Community Bill of Rights
- Inclusion of children and mental health in health care reform
- Elimination of seclusion and restraints
- Mental health services for incarcerated youth
- School-wide implementation of PBIS

## Vision

- National Federation-Fully funded and sustained
- Greater National Exposure-National Spokesperson
- Family-run organization in each state, as well as in tribes and territories
- Creation of a family to family (peer) workforce with national certification/credentialing
- A professional guild under the National Federation
- Youth MOVE National-free standing, fully supported organization

## Challenges

- Cultivating new leaders
- Uniting the multiple voices of families
- Promoting family-driven concepts outside of systems of care
- Single source funding/sustainability