



Family Voice Study: Examining the Role of Family Organizations in Developing Family Voice in Systems Of Care

Phase One: Findings from the National Survey of Family Organizations

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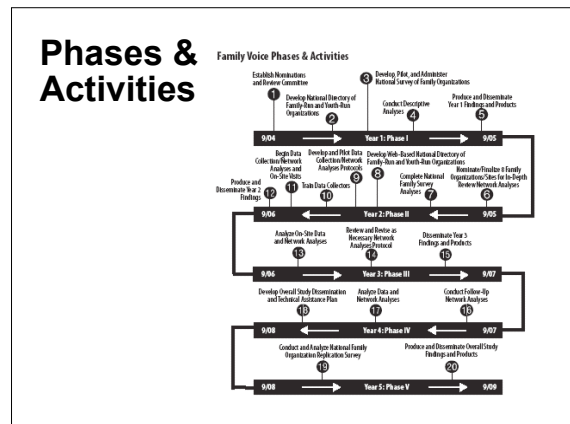
The Research and Training Center believes that **Family Voice** can and should be leading the way for effective systems of care and service delivery of services for children with serious emotional disturbances and their families.

Purpose

Examine how **Family Voice**, as represented by family-run organizations, contributes to the development, implementation and sustainability of local systems of care, and how systems of care contribute to the development and sustainability of family-run organizations.

Method

To capture the complexity of family-run organizations, this study will use survey research procedures, network analysis, and a case study design that is organized into five phases over five years.

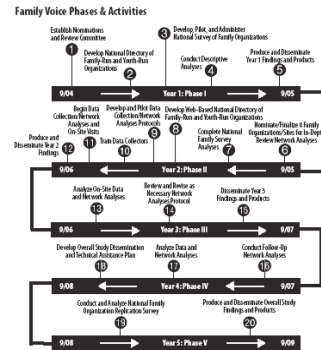


National Directory of Family-Run and Youth-Run Organizations



This web-based directory describes family-run and youth-run organizations and support groups that are working to support families who have children and adolescents with emotional/behavioral and/or mental health challenges and to improve mental health services and supports.

Phases & Activities




Preliminary Findings: Family Organization Characteristics (n=20)



- Most started out as a grassroots organization or support group.
- Of those that are part of a CMHS System of Care community, most were in existence prior to the grant.
- Most are part of a local or statewide management team.
- Most of the referrals to the family organizations come from: 1) other families; 2) care managers; 3) judges; 4) teachers/school counselor; and 5) community organizations.
- Most have multiple funding sources.

Preliminary Findings: Importance, Effectiveness, and Extent of Support



| Assumptions/Indicators | Importance | Effectiveness | Extent of Support |
|--|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| The family-run organization has productive working relationships with state and local agencies, and providers. | 4.8 | 4.3 | 3.3 |
| The family-run organization helps families have direct access to mental health providers and other child serving agencies. | 4.7 | 4.1 | 3.5 |
| Mechanisms are in place to sustain a family-run organization. | 5.0 | 3.0 | 2.6 |
| Youth are encouraged and supported to participate in all operations of the system of care. | 4.5 | 3.1 | 3.2 |

How important: 1= not at all important 2= minimally important 3=somewhat important 4=important 5=very important
How effective: 1=not at all effective 2= minimally effective 3= somewhat effective 4= effective 5= very effective
To what extent: 1= never 2= rarely 3= occasionally 4= frequently 5= always

Further Analyses of Survey Data



- Provide a baseline of information regarding family organizations, partner organizations, and family members;
- Provide information regarding family organizations and their involvement in aspects of systems of care implementation and sustainability;
- Inform the development of the family organization/system of care case studies for Phases 2 & 3;
- Phase 4 Survey Replication will provide information about organizational change over time.

Anticipated Findings from the Family Voice Study



- Factors that contribute to the development and sustainability of family organizations.
- How family organizations contribute to the development and sustainability of systems of care.
- Typology of different structures of family organizations and their network relationships.
- Recommended methods that family organizations can use to help bring about system transformation.