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.

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.

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.

Phases & Activities

Preliminary Findings: Importance, Effectiveness, and Extent of Support

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

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.