19th Annual RTC Conference
Presented in Tampa, February 2006

AREAS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

Literature Review
Sustainability of Family Organizations

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PURPOSE

- Review the history of SOC family involvement in NC
- Highlight the literature on sustainability
- Suggest areas for further study

DEFINITIONS

- Family Organizations
  - Networks, advocacy organizations, support organizations, community-based organizations
  - Key component – designed and implemented by family members/consumers
  - Goal – to give voice and redistribute power to people who have to live the decisions

SOURCES

- Scholarly Journals, Books
- Technical Assistance Documents and Reports
  - produced by university-based research centers and national organizations, including foundations
  - Technical Assistance Providers

BACKGROUND IN A NUTSHELL

- 2 Statewide Family Networks
- 15 family organizations started in response to System of Care

Sustainability Issues

- Sufficient Staffing
  - Paid staff sufficient to carry out the work

- Stable Funding/Ability to Raise Funds
  - Sufficient and ongoing funding. The funds must cover the costs of staffing, infrastructure, expenses, training and stipends.
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SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

Partner Organization Commitment
Having strong partnerships with community
and state agencies.


Fiscal Sponsor Relationships

SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

Leadership
Leadership and leadership development
are mentioned frequently.


SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

Technical Assistance and Training
Particularly in the start up stage, family groups
need technical assistance and training as they learn
the many functions of running a family group.


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AREAS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

Family Experience
Studies of family organizations, those who have
tried to start groups and succeed, and those who
have not succeeded.

Researchers partnering with families to describe
and detail, from the family perspective, the
necessary conditions for sustainability.

AREAS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

Original Design -
How does the design, the target population, the
issues and age ranges addressed affect the ability
to sustain the work?

What was the original purpose and funding for the
group?

From what source was the group initiated?
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AREAS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

- Funding -
  - How much money is enough?
  - Source of funds
  - Control of the funds
  - Role of federal grant funds
  - Requirements attached to the funds

AREAS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

- Leadership –
  - How are family leaders chosen and by whom?
  - What are the qualities of leadership?
  - What does leadership development look like?
  - How should it be implemented?

AREAS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

- Technical Assistance and Training -
  - Who should provided it?
  - What is the nature and duration?
  - What are the topics and modalities of instruction?

AREAS FOR CONTINUED RESEARCH

- Organizational Models -
  - To be or not to be a nonprofit
  - Role of fiscal sponsorship
  - Top down (citizen involvement)
  - Bottom up (citizen initiated) (Langton, S. 1978)

CONCLUSION

- More research and information is necessary regarding sustaining family organizations/networks

- Family Voices Study - University of South Florida

References

- Conlan, L. (2005, June), Sustaining Family Involvement and Family Organizations Barrier Buster Session handout presented at the NC SOC Technical Assistance Meeting, Winston-Salem, NC.
REFERENCES continued


