



**Family
Experience**
of the
Mental Health System

**Findings
Compendium**



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

Louis de la Parte
Florida Mental Health Institute

Family Experience of the Mental Health System

The Family Experience of the Mental Health System (FEMHS)

is one of seven major studies at The Research and Training Center (RTC) for Children's Mental Health, Department

of Child & Family Studies, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI), at The University of South Florida (USF), Tampa, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Mental Health Services, and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research from September 1999 – August 2004. The RTC's mission is to increase the effectiveness of services systems for children and youth with emotional disturbances and their families by strengthening the empirical base for such systems.

The Family Experience of the Mental Health System study has had guidance and invaluable input during the course of the study from parents, and other primary caregivers, and youth. A Family Advisory Committee met each year (2000–2003) at the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Annual Conference to help refine research questions, develop protocol, discuss preliminary findings, and examine dissemination strategies. We gratefully acknowledge their insight and guidance.

This study is based on interview data collected over two years from thirty families throughout Hillsborough County, Florida. In the face of continuing challenges and uncertainty, these families allowed us into their homes and shared their stories, with great insight, sometimes anger and sadness, and often with humor. They have our gratitude and respect.

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National Institute on Disability
and Rehabilitation Research



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Family Experience of the Mental Health System (FEMHS)

(FMHI Series Publication #224)

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<http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/rtcpubs/familyexperience.htm> or <http://pubs.fmhi.usf.edu>

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Family Experience of the Mental Health System

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Developed by The Research and Training Center (RTC) for Children's Mental Health, Department of Child and Family Studies, Division of State and Local Support, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

(FMHI Series Publication #224)



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