



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE
A Dynamic Community

Family Partners in Wraparound: Who We Are and What We Do?

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Family Partners: Who We Are and What We Do

- Objectives:
 - Definition of family partner role.
 - Key characteristics and responsibilities of the role.
 - Applying the 10 principles of wraparound to the family partner role.
 - Activities of a family partner within the four phases of wraparound.



Definition of Family Partner in the Wraparound Process

- The Family Partner is a former consumer of services who is a formal member of the wraparound team and works as a mentor and advocate for and with the family .
- The Family Partner's role is to:
 - serve the family;
 - help them engage and actively participate on the team; and
 - make informed decisions that drive the process.



Definition of Family Partner in the Wraparound Process

- The Family Partner's personal experience is critical to their earning the respect of families and establishing a trusting relationship that the family values.
- Like Facilitators, Family Partners have a strong connection to the community and are very knowledgeable about resources, services, and supports for families.



Key Characteristics and Responsibilities

- A compassionate, empathetic, and attentive listener.
- A reflective, objective, and non-judgmental coach or mentor.
- A mediator, facilitator, or bridge between families and agencies.
- Ensures each family is heard and their individual needs are being addressed and met.



Key Characteristics and Responsibilities

- Provides families with accurate knowledge about policies, systems, and services.
- Communicates with and educates agency staff on family voice and choice.
- Displays good verbal skills and accurately portrays the family point of view in many venues.
- Works in close partnership with the wraparound facilitator.



Wraparound Principles

- Family Centered
- Strength Based
- Needs Driven
- Highly Individualized
- Community Oriented

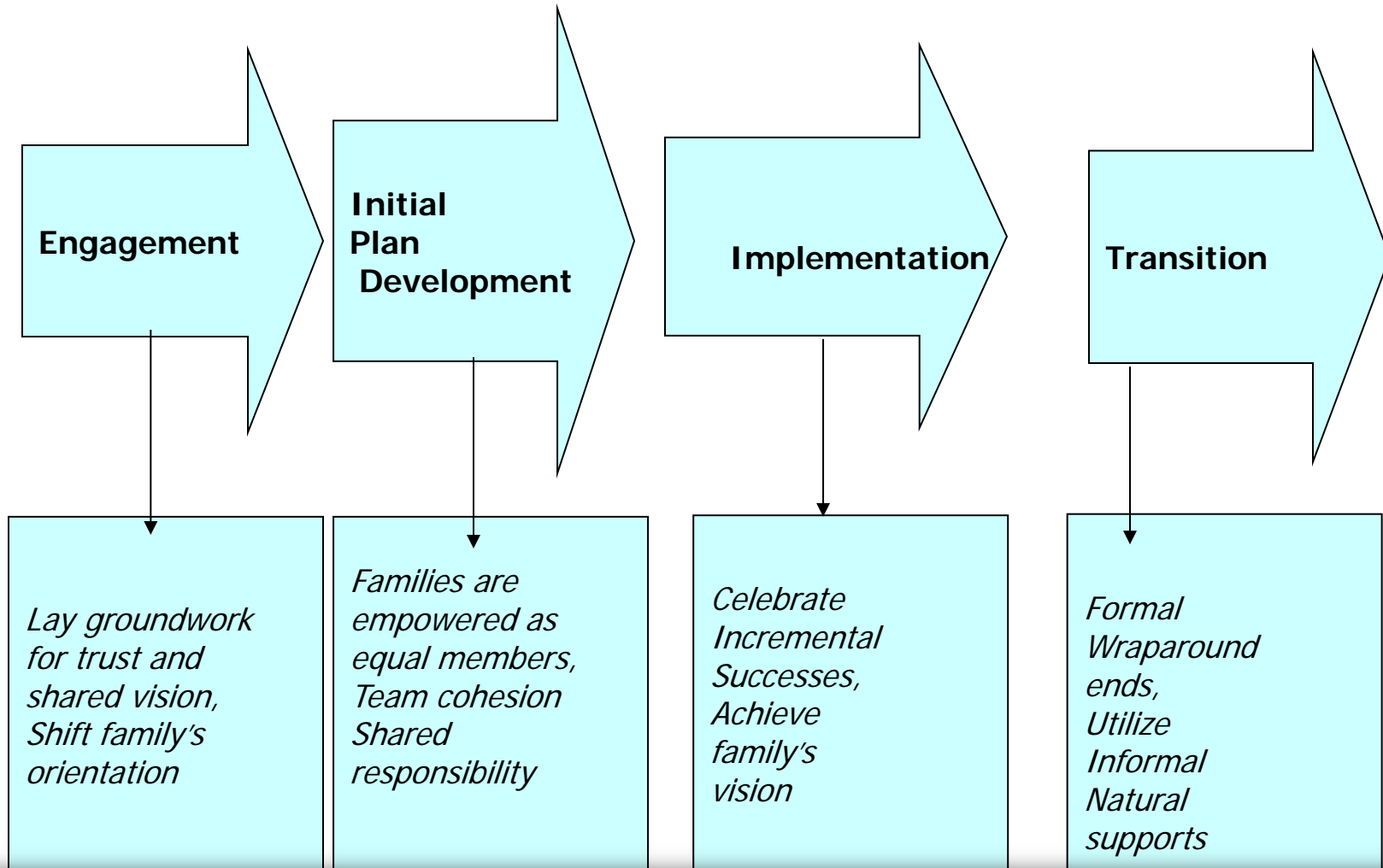


Wraparound Principles

- Team Driven
- Culturally Competent
- Unconditional
- Outcome Driven
- Inclusive of Natural Supports & Resources



Phases of Wraparound



Phase 1



- Phase 1 establishes trust and shared vision among team members and prepares the team to collaborate according to the Principles of Wraparound.
- The family partner begins to prepare the family for effective self-advocacy by helping them to comfortably participate in the conversation about strengths, needs, culture, and vision.



Practice Examples

- Engagement from the word “go”
- Strength and Cultural Discovery
- Beginning to build the child and family team



Phase 2



- This is when the child family teams begin to meet.
- The family partner encourages and coaches the family to speak about how practical each proposed strategy is in the context of the family's day to day activities.
- The family partner agrees to take responsibility for follow up tasks that are compatible with their role description and expectations.



Practice Examples

- Ensuring voice, choice and ownership for families
- Helping families prioritize their needs
- Begin developing the Road Map



Phase 3



- During phase 3, the wraparound plan is implemented, reviewed, and revised as needed.
- The family partner encourages the family to bring any concerns they have to the attention of the team so they can be resolved.
- The family partner maintains a strategic partnership with the facilitator.
- The family partner continues to mentor and coach the family in their journey towards self-empowerment and independence.



Practice Examples

- Advocacy skills and tools
- Mentoring and supporting families using their own voice in advocating for themselves.
- Continued family empowerment



Phase 4



Transition

- Transition out of wraparound is continual during the process. Phase 4 plans for transition to a mix of formal and natural supports in the community.
- The family partner focuses on making sure the family is well prepared for and feels comfortable with continuing to move forward more independently without the support of a formal wraparound team.



Practice Examples

- Graduation celebration
- Continued family team meetings
- Alumni Group/Resource Center
- Ongoing peer support and services



Computer Lab – DCF ACCESS Partner



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



C.A.R.E.S. Alumni Group Meeting



Sources

- National Wraparound Initiative
- Trina Osher
- Marlene Penn
- Brevard C.A.R.E.S.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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