

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP LEARNING SERIES

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Module 1 – Elevating the Family Voice for effective Policies, Programs and Processes

Episode 2 – The Progression of Family Leadership

Title

Episode 2 – Understanding the Progression of Family Leadership

Overview

In this learning session, participants will understand that families engage with agencies/organizations/systems in three distinct levels of partnership. These levels reflect how families are able and willing to collaborate as partners. Understanding these levels is essential when building meaningful family partnerships, as it sets clear expectations for both the agency and the families involved. It is the agency’s responsibility to clearly articulate the level of partnership they are seeking, while families should be transparent about their ability, capacity, and readiness to engage. Recognizing these levels ensures effective collaboration between families and agencies at varying degrees of engagement.

Core Content

The illustration of the Progression of Leadership graphic featuring concentric circles.

Learning Objectives

- Establish understanding of 3 distinct levels of family engagement/leadership
- Create shared language of Inner Ring, Community Ring and Outer Ring when referring to the levels of engagement
- Each level of engagement is important and needed for systems change.
- Diverse voices are vital to ensure equitable health outcomes

Facilitator Tips

- Using examples of family engagement at each level is helpful:
 - Inner Ring – family needing help finding providers
 - Community Ring – family starting a fundraiser to raise awareness of an issue
 - Outer Ring – family joining a state-level advisory board
- Acknowledge that “the system” has operated with the “Inner Ring” model for decades
- Emphasize that the families AND the system staff feel frustrated when “the match” is not appropriate
- It is the responsibility of the agency to be very clear regarding expectations – time commitment, funding/stipend, length of project, decision-making process

Potential Questions for the Audience

- Does this resonate with you?
- Can you recall a time when you were unclear about your expectations of a Family Partner?
- Are you able to describe what level of engagement you are currently seeking from a Family Partner?
- Do you see the value of Family Partners at all 3 levels?