

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP LEARNING SERIES

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Module 1 – Elevating the Family Voices for effective Policy, Programs and Processes

Episode 3 – Myth Busting Family Partnerships

Title

Myths about Family Partnerships.

Overview

In this learning session, participants will engage in “real talk” regarding what agencies from across the country have shared about why it’s hard to include Family Partners. This session features a compilation of 6 statements that have been expressed by agency leaders and staff from various states as reasons why they do not engage with families. This session features six counterstatements that re-direct the “myths” of family engagement, transforming them to innovative solutions. The transformation of the myths could be viewed as internal systems change or part of a quality improvement effort. Participants in this session are encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and perspectives about these myths as well as the solutions.

Core Content

A document featuring a 2-column table with the Headings “Fear Based Thinking” and “Innovative Thinking” respectively.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the six myths regarding effective Family Partnerships and giving participants time to reflect if/when they’ve shared these same sentiments.
- Reframe the six myths as a strategy to accelerate Family Partnerships and giving participants time to reflect is they have done similar quality improvement efforts.
- Establish a sense of “shared experiences” among the participants to create open and honest dialogue

Facilitator Tips

- This content often humanizes the work, encouraging “real talk” about Family Partnership efforts
- Assure the group that the six statements are a compilation from across the country and are not intended to suggest that leaders in Maine have made these statements
- This content often leads to great discussion among the group, allowing ample time for discussion as a group or in small table talks
- Spending time on the Innovating Thinking content often leads to actionable steps

Potential Questions for the Audience

- Have you been in meetings where you’ve heard some version of these statements, If yes, what was the context?
- Have you seen Innovative Thinking regarding examples like these that have contributed to positive outcomes re: Family Partnerships?
- Are there other statements you have heard/expressed that you’d like to discuss?