


EXPANDING YOUTH VOICE IN SYSTEM OF CARE:



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECT PROVIDERS

YOUTH AND FAMILY VOICE IS NOT EMPHASIZED ENOUGH

Youth and family involvement are reported at relatively low levels when considering the large number of activities and pathways that currently exist to drive decision making within the grant

YOUTH VOICE IS LESS PREVALENT THAN FAMILY VOICE

Youth and family stakeholders report that families are more involved than youth in 15 of the 16 SOC implementation activities. This may be due to the family voice movement being around longer than the youth voice movement, or that organizations do not feel comfortable or as equipped to support youth in shared decision making across grant activities

ENGAGEMENT SPECIALISTS DO NOT REPLACE YOUTH AND FAMILY VOICE

Youth and family engagement specialists are sometimes expected to serve as the voice of youth and families across the community, but youth and family voice is needed across all aspects of System of Care efforts beyond the voice of Youth and Family Engagement Specialists. Don't expect for youth and family engagement specialists to speak for all youth and families

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE NEEDED

As project providers, you can strengthen youth and family voice by providing professional development opportunities for youth and families to be able to participate in grant meetings and decision making

THIS IS A MARATHON, NOT A RACE

Keep youth and family recruitment as an ongoing effort to ensure that new perspectives and cultural responsiveness are at the center of decision making. Continue efforts to partner with and expand youth and family-run organizations. Educate community agencies on the benefits of authentic engagement of youth and families, and highlight the benefits of working with youth and family-run organizations to build youth and family voice and leadership