

Family Support Groups

Key Concepts Related to Principles for Family Involvement

Key Concepts:

1. Provide participants the recognition that they are not alone.
2. Provide participants with mutual support from the peers.
3. Offer a safe place for telling their stories/disclosure.
4. Empower personal responsibility and a place to learn advocacy skills.
5. Help participants develop new skills.
6. Help participants develop new informal supports.
7. Provide participants new information.
8. Provide participants with an outlet to become an active member of their community.
9. The support group can act as a family focus group for their community.

Principles for Family Involvement	Key Concept #								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Families define themselves and their own culture.	✓	✓							
2. Families require culturally competent services and supports reflecting their race, ethnicity, gender orientation, language, socio-economic background, and family structure.	✓	✓						✓	
3. Families have their basic needs met.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
4. Families have access to information and training.				✓	✓		✓		✓
5. Family-identified priorities and concerns drive policy and practice.				✓				✓	✓
6. Families share power to make decisions and responsibility for outcomes.				✓				✓	✓
7. Families and their system partners know their individual strengths, limitations and fears.				✓	✓		✓		
8. Families have their own independent organization to speak with a collective voice for system change.		✓	✓						
9. Families and their organizations get both respect and protection from their system partners.				✓				✓	✓