

Family Engagement and Leadership Definitions (7/16/15)

(collected for *Leading Together*: Planning Team and Resource Workgroup)

MCH/CYSHCN Program and Health Care System Definitions

Angela Coulter's well-known definition focuses on the relationship between patients and health care providers as they work together to 'promote and support active patient and public involvement in health and healthcare and to strengthen their influence on healthcare decisions, at both the individual and collective levels.' (Engaging patients in healthcare. New York (NY): McGraw-Hill Education; 2011. P.10)

We define patient and family engagement as patients, families, their representatives, and health professionals working in active partnership at various levels across the health care system – direct care, organizational design and governance, and policy making – to improve health and health care. (Patient and Family Engagement: A Framework for Understanding the Elements and Developing Interventions and Policies. Health Affairs; February 2013)

“As far as the definition, I tend to describe it instead of define it. Typically, I say that developing family leaders (thus, family leadership development) is the critical and often over-looked step that is necessary for effective family engagement. And...family engagement is the active intention of infusing the family perspective in all areas of systems design, implementation and evaluation. The desired end result is to have positive outcomes for kids and families, therefore, family engagement is the means to that end.” Eileen Forlenza

For purposes of the Title V MCH Services Block Grant program and this guidance, as previously noted, family/consumer partnership is defined as: “The intentional practice of working with families for the ultimate goal of positive outcomes in all areas through the life course. Family engagement reflects a belief in the value of the family leadership at all levels from an individual, community and policy level.” (Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to States Program; 2014/15)

Head Start

“By systemic, we mean that parent, family, and community engagement (PFCE) is anchored in leadership priorities, program management, continuous improvement systems, and staff development. By integrated we mean that by carrying out PFCE activities throughout the entire organization, programs are much more likely to make the kind of family engagement progress that best supports child outcomes. For example, directors, teachers, assistant teachers, family support staff, home visitors, and health and disabilities staff, all play a role in engaging families and supporting school readiness. By comprehensive, we mean that staff consider the strengths, interests and needs of each child and family, and connect families with services and resources to achieve their goals.” (The Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework;

August 2011 also <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/ncpfce-markers-of-progress.pdf>)

Definitions of Parent Involvement and Family Engagement are here: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/revised-parent-engagement-as-pi.pdf>

Head Start Family Engagement Outcomes

1. Family Well-being
2. Positive Parent-Child Relationships
3. Families as Lifelong Educators
4. Families as Learners
5. Family Engagement in Transitions
6. Family Connections to Peers and Community
7. Families as Advocates and Leaders

USDHHS/Administration for Children& Families/ Children's Bureau/ Child Welfare Information Gateway

Family Engagement Directory (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/fei/definition/>)

- Includes Definitions from Child Welfare, Behavioral Health, Early Childhood Education, Juvenile Justice, Education
- Family Engagement Inventory (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/Common-overall.pdf>)

Karen Mapp is one of the authors of the Dept of Education's new framework "**Dual Capacity Framework on Family, School, Community Engagement**".

"Family Engagement is any way that a child's adult caretaker (biological parents, foster parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.) effectively supports learning and healthy development."
Karen Mapp