Paradigm – Peers – Progress: Family & Youth Voice and Choice in Louisiana
Paradigm

- **What is it?**
  - “A typical example or pattern of something; a model”

- **Shift is Revolutionary**
  - Changes not just in structure, systems, and processes; but also hearts and minds

- **No revolution happens easily or quickly**
  - Trusting/believing change (or different way) is possible
  - “unlearning” old ways
  - Learning a new way
Ten Principles

- Family Driven & Youth Guided
- Individualized
- Strength Based
- Team Based
- Community Based
- Natural Supports
- Outcome based & data driven
- Collaboration
- Culturally Competent
- Unconditional Care/Persistence
The wraparound process moves us...

**Away From...**
- Dependence & incapability
- Pathology & blame
- Fragile & unreachable
- System dependence & over-reliance

**Toward...**
- Competence & expertise
- Mobilization & progress
- Resilient & engaged
- Awareness of intrinsic resources

(Not just families...agencies, too!)
Peers

• Our greatest influence
• A trusted resource
• Value of “lived experience” in medical treatment interventions

American Indian prayer: “Great Spirit, grant that I not criticize my brother or sister until I have walked a mile in his moccasins.”
Support & Training

• To:
  • **ensure engagement and active participation** of the family in the treatment planning process
  • Ensure ongoing **implementation and reinforcement** of skills learned throughout the treatment process

• Key Points:
  • **Must contribute to, and be documented on** Plan of Care (POC)
  • Intentioned to **reduce reliance** on PST and YST over time
  • May be provided **individually or in groups**
Parent Support & Training

- Provides the training and support to increase **parental ability** to provide a **safe and supportive environment** in the home and community for the child/youth.

- The specialist supports the parent in:
  - **Understanding the wraparound** process
  - Acquiring knowledge and skills necessary to **understand and address the specific needs of the youth** in relation to their mental illness and treatment;
  - Developing and enhancing the family’s specific **problem-solving skills, coping mechanisms and strategies** for the child’s/youth’s symptom/behavior management
  - Connecting to **training/resources** on understanding the child’s diagnoses
  - Understanding **service options and policies/regulations** that impact the youth while living in the community (system navigation)
Youth Support & Training

- Provides the training and support to promote skills for **coping** with and **managing psychiatric symptoms** while facilitating the utilization of **natural resources** and the enhancement of **community living skills**

- The specialist supports the youth in:
  - Developing a **network for information and support** from others with similar experiences
  - Gaining/regaining the ability to make **independent choices and take a proactive role** in treatment
  - Identifying and effectively responding to, or avoiding, **precursors or triggers** that maintain or increase functional impairments
  - **Addressing/reducing**: rebellious behavior, early initiation of antisocial behavior (drug use, shoplifting, truancy, etc.), attitudes favorable toward drug use (including perceived risks of drug use), antisocial behaviors toward peers, contact with friends who use drugs, gang involvement and intentions to use drugs).
Progress

• Initial Workgroup (pre-launch)
• Family Lead
• Partnerships with Family Organizations
• Family/Youth on Community Teams
• Family-Run FSO
• Statewide Coordinating Council
• State Governance Board
• Family/Youth positions on Quality Assurance, Finance, and other Committees
• MY LIFE*
• Parent Café*
• SMO Family/Youth Members on Staff*
• SMO Family Committee*
CSoC Contacts

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