Adjusting Your Efforts to Support Family and Youth Representation

Involving Families and Youth is not a special project. It is one of the core operational areas for any well-functioning FCFC. When you prioritize Family and Youth involvement you may have to adjust what you are currently doing in order to support authentic involvement. Consider the following areas in strategically adjusting your current actions to assure that you are putting Family/Youth voice front and center in your operations.

Area for Consideration	For Parents & Youth	For FCFC Members
Input	Do families & youth get an opportunity to connect with other families to hear their concerns? This might involve quarterly focus groups, setting up a telephone tree for communication or setting up surveys that the family/youth can review?	Can FCFC members encourage, seek out, respond and implement family/youth input? Do they know how to ask, how to listen and how to use that input without sounding or seeming patronizing?
Information	Does your FCFC information make sense and reflect a family/youth perspective even if they've never attended a service system meeting?	Can Council members set the stage for jargon free discussions that encourage those in the room to be comfortable asking for clarification?
Roles & Responsibilities	Do you have clear expectations for families/youth of their role & responsibilities? How have you supported family/youth representatives in understanding these roles/responsibilities?	Has your FCFC outlined roles, responsibilities and expectations for all members? Are expectations across both perspectives fair?
Structures	Is the way your FCFC is set up understandable, reliable and predictable? What are your plans to orient families/youth to the ways you do business?	Do all members understand the way your FCFC is set up and structured? Are members willing to change their FCFC organizational habits to support family/youth participation?
Adaptability	Can you make adjustments to the way you operate as you gather information? Have you set up ways to seek feedback from family and youth representatives about how well your efforts are working?	Do Council members see promoting Family Involvement as your job or everyone's job? What are they willing to change to assure families & youth have valid options for inclusion & influence?