Engaging Families as Partners – Part 1
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Webinar details

Type of Activity: Instructor-led recorded webinar (home study)
Cost: Free of charge
Duration/time: 1.5 CE hours (90 minutes)
Speakers:

Pat Hunt
Executive Director, Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA)

Jane Walker, MSW
Senior Consultant, Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA)

Target audience: This webinar is intended for family and youth supporters, practitioners, policy makers, agency administrators, care coordinators and funders.

Goal: Engaging Families as Partners is a two-part series providing a framework for creating effective partnerships with families of children and youth. The goal of the series is to provide an in-depth exploration of true family engagement, reflected in the partnership between the system, providers and families, distinct professional roles, and how to demonstrate respect and value for each other’s roles and contributions.
Learning objectives: Upon completion of this activity, participants should be able to:
1. Identify core principles for meaningfully engaging families as partners
2. Describe the value of partnerships with families to institutional culture and practice
3. Specify evidence informed practices for engaging families in child/youth mental healthcare
4. Utilize methods for engaging, supporting and retaining family experience and expertise in receiving services
5. Recognize opportunities to engage family members in all aspects of program, management and policy

Course outline: In this webinar, presenters will cover:
1. The core principles for meaningfully engaging families as partners
2. The value of partnerships with families to institutional culture and practice
3. Evidence informed practices for engaging families in child/youth mental health care
4. Methods for engaging, supporting and retaining family experience and expertise in receiving services
5. Opportunities to engage family members in all aspects of program, management and policy
6. Family-run organizations as resources for cross-system family outreach and engagement

About the speakers

Pat Hunt is the executive director of FREDLA, the national Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association, a non-profit union of leaders of grassroots family-run organizations across the nation. Along with her lived experience as a parent, Pat brings over 25 years of experiences as an advocate for children with behavioral health needs and their caregivers. During this time, she had extensive experience overseeing both federal and state grants and served as the founding director of a family-run organization.

Pat has provided technical assistance in 42 states regarding policy issues that affect children’s behavioral health. Her skilled facilitation has helped families, state and local leadership develop and sustain best practices through local systems of care for children, adolescents and their families. Her leadership at a managed care organization advanced national recognition and solution building in arenas such as the appropriate use of psychotropic medication with children and youth, and with outcomes and efficiencies associated with preventing undue reliance on out-of-home care.

Pat’s experience includes over 10 years in a corporate leadership role at Magellan Healthcare to advance best practices for children, youth and their families, and to ensure that their experiences informed policies, practices and program development. She previously held a senior leadership position as a conduit for local grassroots experience to inform national policy decisions at the Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health. She has served as a VISTA Volunteer, directed a federally funded rural substance abuse prevention project, managed a statewide family-run organization, served as president of the Maine’s mental health planning council, and was the only non-state employee member invited to the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet.
Pat served as a member of the steering committee for Georgetown University’s Communities Can Leadership Academy and as faculty to several policy academies and training institutes. Pat was appointed by the president of Maine’s senate to a legislative committee charged with oversight of landmark legislation for children and youth with behavioral health challenges and is a past nominee for both the Robert Woods Johnson and Lewis Hine Awards for Service to Children and Youth.

Jane Walker, MSW is a founder and for six years served as the first executive director of the Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA). Ms. Walker now serves as senior advisor to the organization. Prior to FREDLA, Ms. Walker was the founder and former executive director of the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children’s Mental Health, the statewide family network in Maryland. She brings 30 years’ experience in the non-profit world and most importantly 30 years caring for her daughter, Cathy, who experienced mental health challenges at a very young age. In 1999, the Mental Hygiene Administration in Maryland provided funding to establish a statewide family organization. Jane was hired as the first executive director and from one person grew the organization to a 45 family member staff who provide peer-to-peer support to other families in similar situations. Ms. Walker was also one of the founders of the National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health and served as the president of the board from 1993-95. Ms. Walker has a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and is the recipient of numerous awards for her leadership and advocacy.

Disclosures
Pat Hunt and Jane Walker, MSW, have no relevant financial relationship commercial interest that could be reasonably construed as a conflict of interest.

CE credit eligibility

Eligible CE hours: 1.5 CE hours (90 minutes)
Upon request, all other health care professionals completing this event will be issued a certificate of participation. For information on applicability and acceptance of CE hours for this activity, please contact your professional licensing board.

How to obtain CE hours: To obtain CE clock hours you must view the course in its entirety and complete the course post-test (80% passing score required) and evaluation via a web link to be given after the conclusion of the course. Upon completing the course requirements, you will be issued a certificate. Partial attendance is not accepted.

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**Additional information**

**Commercial support:** Magellan did not receive any commercial support for this continuing education program.

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