



## The Hands & Voices Partnership Continuum - Team Reflection and Planning for the Future

- Part One: Team Reflection on Family/Professional partnerships. (e.g. education, health, EHDI systems)** For this activity, we define family/professional partnership as "A relationship where professionals and families share power to plan and deliver support together, recognizing that both have vital contributions to make in order to improve quality of life for people and communities." (National Co-production Critical Friends) <sup>[2]</sup>

**Partnership Continuum:** Where do you feel your team falls on the partnership spectrum with respect to parent/professional partnerships?

| Coexistence  | Networking   | Cooperation  | Collaboration   | Partnerships  |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family leaders/family based orgs. know about professionals/systems but don't work together</li> <li>No direct relationships exist between families and professionals</li> <li>No dependency or need to collaborate</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal discussions held with families and professionals</li> <li>Information sharing is the standard</li> <li>No formal collective visions, missions, or tasks exist between parents and professionals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fixed or long term relationship is implied; no ongoing or formal commitment to each other</li> <li>Acknowledgement of common issues, interests, and agendas</li> <li>Some documentation may exist that parents/families are formally working with professionals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involves trust; based on negotiated and agreed actions</li> <li>Shared decision making exists</li> <li>Families and professionals both feel they are adding value to each other and themselves/their organizations</li> <li>Some things may be given up (power, control, culture shift)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents, families, caregivers, and professionals/stakeholders in the system work from an agreement base of shared values</li> <li>Risks, rewards, resources, accountability, vision, ideas, and decision making are shared</li> <li>Formal relationship obligations (accountability exists for families/caregivers as well as professional stakeholders)</li> <li>Processes, systems, mechanisms are developed to support partnerships: structures, contracts, official employment/funding of parent partner in an agency, practice etc., principles, vision...</li> </ul> |

## Part Two: Planning for the Future

These are a few discussion topics to help you get started with team reflections and planning for the future. Pick one member of your team to serve as a scribe to document your discussion. After completing this activity, each team will have **5 minutes** to present on their experiences completing the partnership continuum and one concrete strategy the team will test to move further along the continuum.

- Where do you believe you are on the partnership continuum?
  - What are you doing well, with respect to parent/professional stakeholder partnerships, that other teams could learn from?
  - What barriers or challenges have you encountered?
  
- What specific strategies can be tested to move your team to the next level on the continuum, toward a more active partnership with parent/professional stakeholders?
  - What unique aspects of your organization will help your team to progress to the next level on the partnership continuum?
  - What barriers or challenges could make it difficult for your team to advance to the next level on the partnership continuum?
  
- What are some of the first steps you plan to take by next week to assure sustainability and spread of successful partnerships?

*The spectrum above is derived from <http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/ourpar/pdf/potentialofpartnership.pdf> and this form is adapted from Back to Basics: Meaningfully and Effectively Engaging Families in Pediatric Practices and Systems A webinar series presented by the National Center for Medical Home Implementation, the National Center for Family Professional Partnerships, and Bright Futures National Center. (2017)*