



Family Engagement Resource Guide for the MCH WDC Virtual Skills Institute November 2020

"We have recognized the critical role of families in their children's lives and have learned to see ourselves as service and support personnel. The paradigm shift requires new ways of working between families and the many agencies, professionals, and others who interact with and influence their lives."

-Merle McPherson

The National MCH Workforce Development Center's Family Engagement Team supports authentic partnership between the Title V workforce and people with lived experience in all Center work. We encourage Skills Institute attendees to integrate a range of perspectives into your team by meaningfully engaging community and family partners who have been/will be personally impacted by the policies and programs you will carry out as part of your Title V action plan.

In addition to the targeted tools below, our team – consisting of family engagement specialists from leading family-focused national MCH organizations – can assist with brainstorming, clarifying, connecting and enhancing any of the information shared during the Institute. Our goal is to help "level the playing field," so that all team members feel comfortable learning, sharing, asking questions and participating fully during the 4-day event.

In preparation for effective team partnering during the Skills Institute, the Center's Family Engagement Team recommends the following curated resources. Please contact us for additional resources and assistance.

[AMCHP Workforce Resources](#)

The [Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs](#) (AMCHP) has a rich array of workforce development resources. Find them all on the AMCHP website [here](#).

[The Catalyst Center's Infographic Series](#)

The system of coverage and financing of services for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) is complex. This [infographic series](#) developed by the [Catalyst Center](#) can help you increase your knowledge of system components and their interdependent relationship with one another, which is a crucial first step in affecting better outcomes for CYSHCN.

[Family Engagement in Systems Assessment Tool](#)

Developed by [Family Voices](#) as part of a comprehensive toolkit providing strategies and resources organizations can use to assess and improve family engagement in systems-level initiatives, the Family Engagement Checklist component of the [FESAT \(Family Engagement in Systems Assessment Tool\)](#) may be used by your team to identify the supports your team already uses as well as supports that can be implemented by your team to ensure meaningful family engagement.

[Team Engagement for Quality Improvement](#)

This tool was developed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Service's [CYSHCN](#) Program and partners as a collaborative introduction for families and health care teams working together on a health care transformation initiative. This step-by-step booklet offers hands-on activities to support team learning, including key family partnership principles and tips for successful team engagement.

[Planning for Meaningful Family Involvement Worksheet](#)

Developed by Tamara Bakewell at the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs

This simple-to-use checklist is available for use by team leaders in the early stages of a project when recruiting and integrating family partners into an MCH team. Groups are more than welcome to adapt this tool, however please request permission from author Tamara Bakewell at Bakewell@ohsu.edu.

[Leading by Convening: A Blueprint for Authentic Engagement](#)

[Serving on Groups That Make Decisions: A Guide for Families](#)

Both of these tools available online at servingongroups.org are meant for anyone serving or planning to serve on a decision-making group. Each one focuses on helping team members develop specific skill sets using research-based strategies while being broadly applicable to a diverse audience. Of particular interest to the Center's Skills Institute attendees is a basic but helpful reminder of the ins/outs of meeting attendance for members of all kinds of groups - [Section 8 Module on Skills for Serving on Groups](#).

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There's power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice. And there's grace in being willing to know and hear others."

-Michelle Obama