

# Family-Centered Care Principles

New Mexico

## Definition:

Family-Centered Care assures the health and well-being of children and their families through a respectful family-professional partnership. It honors the strengths, cultures, traditions and expertise that everyone brings to the relationship. Family-Centered Care is the standard of practice which results in high quality services.

## Core Concepts

from *Institute for Patient and Family-Centered Care*

- **Respect and dignity.** Health care practitioners listen to and honor individual and family perspectives and choices. The individual and family knowledge, values, beliefs and cultural backgrounds are incorporated into the planning and delivery of care.
- **Information Sharing.** Health care practitioners communicate and share complete and unbiased information with individuals and families in ways that are affirming and useful. Individuals and families receive timely, complete, and accurate information in order to effectively participate in care and decision-making.
- **Participation.** Individuals and families are encouraged and supported in participating in care and decision-making at the level they choose.
- **Collaboration.** Individuals and families are also included on an institution-wide basis. Health care leaders collaborate with individuals and families in policy and program development, implementation, and evaluation; in health care facility design; and in professional education, as well as in the delivery of care.

## Principles of Family-Centered Care for Children

from *Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Division of Services for Children with Special Health Needs*

The foundation of family-centered care is the partnership between families and professionals. Key to this partnership are the following principles:

- Families and professionals work together in the best interest of the child and the family. As the child grows, s/he assumes a partnership role.
- Everyone respects the skills and expertise brought to the relationship.
- Trust is acknowledged as fundamental.
- Communication and information sharing are open and objective.
- Participants make decisions together.
- There is a willingness to negotiate.

Based on this partnership, family-centered care:

1. Acknowledges the family as the constant in a child's life.
2. Builds on family strengths.
3. Supports the child in learning about and participating in his/her care and decision-making.
4. Honors cultural diversity and family traditions.
5. Recognizes the importance of community-based services.
6. Promotes an individual and developmental approach.
7. Encourages family-to-family and peer support.
8. Supports youth as they transition to adulthood.
9. Develops policies, practices, and systems that are family-friendly and family-centered in all settings.
10. Celebrates successes.

**Questions? Call the CDD Information Network at**

**1-800-552-8195 or 505-272-8549**

<https://goto.unm.edu/amx6v>

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