Family Engagement & Partnership

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & VALUES

What we know and embrace about families...

• Family partnership is essential.
• Family leaders bring unique expertise to our relationship.
• Family leaders must be valued as visionaries, missionaries and pioneers and the potential of their position should be built upon common values, expectations, and goals.
• Family leaders’ perspectives and opinions are as important as other professionals.
• Family leaders bring a critical element to the team that no one else can provide.
• A responsibility of the position of ‘family leader’ is to question the status quo.
• Family leaders are truthful about their own skills and abilities and take responsibility for informing others when they need additional support or training.
• Family leaders can look beyond their own child’s and family’s experiences.
• Family leaders are not exempt from the “typical” expectations for members of the team/project in relation to conduct and performance.

AMCHP’s responsibility in authentically partnering with families...

• We will listen respectfully to the opinions of family leaders.
• Successful partnerships are based in mutual respect, open and honest communication, a genuine desire to work together to improve systems of care and the belief that collaboration, not confrontation, will produce the most effective results.
• We believe in the importance of family participation in decision making at the program and policy level.
• We value the insights of family leaders.
• We will foster an environment in which family leaders feel supported and comfortable enough to speak freely.
• We must clearly state what is required and expected of family leaders in their roles.
• We will work with family leaders to set clear goals for their role.
• A child’s illness or other family demands require additional flexibility for family leaders in their responsibilities.
• Responsibility should be delegated to family leaders.
• Training and support must be provided to both family leaders and other professionals.
• We will always look for opportunities to promote family engagement.
• Success may require flexibility with appropriate and creative accommodations in order to meet expectations.
• Logistical barriers will be addressed comprehensively and creatively.