



## Key Elements of the Wraparound Process

### **Grounded in a Strengths Perspective**

Strengths are defined as interests, talents, and unique contributions that make things better for the family. Within an entire process that is grounded in a strengths perspective, the family story is framed in a balanced way that incorporates family strengths rather than a focus solely on problems and challenges. A strengths perspective should be overt and easily recognized, promoting strengths that focus on the family, team, and community, while empowering and challenging the team to use strengths in a meaningful way.

### **Driven by Underlying Needs**

Needs define the underlying reasons why behaviors happen in a situation. In a needs-driven process, the set of underlying conditions that cause a behavior and/or situation to exist are identified. These needs would be identified across family members in a range of life areas beyond the system defined areas. These underlying conditions would be articulated and an overt agreement with the family and all team members about which to select for action or attention would occur. The process involves flexibility of services and supports that will be tailored to meet the needs of the family.

### **Supported by an Effective Team Process**

Wraparound is a process that requires active investment by a team, comprised of both formal and informal supports willing to be accountable for the results. Measurable target outcomes are derived from multiple team member perspectives. The team's overall success is demonstrated by how much closer the family is to their vision and how well the family needs have been addressed.

### **Determined by Families**

A family-determined process includes both youth and caregivers and the family has authority to determine decisions and resources. Families are supported to live a life in a community rather than in a program. The critical process elements of this area include access, voice, and ownership. Family access is defined as inclusion of people and processes in which decisions are made. Inclusion in decision making implies that families should have influence, choice and authority over services and supports identified in the planning process. This means that they should be able to gain more of what is working and less of what they perceive as not working.

Family voice is defined as feeling heard and listened to, and team recognition that the families are important stakeholders in the planning process. Therefore, families are critical partners in setting the team agenda and making decisions. Families have ownership of the planning process in partnership with the team when they can make a commitment to any plans concerning them. In Wraparound, the important role of families is confirmed throughout the duration of care.

