



The Relational Stance: Honoring Families Through Partnerships

Natalie Richey

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Explore the use of the “relational stance” to break down barriers and engage with families to build positive relationships throughout the Wraparound process.
- Consider factors that can upset the balance of partnerships within Wraparound
- Practice approaches that can build meaningful relationships with families.



*When you criticise me,
I intuitively dig in
to defend myself,
however when
you accept me like I am,
I SUDDENLY AM WILLING TO CHANGE.*

-CARL ROGERS

What is
Relational
Stance?



Think
think,
think

Relational Stance

Requires that Care Coordinators:

- Approach families with respect and are non-judgement
- Focus on family's hopes for the future and preferred ways of being in the present
- View families as being in relationship with a problem vs. being the problem
- Looks for strengths in all family members and situations



Relational Stance

The Nucleus of our Work



You are important
and you matter.

Your feelings
matter.

Your voice
matters.

Your story
matters.

Your life
matters.

Always.





A partnership brings together capabilities and human resources in the form of skills, experiences and ideas to tackle common problems that are often beyond the capacity of a single person or group.

Partnership

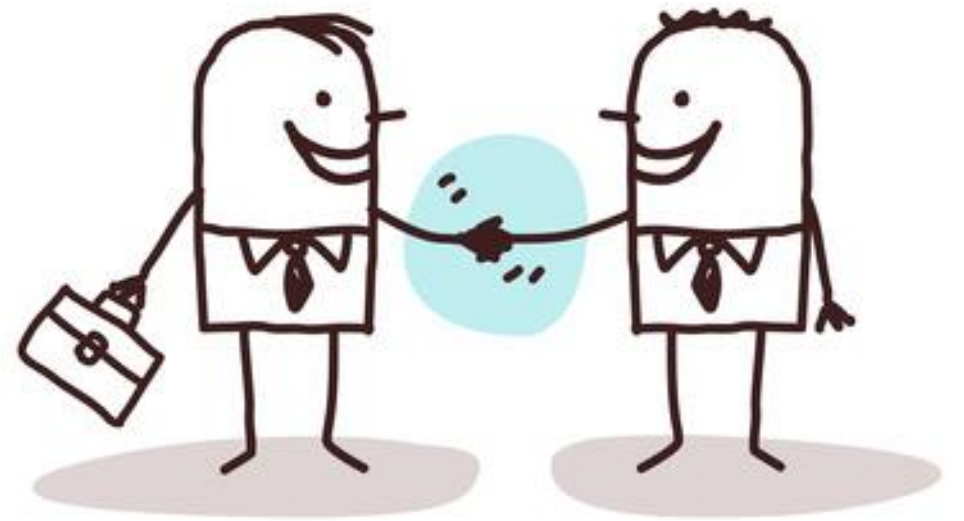
Principles of Partnership

- True partnership is impossible without mutual respect.
- Everyone needs to be heard and understood before solutions can be sought.
- Everyone has strengths.
- Judgements can wait.
- Partners share power.
- Partnership requires intention and attention



How do you partner with families in Wraparound?


- Think about a partnership that you have had in your life, what were the key components that made it effective?
- In your small group, identify the top 3 qualities to effective partnerships that stand out within your group discussion.
- Identify 2 actions you could take for each quality you identify when you meet a family for the first time.



hey. let's try.



What are your
next steps?

A woman dressed as a superhero, wearing a red cape, a blue mask, a white shirt, and a blue skirt, stands on a rocky, jagged peak. She is looking off to the side with her arms crossed. The background shows a cityscape under a cloudy sky.

Do the **best** you
can UNTIL you
KNOW better;
then **WHEN** you
KNOW better,
do **better**"

Maya ANgeLOU



Questions



References

Appalachian Family Innovations. (2003). Partners in change: A new perspective on child protective services (curriculum). Morganton, NC: Author.

Madsen, W. (2010). Collaborative Helping: A Practice Framework for Family-Centered Services. retrieved July 31, 2019 from: http://therapeuticconversations.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Collaborative-Helping-Handout_tc9.pdf

Contact Information

National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC)

www.nwic.org

Email: nwic@ssw.umaryland.edu

The Institute for Innovation and Implementation

University of Maryland, School of Social Work

525 W. Redwood St

Baltimore, MD 21201-1023

Email: theinstitute@ssw.umaryland.edu

Website: www.ssw.umaryland.edu/theinstitute

