

### **Definition of Family Driven Practice (Revised 2016)**

Family-driven means families have the primary role in decisions regarding their children as well as the policies and procedures governing the well-being of all children in their community, state, tribe, territory and nation. This includes, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Identifying their strengths, challenges, desired outcomes/goals, and the steps needed to achieve those outcomes/goals;
- ✓ Designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating services, supports, programs, and systems;
- ✓ Choosing supports, services, and providers who are culturally and linguistically responsive and aware;
- ✓ Partnering in decision-making at all levels.

### **Guiding Values to Achieve Family-Driven Practice**

Families and youth, providers, administrators, and policymakers accept and support willingly and enthusiastically shared decision-making and responsibility for outcomes, as evidenced by:

1. Families and youth share and have access to accurate, understandable, and complete information necessary to set goals and to make informed decisions.
2. Families define their family composition and family decision-makers, whether biological, adoptive, foster, sibling, or surrogate family voice advocating on their behalf.
3. Families and family-run organizations engage in peer support to reduce isolation, achieve short-and long-term family goals, and strengthen family capacity and voice.
4. Families and family-run organizations provide direction for policy decisions that impact funding, supports, and services, including the right of families and youth to have meaningful voice at the individual and policy level.
5. Providers, agencies, and systems take the initiative to change policy and practice from provider-driven to family-driven.
6. Providers, agencies, and systems embrace family-driven practice, by allocating staff, training, support and resources to adequately fund and sustain family-driven services for children, youth and families, and the work of family and youth run organizations.
7. Community attitude change efforts focus on removing barriers and eliminating bias and discrimination.
8. Communities value and celebrate the diverse cultures of children, youth, and families and work to eliminate disparities.
9. Communities recognize that culture is an ever-changing dynamic and are responsive to the cultural and linguistic needs of all children, youth, and families.