

Parents in the Focused Monitoring Process

Training and Mentoring

Phyllis Shingle, Parent
and Focused Monitoring Parent Team Member



- ❖ Brandon – age 12
- ❖ Jace – age 11
- ❖ RaeAnna – age 7
- ❖ Kaylie – age 5
- ❖ Karl – age 5

Building Capacity in Parent Team Members

- ❖ Qualifications of Parent Team Members
- ❖ Training on Focused Monitoring
- ❖ Role of Parent Team Member
- ❖ The Parent Meeting and Interviews
- ❖ Relationships
- ❖ Training Tips
- ❖ Parent Training in New Mexico

Qualifications of Parent Team Members

- ❖ Some knowledge of IDEA and appropriate IEPs
- ❖ Recruitment of Parent Team Members
- ❖ P.O.P.S. and P.O.E.S.
- ❖ Best qualification = A Parent who wants to make a difference for children in their state and is willing to learn

Training on Focused Monitoring

- ❖ We have a responsibility to be sure Parents are prepared for the FM visit.
- ❖ What are “Indicators” and “Focus Areas?”
- ❖ Training - Before or After?
- ❖ What Forms will be used?
- ❖ Exactly what is my role on the team?
- ❖ What will be my duties on the team?
- ❖ What happens after the visit?

Role of a Parent Team Member

- ❖ To gather data
- ❖ To be a fully participating member of the team
- ❖ Parent team members have a responsibility to the parents of the district being monitored...to be sure their voices are heard.
- ❖ Representing the state and other parents in general
- ❖ To follow the direction of the team leader and learn as fast as you possibly can!

The Parent Meeting

- ❖ Parent team members do need specialized training on facilitating the Parent Meeting
- ❖ What are the expectations?
- ❖ Role Plays – Practice in the worst case scenarios!
- ❖ Activities for enhancing Listening Skills, Effective Communication, and respecting the values of others

Interviewing

- ❖ Clarification on “protocols” and how to use them.
- ❖ Where to interview? How long?
- ❖ Are there any rules about interviewing?
- ❖ Bring interview questions to training. If still a rough draft, allow participants to give feed-back.

Relationships

- ❖ Building relationships and “communities” are an essential element of parent training.
- ❖ Build trust between parents and team leaders.
- ❖ Encourage parents to become friends with team members. Who knows when they will be able to help each other or work together on other projects?
- ❖ It is the positive experiences and positive relationships that will help bring parents back year after year.

Training Tips


- ❖ Have fun! Remember, no one is requiring these parents to participate! Give them a reason to come back next year.
- ❖ Plan for interactive trainings, with lots of activities and role-plays.
- ❖ If possible, arrange tables so that everyone can see each other. A “U” shape works great!
- ❖ Work to make trainings a “safe” place where participants can ask questions and give feedback.
- ❖ No “fish bowl” training! Everyone participates!

Training Tips

- ❖ Invite team leaders to explain focus areas and any other complicated FM concepts...in “parent-eze” or “English” as other people call it.
- ❖ Parent Panels with experienced parent team members can be very helpful.
- ❖ A group discussion, where participants are encouraged to give feedback about visits from the past year, can be validating for parents, and give some great information to the FM office. Record responses on a flip-chart.
- ❖ Plan opportunities for parent team members to learn from each other.


What’s to Brag About in NM?

- ❖ Parents are appropriately trained on how to do their job.
- ❖ Parents are paid for their time and feel valued on teams.
- ❖ Hopefully, they are fully participating members of teams.
- ❖ All team members do interviews, record reviews and observations. Greater flexibility for leaders.
- ❖ Parents, Team Leaders & state FM Director attended a “Retreat” together this summer. Mutual respect and friendship has increased.
- ❖ Parents and Team Leaders are returning year after year.



More Good Stuff in NM

- ❖ If, after training, new parents still do not feel comfortable, there is an opportunity for them to be mentored as a co-parent on a team.
- ❖ State department is mentoring parents, instead of just not inviting them back the next year.
- ❖ Leaders are encouraged to mentor parents in areas that they might need help, e.g. record reviews. *Leaders are happy to do this because these parents are their friends.*
- ❖ We are learning from our experiences and planning for the future.
- ❖ We are building capacity for Parent Team Members.



Thank you!

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