



## Being a Formal Team Member

### **What is my role as a WrapAround Team member?**

Your role as a WrapAround Team member will most likely not be anything different than what you are already doing. As a professional you are already providing support to the family through your organization. A formal team member forms part of the WrapAround Team that the family has chosen and the team may also have informal supports on it as well. All of the family's informal and formal supports come together in the WrapAround Process to work with the family. You may be challenged to think outside the box and assist in strategizing and problem solving. This may be a different experience for you in that the family drives the plan and is involved in all aspects of WrapAround.

### **How can I help the family/why is it important that I am there?**

The WrapAround Process is a strength-based process, which means that we try to connect the family's strengths with strategies and use their strengths to assist in problem solving. WrapAround helps the family identify their needs and works with the team towards achieving the family's vision. A team member helps the family by bringing their expertise, experience and ideas to the table, whether it's brainstorming to develop a crisis plan, helping create a schedule, providing parenting techniques, or offering another service from your agency. The great part about being a formal support is that you have an opportunity to build a relationship with the family. The family wants you there and they have an opportunity to see you in a different role. The WrapAround process allows a setting in which families see professionals as working with them not against them and if they do not want you involved we strive to assist them to see the value in what you offer.

### **How often does the team meet, for how long, when and where?**

The team meets as often as the family needs to meet. In the beginning this can be every two or three weeks and later once a month. This all depends on the family situation the level of need and what they feel is necessary. The Wraparound meetings normally last an hour to an hour and a half. Meetings can take place in the morning; afternoon or evening the time is flexible to the parent's and team member's availability. The team will meet wherever is most convenient for the family. Hopefully in working together there can be more of a unified single plan so your own time with the family could be reduced.

### **What if I can't make it to the meetings?**

When a team member can't make it to the meetings they should let the facilitator and the family know. WrapAround and the family understand that team members have their own commitments and that you will continue to support the family even outside these meetings. You will also be kept up to date through the WrapAround Plan that will be sent to you after most meetings.

### **What happens at the meetings?**

A facilitator will always be present at the meetings. In the first meeting you will receive an information package that talks about the family's strengths, needs and what's important to them. Normally in the meetings the facilitator will welcome everyone and do introductions. You will be asked to share your role with the family and how you assist them. The family will reflect and update the team on what has been happening in their lives. All voices are heard. The family with assistance from the team chooses the highest need to focus on. All suggestions and strategies are written down and the family chooses what's best for them. We will work as a team and decision-making will happen within the team. Team meetings allow for all the professionals involved with the family to be on the same page and develop one plan that is family driven. A plan will be developed describing who will do what, when and where. Finally the next meeting is set up.

### **What if I want to be a team member but can't make any of the meetings?**

You can still be part of the team through email and/or phone. The facilitator can send you the WrapAround Plan of each meeting. You can still communicate with the facilitator and other team members if you have any strategies to provide. You will be provided with a list of team member contact information.