

Becoming an Informal 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. You may be a grandparent, a friend, a neighbour, an aunt or uncle, already providing support to the family in your own way whether through babysitting, going out for coffee, talking over the phone, etc. An informal team member forms part of the WrapAround Team that the family has chosen and the team may also have professional supports (formal) on it as well. All of the family's informal and formal supports come together in the WrapAround Process to work with the family.

How can I help the family/Why is it important that I am there?

The WrapAround Process is a strength-based, 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 offering strategies or just being there to listen. You know the family the best and have already been helping them through your friendship or being a part of their family. The great part about being an informal support is that you can always be involved in the family and continue to support them even after the professionals have come and gone.

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 on 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 which could be at the family home, school, or at a church.

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 know and they will make sure to update you team member before the next meeting. 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.

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 families strengths, needs and what's important to them. Normally in the meetings the facilitator will welcome everyone and do introductions. The family will reflect and update the team on what has been happening in their lives. All voices are heard. All suggestions and strategies are written down and the family chooses what's best for them. But we will work as a team and decision-making will happen with the team. This is your opportunity to help the family and provide your ideas and expertise. 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?

Not a problem! You can still be part of the team through email and/or phone even if you live far away. 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 suggestions, ideas or strategies to provide to the WrapAround Plan. In the information package you receive you will have a list of all the team members and their contact information.