Family-Professional Partnerships for Enhancing Families’ Quality of Life

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http://www.beachcenter.org/families/partnerships/family-professional_partnerships.aspx
Meet “Young Jay”
Meet “Mr. JT Turnbull”
Professionals Having Power Over Families

Professionals

Families
Families Having Power Over Professionals
Shared Power

Power through partnerships
Legal Basis for Partnership and Shared Power

• IDEA’s principle of parent participation
  ✓ Participate in nondiscriminatory evaluation
  ✓ Participate in development of individualized plan/program
  ✓ Secure accountability via partnership
Constitutional Basis for Partnership

• Liberty and equality
• Core concepts
• Core concepts of disability policy
  ✓ Autonomy – right to choose, consent, direct destiny
  ✓ Empowerment and participatory decision-making
  ✓ Individual and appropriate services
  ✓ Coordination and collaboration
  ✓ Capacity-based services
  ✓ Family-centered services
  ✓ Cultural responsiveness
  ✓ Accountability
  ✓ Professional/system capacity-building
Ethical Basis for Partnership

• Dignity
• Family as foundation
Whole Family
Dictionary Definition of Partnership

• Close cooperation
• Mutual rights, responsibilities
Great Partner
Supreme Court Approach to Partnership under IDEA

- “Core” of IDEA
- “Cooperative Process”
- Ideal vs. reality
Power Over

- Professionals decide
- Presumption of special knowledge
- Parents comply
- Presumption of no special knowledge
“Failure” in/of Service System

• Jay “Fails”
• Professionals, system “fail”
• “What will you do when you fail (again)?”
Power With

• Parental presence in decision-making entity
• Degree of efficacy variable
• Jay’s Lawrence IEP – 12:1 ratio
Power Within

• Beyond duality – we/them
• Toward unity – we together
• Synergy
“Need to Talk with You”

• New teacher – Mary Morningstar
• Concern – hitting, “accidents,” non-compliance
Mary and Jay
Concern-based Action

- Shopping spree
- Football manager
- The letter jacket
The “Difference” Factor

- Competency
- Great expectations
- Friendship
Turnbull & Turnbull Definition

• An agreement to build on resources and expertise
• To make and implement decisions
• That directly benefit student
• That indirectly benefit parents, family
• And that indirectly benefit professionals
Your “Best” Partnership

- With whom
- Why
- Elements – impel, impede
Your “Worst” Partnership

• With whom
• Why
• Elements – impel, impede
Family-Professional Partnerships: Six Components

• Communication
• Professional Competence
• Respect
• Commitment
• Equality
• Trust
Communication

• Be friendly
• Be clear
• Be honest
• Provide and coordinate information
• Listen
Listen: Professionals

- First IEP with Mary
  - Meet Jay
  - Ice cream
  - No clipboards
Listen: Parents

- Mary’s conversation about JT’s style
- Shopping
Professional Competence

- Provide a quality education
- Continue to learn
- Set high expectations
Set High Expectation

- JT learning to ride the city bus
- JT living in own home
- JT working “regularly”
Vision over Visibility

• “Can do” – Laura’s note
• “But, of course”
The Man and The Other Man
“Can Do”
Respect

• Honor cultural diversity
• Affirm strengths
• Treat students and families with dignity
Professionals, Affirm Strengths

- Wehmeyer eulogy
- “The Dignity Business”
Professor and Friend
Parents, Affirm Strengths

• What is needed
• How to respond
• Honey, not vinegar
Commitment

• Be sensitive to emotional needs
• Be available and accessible
• Go “above and beyond”
Parents, Be Sensitive to Emotional Needs

• Nominate and congratulate for receiving an award
Equality

• Share power
• Provide options
• Foster empowerment
Professionals, Share Power

• Determine parents’ desire for power
• Remember, long-term responsibility is parents’
Parents, Share Power

- Determine professionals’ style, willingness, qualifications
- Defer to special knowledge
Trust

- Partnerships as an arch with trust as the keystone
• Be reliable
• Maintain confidentiality
• Trust yourself
• Use sound judgment
Professionals, Trust

• Leaving the adult service system and seeking to create inclusive supports and services
  • KU colleagues
  • KU students
JT and Students
Parents, Trust

• Learning to ride the bus – using sound judgment to actualize high expectations

• Go beyond usual professionals
  ✓ Bus, taxi
  ✓ Alternate therapies
Family Textbook

- Uses a family systems theoretical orientation.
- Provides students with historical and legal foundations related to family roles.
- Describes 7 partnership principles with trust being the keystone.
- Applies partnership principles to enhancing partnerships in student evaluation, development of the IFSP/IEP, and implementation of the child’s IFSP/IEP program.
- Has extensive website with case studies, role plays, resources, and test questions (www.prenhall.com/turnbull). In 2008, the Beach Center will have an online version of the course.
Seven Lessons From My Son
Invite People into your Circle of Support – Group Action Planning

• Professionals accept the invitation from families
• Families: Invite them into your circle
• Stand in the other person’s shoes
• Empathetic reciprocity
• Don’t expect to go it alone
• Seek relationships, partnerships
• Plan, act as group
Invitees
GAP, #1: Identify and Cultivate Great Expectations

• “The vision thing”
“We’ll Dare”
GAP, #2: Brainstorm

• All ideas, however wild
• What impels, makes possible
• What impedes, makes unlikely
• Take a long-term approach
• But each action now counts toward long-term
“Home, Not House”
GAP, #3: Act

- Mutual action – partnership
- Mutual accountability – partnership
- Anticipate goodness
  - Offer it, expect it
- Expect occasional less-than-goodness
  - Minimize it
  - Duck when you can not
  - Wait for another day
GAP, #4: Celebrate

- Success of the group
- Success of each person
“Victory”
GAP, #5: Change the Circle

- Person with disability inside
- Family inside
- Professional inside
“Circle Up”
It’s All About the Relationship

• How we will be “in this together”
She Made it Happen