

Advocacy and Coalition Building

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Favor, Inc.

- The impetus for forming FAVOR came from families and providers, who all recognized the need for a statewide initiative to meet the needs of diverse families in the state.

Factors instrumental in forming FAVOR

- There was no unified voice for diverse populations of families who had children with mental health needs in the state.
- There were limited funds for which many family organizations were competing.

Factors Instrumental in Forming FAVOR

- There was a need for strong family advocacy at both the local and statewide levels in order to reduce disparities and to develop children's behavioral health services.

FAVOR'S MISSION

Help improve outcomes for children with behavioral health needs and their families throughout Connecticut by increasing the:

- Availability
 - Accessibility
 - Cultural competence
 - Quality
- of children's mental health services

Member Organizations

- AFCAMP (African Caribbean American Parents)
- PAP (Padres Abriendo Puertas)
- NAMI-CT
- Families United for Children's Mental Health

Benefits of the Collaborative Model

- Services are designed and delivered so that they are tailored or matched to the unique needs of individuals children, families organizations and communities served.

FAVOR'S Goals

- To empower families who have a child with behavioral health needs through education and support so that they may take the lead role on behalf of their own children as well as advocate for other children and families across the state.

FAVOR's Goals

- **To provide support to families whose children have behavioral health needs.**
- **To share information with families that will help them in identifying and accessing available services.**

FAVOR'S Goals

- **To ensure family participation in treatment planning for their children.**
- **To advocate with public policy makers and leaders for policies, procedures, laws and sufficient funding to address the needs of children with behavioral health needs and their families.**
- **To assist families in forming support groups in their communities.**

FAVOR Projects and Initiatives

- Family advocates
- Policy/legislative action
- FAVOR Network and parent support
- Citizen Review Panels
- Parent leadership training and support
- Family to Family Health Information
- Mental Health and the Medical Home
- Ongoing support of parent participation in program and policy development

Strategies

- Engage parents in their communities by first meeting their self identified needs
- Provide support to parents who wish to participate in broader system issues

Strategies

- Direct advocacy with parents
- Support to parents through local support groups
- Parent-to-parent support
- Mentoring parents to participate on committees, collaboratives and other initiatives

Strategies

- Training and education on the scope of the current system, effective advocacy strategies, current issues and policies
- Support to participate in the legislative process

Strategies

- Raise public awareness of children's mental health issues
- Implement forums to mobilize parents, promote system change and develop policy initiatives.

OUTCOMES

- Increase of families involved in policy committees like the local System of Care Collaborative meetings, the Mental Health Transformation Grant and the Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

OUTCOMES

- Increase in Parent involvement in legislative advocacy – including over 50 families at the Behavioral Health Partnership legislative hearings, 165 participants at the Kid's Mental Health Day at the legislature and over 75 at the Raise the Age hearing this year.

Outcomes

- Increase in parents providing and attending educational training/workshops
- 217 parents attended training workshops in the first quarter of 2006
- 619 received information/referral through phone or face-to-face assistance in the first quarter of 2006
- An average of 116 parents attended support group meetings in the first quarter of 2006

Outcomes

- Increase in the number of local support groups and in parent leaders for those groups. We currently have 36 support groups within FAVOR and its member organizations.
- Increase in parent participation in local initiatives including collaboratives
- Increase in parent involvement in treatment planning for their own children- an average of 213 families per month received advocacy services in the first quarter of 2006,