



TIPS FOR TALKING ABOUT WRAPAROUND

Wraparound is an intensive, strengths-based process, guided and driven by youth and their families to assist them in achieving their goals. As simple as this may sound, many struggle to understand the process. Frequently asked questions include: How am I driving the process? What does 'strengths based' mean? What is involved in the process? Can I do this? Youth may feel uncomfortable asking questions, and you may feel unsure of how best to answer them.

1. AVOID “LINGO”

Like many youth-serving processes, Wraparound has its own set of terms that may be confusing for youth. This vocabulary is helpful for training, aids in consistency, and contributes to the purpose of the program, but other words can and should be substituted when working with youth and young adults.

EXAMPLE: Instead of saying “youth and family driven” try saying, you get to decide how this works.”

2. STAY PRINCIPLES BASED

People who are new to Wraparound will likely have lots of questions about who, what, when, where, why, and how. In the beginning, try to avoid specifics and stay principles-based. Remind the young person that Wraparound is first and foremost a youth and family driven process that each meeting and decision made needs to adhere to the ten principles of Wraparound. It also is helpful to have copies of the principles on hand should someone want to read them.

3. CLARIFY EVERYONE’S ROLE (AND WHO IS ‘IN CHARGE’)

A common misconception is that the care coordinator or other professional is “in charge.” It is important to review each person's role and purpose on the team. However, it is equally critical that you clarify that the person/people who get to drive the team forward are the youth and their family.

EXAMPLE: The DHS caseworker is here to make sure that your foster home is safe; they do not get to decide whether you are going to be a writer when you grow up, only you get to decide that.

4. OFFER CONSISTENT SUPPORT

Remind the youth that they can come to you if they have questions if they feel that the team is not remaining principles based, or if they feel like Wraparound is not working the way they hoped. Even if you do not have all the answers, you can work together to discover them.

