

Building partnerships with others including professionals who are involved in the care of our families

The Parent Partner role is integral to the team and is responsible for building partnerships with everyone involved in supporting the family. Although the Parent Partner role is different than the facilitator, specialist, therapist, etc., effective Parent Partners also pursue effective partnerships. Listed below are some key abilities required to be effective:

- **Introduce Self and Role:** Effective Parent Partners introduce themselves to all players/team members in a manner that creates credibility, understanding and confidence.
- **Identify Skills, Assets and Abilities of Professionals:** Recognize and use strength-based approaches with both the family and the professionals involved in supporting the family.
- **Identify the Position, Opinion and Agenda of Professionals without Judgment:** Identify the interests of the professionals UNDERSTAND those interests, even if you don't necessarily agree with them. Additionally, separate those opinions from the personality (Focus on the situation, not the person).
- **Identify Strategies to Help Professionals Meet Their Interests while Still Assisting Families:** Try to apply the "Wraparound Framework" to everyone involved in support of the youth and family. For example, identify strengths of the professionals, their unmet needs and strategies to meet their interests.