FAMILY/PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PLAN

I. **Mission Statement:** It is the mission of the interagency system of care to involve parents and families of children and youth with serious emotional disturbances as full partners in every aspect of the system.

A. Administration
   Goal: Create an administrative structure which supports the development of family partnerships
   1. Family/Professional Partnership Plan
      a) Develop a family/professional partnership plan which reflects the range and depth of diversity within the community.
   2. Family Partnership Committee
      a) Create a committee of staff, providers and families to evaluate the implementation of the family/professional partnership plan.
      b) Promote services which are family-centered and built on family strengths.
      c) Promote a service system which values family involvement and empowerment.
   3. Local Mental Health Board
      a) Actively encourage membership of family representatives and youth on the LMHB.
      b) LMHB reviews Family/Professional Partnership Plan.
   4. Skills and Leadership Development for Families and Staff
      a) Provide resources and opportunities to promote leadership development.
      b) Promote staff development activities that build staff competence in family centered service provision including staff understanding of family situations and conditions.
      c) Promote parents training development that builds family competencies in mental health and other system of care issues.
   5. Policy and Procedures
      a) Families should be included in all levels of policy making.
      b) Family perspectives should be reflected in complaint and grievance resolution processes.
      c) Provide supports to families to promote participation in Family/Professional Partnership activities.
   6. Evaluation
      a) Ensure that families’ input and feedback is solicited as part of evaluation of the organization and services.
   7. Human Resources Development
      a) Ensure participation of parents in human resource development activities including recruitment and hiring.
      b) Families should be compensated for providing technical assistance.
B. Policy
Goal: Develop policies which define and support family/professional partnership services to the community.
1. Mission Statement
   a) Integrate family/professional partnership advocacy in the Mental Health mission statement.
C. Contractors
1. Include family/professional partnership principles in the contracts with community based organizations.
2. Maximize family involvement in the contracting process including design of services to be contracted and provider selection.
3. Encourage parent hiring policy by contractors.
D. Staff
1. Ensure job descriptions and performance expectations for staff which reflect family/professional partnership principles.
E. Family Centered Services
Goal: Develop and implement a service program which empowers and supports families to become equal partners with service providers.
1. Ensure services meet the identified needs of families and promote self-reliance and empowerment by building on family strengths.
2. Ensure development of services that respect and are sensitive to the ethnic/cultural context and history of each family.
3. Ensure families have an equal voice and a vote in all decisions that affect their family’s services.
4. Provide services in community settings and in the context of the child and family’s culture.
5. Promote collaboration between families, family advocates, mental health providers, health care providers and other agency/school personnel.
6. Provide a mechanism for development of family support services and of a local parent family network to be run by and for the parents.