



North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families



Structure

- Includes representatives from schools, mental health/developmental disabilities/substance abuse, public health, the courts, and juvenile justice as well as families
- Not incorporated; no budget or staff
- 2x/month general meetings + work groups
- Decisions by consensus



Indications of Solidifying North Carolina's Child Welfare System Reform

- True partnership with State Collaborative
 - Stakeholder group for CFSR/PIP and for CFSP/APSR
 - Avenue for sharing best practices
 - Charter developed recognizing CFTs as NC's optimum approach
- When champions leave, system reform effort stays in place
- All child serving agencies agree on how to define Child and Family Teams



Child and Family Team Meetings

- Recognize and respect the family as the experts of their own children and that no one knows a family's strengths and needs better than the family
- Moves away from traditional child welfare service planning which is deficits based and assumes child welfare worker is the professional by trusting and believing that families can solve their own problems
- Values the supports (both formal and informal) that the family brings to the table
- Is guided by a neutral facilitator to give voice to both the family and the professionals



Challenges

- Getting everyone to meetings who could improve practice
- Ensuring that everyone is *and feels* welcome to speak out
- Following up on all the great information we share during meetings!