

Child and Family Teams are family members and their community supports that come together to ***create, implement and update*** a plan ***with*** the child, youth/student and family. The plan builds on the strengths of the child, youth and family and addresses their needs, desires and dreams.

*Endorsed by the NC State Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families, December 2007
NC Families United Newsletter, January 2008*

Seven Guiding Principles for Child and Family Teams

1. Family, children and youth are full partners.
2. Planning is led by the family.
3. Meetings are a safe, supportive place for all members.
4. Meetings include people who can help the family succeed.
5. Plans are built around what families do well and fit with their beliefs.
6. Members are committed to the plan & share responsibility for successful outcomes.
7. Plans are changed when they are not working for families.

Child and Family Teams from a Family's Perspective: A Cross-Agency Curriculum, January 2006

The goal is keeping the principles in place and practices interwoven and integrated in our daily living and work.

Family-Centered Practice	System of Care Model
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone Desires Respect • Everyone Needs to be Heard • Everyone has Strengths • Judgments can Wait • Partners Share Power • Partnership is a Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths Based • Family and Youth Involvement • Family-centered & Child Focused • Culturally Responsive • Evidence Based Practices • Outcomes Based Performance • Integrated Approach
<p><i>Children's Services Work Group, Legislative Report, April 2005</i></p>	

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www.nccollaborative.org
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Child and Family Team (CFT) Definition Consensus Process and Final Definition December 14, 2007

Below is a very brief summary of the process used to form consensus on the CFT definition. This summary serves to document the strength of the collaborative process at work in North Carolina and provides context for the work to promote child and family teams and system of care (SOC) statewide from 2003 to 2007.

2003 - Initial discussions among DSS and DMHDDSAS staff when federal SOC grants were in place re: meaning of CFT, definition, process, function, form, purpose, practice, training, supports, among other items. At this time separate training ensuing thru each agency in order to meet grant and state MRS/DSS implementation timelines locally;

2003-2004 - Discussions widened to include families and higher education public academic partners (PALs);

2004 – 2006 - Discussions widened to include broader stakeholder representatives including youth, other state and local partners re: opportunities to work together to promote CFTs and need for training that is consistent across all partners.

2005-2006 - Consensus reached through cross-agency development of training curriculum on the following points:

- child and family teams must be viewed from and training provided thru child and family perspective; and
- after thorough review and consideration of multiple guiding principles and philosophical foundations for work with children and families, 7 guiding principles were agreed upon and are to serve as the foundation from which the CFT curriculum training would be based - and a definition for CFT agreed upon for use in the curriculum.

2007 – CFT curriculum was completed and implementation began. Because of a question re: data collection on what is a CFT and what is counted as a CFT in an evaluation design for a related initiative, a discussion with the NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families took place in October 2007. Additional comments and suggestions were discussed. This led to an ad hoc group, chaired by Gail Cormier, NC Families United, being called together of all stakeholders involved with the CFT curriculum and any others who wished to participate in a one time discussion to result in agreement of a final CFT definition.

2007 - In November 2007, the ad hoc group met to review the current definition in the CFT training curriculum, the definition in the SOC Family Handbook (NC Families United) and the questions raised in the October 2007 Collaborative discussion. The outcome of this ad hoc group discussion resulted in additional modifications. Consensus was reached by all parties with intent to bring the CFT definition back to the NC Collaborative for final review and adoption.

2007 - In December 2007, the November revision of CFT definition was presented to the NC Collaborative. The outcome of the NC Collaborative discussion resulted in additional modifications. Consensus was reached by all parties with FINAL adoption of the CFT definition as written on the attached. It is fully agreed, from December 2007, the CFT definition will be used across agencies as follows.

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