
VI. WHAT WILL THE RESULT BE?

The result of this process will be that you and your family will have one coordinated service plan that is shaped by:

- *What works for you and your family*
- *The individual strengths of each of your family members*
- *The unique needs of your family*

The plan will draw on the resources of your entire community and will be supported by a circle of family, friends and professionals identified by you. You will also have immediate access to support services.



In Summary:

1. **EXPECT** to be treated with respect in a family friendly atmosphere.
2. **EXPECT** a real plan, based on your family's strengths.
2. **EXPECT** to identify a support circle of people YOU want to work with.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE ORANGE COUNTY NETWORK

Contact

Referrals

Call: (845) 342-8737 or 866-629-4828

Network Family Partners

Phone: (845) 343-8100

Family Empowerment Council

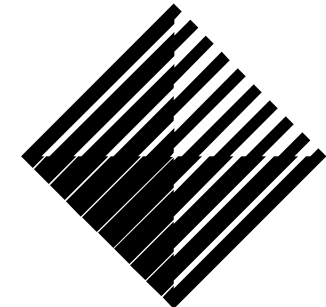
1-888-343-8181

Orange County

Department of Mental Health

Phone: (845) 291-2611

What to Expect At NETWORK



A collaboration between
Family Empowerment Council, Inc.
and
Orange County
Department of Mental Health

I. WHAT IS NETWORK?

NETWORK is an innovative approach to working with families who need the help of a variety of services due to their child's emotional/behavioral needs. It is a "family friendly" planning process that concentrates on a family/individual strengths rather than on problems or deficits. All of the service providers who are working with your family, school representative(s) and whomever you think would be helpful are invited to attend. We encourage the whole family to come, as this is a family planning process. The goal is to create one coordinated individualized plan, which is family driven. A *Network* meeting always focuses on what the family needs.

II. WHY WOULD I GO TO A NETWORK MEETING?

NETWORK simplifies the situation by providing one coordinated service plan and may expand the pool of services available to the family.

III. WHO WILL BE THERE?

Parent(s) are asked to sign a consent form prior to the meeting. A list of people to be invited will be on that form. A school representative is asked to come and if there are a "home school" and a "placement school" both will be invited to have someone working with the youth at the

meeting. This is a family friendly meeting. Network members are committed to treating you with respect and sharing the viewpoint that you are the expert on your family situation. You are an equal partner in the planning process. Relatives, friends, neighbors, and professionals are welcome to attend if you want them at the meeting. Also in attendance will be at least one parent, called the Family Partner, who has already experienced the Network Process.

To hold a NETWORK meeting both the parents and the identified youth must be there.

IV. ROLE OF FAMILY PARTNER

The role of the Family Partner is to offer support in whatever way is most helpful to each individual family. By focusing on family strengths they support a more positive outlook for the future.

Before the *Network* meeting a Family Partner contacts the family to explain the process and purpose of *Network*. They answer questions and assist the family in inviting people who are important to them and their children. Family Partners have been through similar experiences, each having a family member who is emotionally or behaviorally challenged. They share information, advocate and offer support, understanding firsthand the struggles of the families with which they Partner. After the **NETWORK** meeting, Family Partners continue to maintain contact and offer

support. They are responsible for ensuring that the plan is functioning and/or offering to set up another meeting to refine or alter the plan.

In summary they:

Listen, Hear, Understand, Encourage, Support and Empower the family coming to NETWORK

V. WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT NETWORK?

NETWORK members will introduce themselves to you and you will quickly notice that the style of the meeting is informal. **NETWORK** members will help you to identify the unique strengths, special interests, and accomplishments of each family member. You will be asked why you are bringing this situation to **NETWORK**. Each person present has input into this process. From this combination of your family identified strengths and your own identification of what your family needs, a preliminary plan, making use of all of the communities' resources, is shaped by you and the **NETWORK** members. We will ask a small group of people to be part of a support circle for you and your family, so that the **NETWORK** plan can move forward. You will be part of that decision also.