Family-Centered Assessment
Family Centered Practice

Core Values:

The best place for children to grow up is in families. Providing services that engage, involve, strengthen, and support families is the most effective approach to ensuring children’s safety, permanency and well being.
5 Essential Components

- The family unit is the focus of attention

- Strengthening the capacity of families to function effectively is emphasized.

- Families are engaged in designing all aspects of the policies, services, and program evaluation.

- Families are linked with more comprehensive, diverse, and community-based networks of support and services.

- Families are diverse and have the right to be respected for their special cultural, racial, ethnic, and religious traditions; children can flourish in different types of families.
Practices

- Assessment of the entire family
- Family engagement in the case and services planning
- Work with both mothers and fathers
- Use of family-based services rather than institutional placements or temporary shelters
- Focus on the underlying issues affecting child safety, permanency and well being
What is Family-Centered Assessment?

- Focus on whole family
- Values family participation and experience
- Respects the family’s culture
- Helps family identify strengths, needs and resources to develop a service plan
Practice characterized by:

- Mutual trust
- Respect and honesty
- Open communication between parents and service providers.
- Families active participants in planning process
- Families are active decision makers in selecting services
Underlying Assumption

Human beings can be best understood and helped within their significant environments and that the family is the most intimate environment of all.
Ecological Assessment

- Family Functioning
- Physical Environment
- Financial Conditions
- Social Support
- Interaction between family members
- Family History
- Child Behavior and Characteristics
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength-Based Approach</th>
<th>Traditional Approach</th>
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<tr>
<td>Identify what the client wants</td>
<td>Diagnose the problem</td>
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<td>Let the client tell you who he/she is</td>
<td>Gather all available information in order to classify the client</td>
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<td>The client is the expert about his or her life.</td>
<td>The professional is the expert</td>
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<td>Identify client strengths that can be used to promote client goals</td>
<td>Identify the web of causality that is supporting the client problem</td>
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<td>The professional collaborates with the client to help the client identify ways to accomplish goals.</td>
<td>The professional develops a service plan that the client is expected to follow in order to achieve the case goals</td>
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<td>The unfolding of the plan may be step-by-step, but may emerge in ways best suited to the client needs and style</td>
<td>The plan is expected to be implemented in a logical, step by step way.</td>
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Empowering Approach

- Dialogue
- Discovery
- Development
Dialogue Phase

Building partnerships through developing a relationship

Interpersonal helping skills:
- Genuineness
- Empathy
- Respect
Dialogue Phase

- Defining and clarifying the role of the worker in the assessment and intervention process
- Defining respective family roles
- Defining the purpose of work
- Activating child, families, and caregivers motivation for change
- Addressing crisis needs.
Discovery Phase

- Exploring the child, youth, family and caregivers strengths
- Exploring the resources in the child’s, youth’s, families and caregivers environment
- Collecting relevant information from all collateral
- Assessing capabilities of available resources systems
- Jointly developing a service plan with specific goals and concrete objectives
Development Phase

- Operationalizing the service plan
- Accessing resources necessary to achieve the goals in the service plan
- Creating alliances among persons and organizations to accomplish the service plan
- Enhancing opportunities and choices by creating additional resources
- Evaluating ongoing progress and outcomes
Elements of Assessment

- Information Gathering
- Analysis
  - Motivation
  - Capacity
  - Opportunity
- Decision Making