

Engaging Families and Creating Trusting Partnerships to Improve Child and Family Outcomes
Getting to the Bottom Line of Family Engagement Webinar (March 29, 2017)

Webinar Reflection and/or Discussion

After participating in the webinar, we encourage you to reflect on key learnings and think about how you can apply them in your position or role. Below are some suggested prompts to use in your reflection and/or discussion with other partners/colleagues who also participated in the webinar.

1. Change can happen from wherever you sit in the system---as a parent, as a service provider, as a local program administrator, as a state program administrator, wherever! People in different roles may see things differently, even though they are part of the same system. Think about your role in the system and answer/discuss the following questions:
 - a. What do you think has contributed to successful trusting partnerships between families and professionals in your state/local program?
 - b. On the contrary, what do you think has caused challenges in your program?
 - c. What next steps can you take, in your role, to build on the successes and address the challenges?

2. When registering for this webinar, we invited you to submit suggestions for issues, challenges, and/or questions that you would like to see addressed during the webinar series. By far, the majority of submissions focused on families that the system is not reaching well due to circumstances such as mental health challenges, English language proficiency, homelessness, young parental age, etc. Today, you heard one mother's (Sharilyn's) perspectives about support that either helped or hindered her in overcoming challenges related to mental health, her own disabilities, and addiction. In the remaining webinars, we will continue to respond to your priorities by addressing family circumstances around which you would like to strengthen partnerships. In anticipation of your continued participation, answer/discuss the following:
 - a. Are the programs that serve young children with disabilities and their families in your state/locality equipped to differentiate support for parents so that it is appropriate to their individual needs and strengths? Why or why not? Think about or discuss a few examples.
 - b. To what extent is your program "hard to reach" for families (vs. the families themselves being "hard to reach")? What are some of the assumptions that are made about families that the system is not reaching well that may be interfering with being able to establish trusting parent-professional partnerships?