

## NCTSN Mini-Grant Initiative: Fact Sheet

Name of Project: Focus Groups to Enhance Family Engagement

<p><b>Target Area</b></p>	<p>Which under-funded area did your mini-grant initiative address?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Making child-serving systems more trauma-informed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing cultural competence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhancing family and youth involvement</p>
<p><b>Project Description</b></p>	<p>Title of project: Focus Groups to Enhance Family Engagement</p> <p>Briefly describe your project, including project goals and target population (e.g., abstract): Chadwick used the Pathways to Partnerships document to conduct an organizational self assessment and determined we wanted to hold focus groups with the caregivers of former Chadwick clients in order to gather information on how we can improve services to local children and families we serve. Chadwick's internal workgroup identified several priority areas to gather information on, including: process of therapy, relationship with the therapist, assessment, referral process, front office staff/environment, and improvement of services overall. We developed structured interview questions and obtained feedback from the NCTSN's youth/family workgroup as well as former Chadwick clients who are involved in our internal workgroup. We held two caregiver groups; one was conducted in English and the other in Spanish.</p>
<p><b>Project Evaluation</b></p>	<p>Please describe the evaluation plans for your project. Focus group participants received a brief survey at the conclusion of the focus group to get feedback on their experience and provide additional suggestions on how Chadwick can better engage youth and families. Participants indicated their primary concern was ensuring the</p>

	<p>therapist understood how important it is to keep the families informed about treatment and their child's progress. Results from the focus group and our recommendations will be shared with Chadwick staff at the All Staff meeting scheduled for September 3, 2008.</p> <p>What was the outcome of your evaluation plan? This has yet to be determined since we are in the process of making changes based on the feedback we received from focus group participants. Currently, we have plans to use this information to help us in forming a Chadwick Constituency Advisory Panel that will help us further increase the impact family and youth partnerships have on our center.</p> <p>Based on your evaluation findings, is there an aspect of the project you would have done differently? No, but I think we would have found a way to invite more family members to participate in the focus groups since we had a low turnout for the English speaking group. Also, we did not have any male participants, which would have provided a different perspective. This somewhat limited our findings and ability to make recommendations about how to work with male caregivers.</p>
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p>	<p>Is there a product or resource that you have developed as part of this initiative? Focus group interview questions and guidelines, sample participant invitations and informed consents that other centers can use</p> <p>In what way does your project contribute to the field of child traumatic stress (e.g., products, knowledge)? We contribute in both products and knowledge. Treatment engagement and the relationship with the therapist stood out among our family members as one of the most important aspects of their therapy experience. Parents seeking trauma services for their children want to be actively involved and informed.</p>

<p><b>Cultural Considerations</b></p>	<p>For which specific cultural group(s) is your project tailored for? If none, please respond “not specifically tailored.” We included two focus groups: English and Spanish</p> <p>How are cultural issues specifically addressed in your project? We conducted a monolingual Spanish focus group to gain insight into the therapy experience for this cultural group.</p> <p>If there was a product or resource developed as part of your project what culturally specific issues arise with its use? Again, we did not have any male participants, which would have provided a different perspective. We did not include specific questions about culture or religion either. This is one area that could be enhanced if the interview questions are used again.</p>
<p><b>Partnerships</b></p>	<p>If you collaborated with other agencies or organizations over the course of this project, please describe this experience. This was a great experience. We received great feedback from the NCTSN Youth and Family Committee members on our interview questions and the flyer we used to recruit participants.</p>
<p><b>Future Directions</b></p>	<p>What would you like to see done next to build upon this project? Work with our internal workgroup to improve interview questions and conduct at least one more interview with caregivers. Further, I would like to see a similar focus group conducted with youth to gather their perspectives.</p> <p>If you have developed a product or resource what is your plan for dissemination? Send to NCTSN youth/family email list; distribute to Chadwick staff during All Staff meeting; possibly submit project as a conference poster presentation or workshop.</p>

<b>Additional Comments</b>	Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to do this. I think one greatest outcomes we have from the project is that it elevated the importance of this topic to our leaders at Chadwick.
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