

What is a Family Engagement Committee?



A Family Engagement Committee (FEC) is a group of individuals at the county level who come together to discuss, implement, and support strategies to improve family engagement and outcomes for children. Each FEC is comprised of biological parents who have been involved in the child welfare system – along with other families and community stakeholders – committed to improving services for children, youth, and families. FECs help to ensure there is ongoing consultation from families so the county can respond to feedback and strengthen programming as needed.

Meetings and Scope of Work

How Often Do FECs Meet?

FECs meet at least quarterly. The topics at each meeting will vary but will usually include a discussion about a program, policy, document, and/or challenges to families engaging in services.

What Do Family Partners on FECs Receive?

A series of trainings are offered to members to help them participate in this system-level improvement effort. Family Partners are also offered reimbursement for attending FEC meetings.

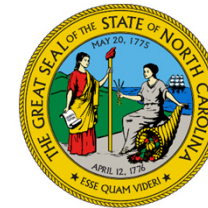
How do FECs impact state-level programs?

Each county shares data from its FEC meetings with the NC Division of Social Services Child Welfare Services Section and the NC Child Welfare Family Advisory Council (see reverse side) to assist in statewide improvement.

Anyone interested in lending their voice to help inform policies and practices are encouraged to watch this short video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_527fAcZ84&feature=youtu.be

FAMILY PARTNER DEFINED

A family partner is defined as a youth or adult who has received services or is the caregiver/parent of someone who has received services and who has firsthand experience with the child welfare system. Therefore, when we refer to *Family Partners*, we are speaking of both youth and adults.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

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What is the NC Child Welfare Family Advisory Council?

The North Carolina Child Welfare Family Advisory Council (CWFAC) is a state-level council to provide parents and youth opportunities to be full partners in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of child welfare services. The state-level council is comprised of young adults with former experience with the child welfare system, biological parents who have received child protection services, foster parents, adoptive parents, and kinship caregivers.

Launched in April 2018, the purpose of the CWFAC is to promote and support the involvement of families at case practice, policy, and system levels. The CWFAC is an integral part of how DSS leads child welfare activities across the state. The CWFAC works in concert with the county Family Engagement Committees (FECs) to strengthen family engagement across all child welfare program areas and improve child and family outcomes in North Carolina.

North Carolina Child Welfare Family Leadership Model

Family Leadership Exploration

(Tier One)

Families with personal experience with child welfare are asked to participate in activities because of that experience.

Family Leadership Development

(Tier Two)

Families are actively involved in educating, supporting, and facilitating family perspective.

Child Welfare Family Advisory Council

(Tier Three)

Families are advising on specific child welfare topics, policies, and systemic issues.

Each of the Family Leadership Model Tiers help to support the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Systemic Factor *Agency Responsiveness to Community* as the state and counties engage in ongoing consultation with families receiving services.

Everyone interacting with the child welfare system is encouraged to watch this short video: www.fosteringnc.org/cw101

**For more information about the
North Carolina Child Welfare Family Leadership Model,
visit <https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dss/CWFAC/>
(coming soon!)**