

# Family Engagement: A Promising Pathway toward Better Quality Health Care

## Background

The Triple Aim supports patient and family engagement as a promising pathway toward better-quality health care, more efficient care, and improved population health. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) knows that the family is the principal caregiver and the center of strength and support for children. To promote improved patient, family, and physician outcomes and satisfaction, the AAP encourages and supports family engagement in its core competencies of education, practice, research, and advocacy.

The AAP encourages its chapters to adopt the aforementioned principles to support active patient and public involvement in healthcare, and to strengthen their influence on decisions at both the individual and collective levels.

In response to a request from chapter leaders at the 2013 Annual Leadership Forum, the Academy has created this list of suggestions and ideas for chapters to consider pursuing related to family engagement.

## Top Five Things Your Chapter Can Do Right Now Related to Family Engagement

1. Invite a parent or family organization representative to have a conversation with chapter leadership and staff about possible opportunities for involvement in chapter activities. This might include the possibility of inviting a family leader/representative to attend a chapter executive committee and/or board meeting or to speak at an annual chapter meeting.
2. Reach out to local F2F HIC (Family-to-Family Health Information Center) staff to discuss ways to partner on family engagement initiatives and to learn more about what resources they have to offer that might be of interest to chapter members and staff. Find your state F2F HIC here: <http://www.familyvoices.org/page?id=0052>
3. Collaborate with family organizations on specific policy and advocacy initiatives.
4. Incorporate family organizations and family engagement activities into grant proposals. Consult with families and/or groups representing families prior to drafting the proposal. It is important to gain insights from family leaders or organizations at the outset of grant development to ensure their ideas are considered and that they are comfortable with the activities being proposed.
5. Invite a parent or family organization representative to contribute to chapter publications periodically and/or to review materials developed by the chapter to ensure a family perspective is considered and included.

## Additional Ideas for the Future

1. Develop a standing column in the chapter newsletter on family engagement in healthcare organizations or practice(s).
2. Coordinate a focus group with staff and leaders from family organizations to ask opinions about a chapter issue (clinical, administrative/operational or otherwise).
3. Visit the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) Data Resource Center: <http://childhealthdata.org/>

The Data Resource Center provides state-specific data generated from family respondents to national surveys. Consider how family organizations are using the findings and reach out to them to discuss potential collaborative opportunities.

4. Consult with state-based representatives from Family Voices or Parent-to-Parent USA for 1) strategies on overcoming barriers to family engagement work, and 2) how to select the right type of family partners for involvement in chapter activities. Find more information here: <http://www.p2pusa.org/p2pusa/SitePages/p2p-support.aspx>

