



## Family-Driven Care and Children’s Mental Health

Subject: Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week, Focus on Family-Driven Care

In recognition of the national campaigns for Children's Mental Health Awareness, SEDNET is distributing five days of children's mental health topical resource spotlights to draw attention to the mental health needs of children and adolescents.

Today’s topical spotlight is family-driven care for children with or at-risk of mental health disorders. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines family-driven care as “families have a primary decision making role in the care of their own children as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community, state, tribe, territory and nation including: choosing supports, services, and providers; setting goals, designing and implementing programs; monitoring outcomes; and determining effectiveness of all efforts to promote the mental health of children and youth.”

The following resources offer information to assist in building family-driven care as a core element of systems of care for students with or at-risk of mental health disorders:

- **A Family Guide to Children’s Mental Health Services and Supports, Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)**  
[www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/mentalhealth/docs/FamilyGuideBookDCF.pdf](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/mentalhealth/docs/FamilyGuideBookDCF.pdf)  
Guidebook for families interested in information on mental health concerns and treatment.
- **The Child Mind Institute**  
[www.childmind.org](http://www.childmind.org)  
This site provides resources for building awareness and reducing stigma associated with mental health disorders including a mental health guide, effective treatments, and access to networking online with experts in the field.

Focused on partnership with families and community providers to build effective services for children with or at-risk of mental health disorders. Various resources and online trainings are offered through site with links to other partner organizations.

Thank you for taking time to review this important information on Children's Mental Health. For more information about SEDNET and family-driven care resources please visit [www.sednetfl.info](http://www.sednetfl.info) and subscribe to our electronic newsletter.