
Family Partnership for Better Outcomes

Cymone Fuller, Vera Institute of Justice

TODAY'S CONVERSATION...

VALUES

What do we BELIEVE about families?

EXAMPLES

What are some promising practices to engage families in reentry?

OUR ROLES

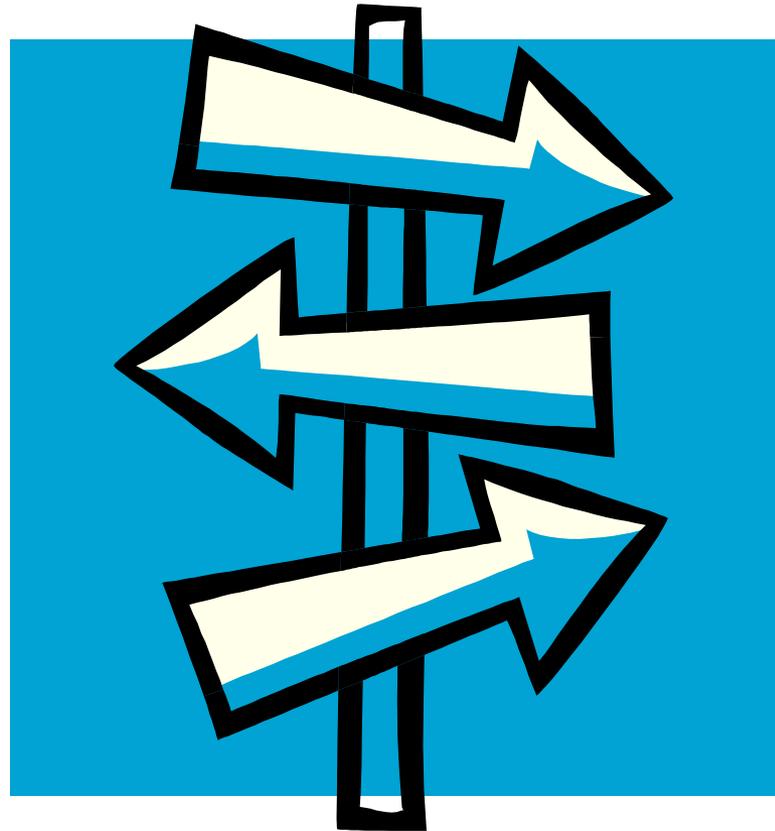
How do we INCORPORATE families in our practice?

TAKE A SIDE...

With each of the following statements, stand to the:

➤ **RIGHT** if you **AGREE**

➤ **LEFT** if you **DISAGREE**



TAKE A SIDE...

ALL families are **valuable**
& have unique **strengths**

TAKE A SIDE...

ALL youth & families are
EXPERTS

TAKE A SIDE...

When it comes to youth we
work with, the **APPLE**
doesn't fall far from the
tree

TAKE A SIDE...

Family engagement is important, BUT ultimately, **PROFESSIONALS** should make the final decisions

VA Youth

87% agree:
“My family really
tries to help me.”

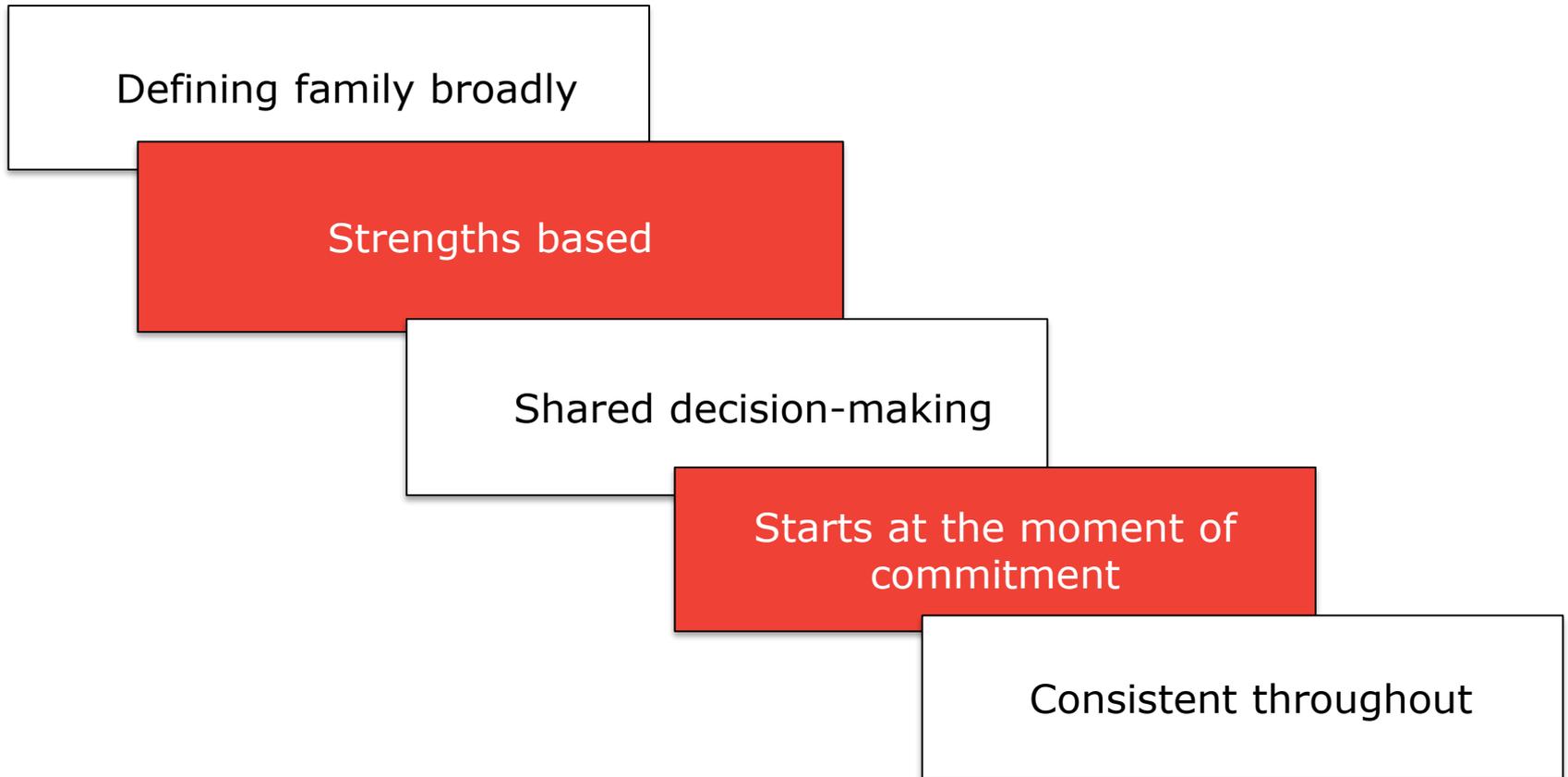
74% agree:
“I can count on my
family when things
go wrong.”

78% agree:
“My family is willing
to help me make
decisions.”



It is our responsibility to
ensure every youth has
family involved.

Principles for Family Partnership

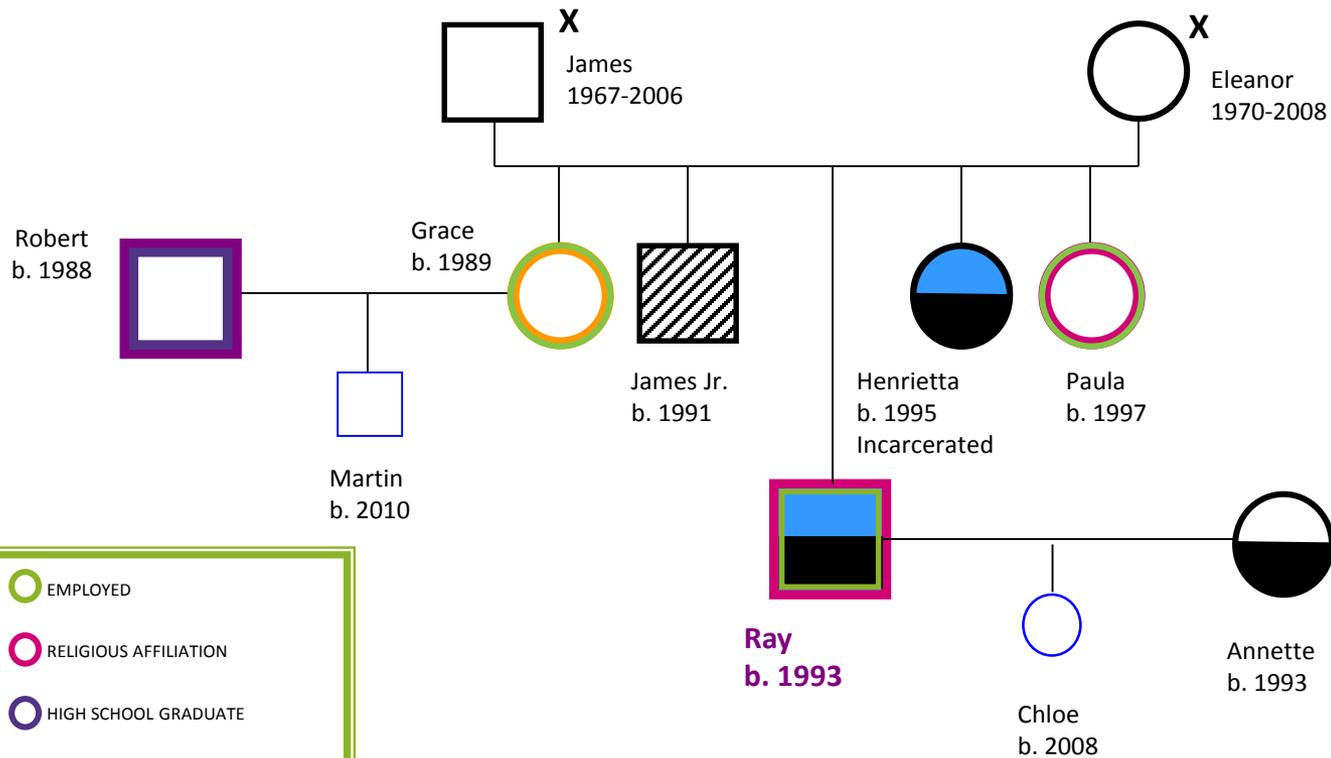


VA Family Engagement Tools

Juvenile Relational Inquiry Tool

 VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE	
DRAFT	
Juvenile Relational Inquiry Tool	
Staff Name	Time incarcerated (at this facility)
Date	Start Time
<p>PLEASE READ THIS SCRIPT: In order to understand you better and open the lines of communication between us, I would like to talk with you about the people you feel connected to and ways you have helped each other. This may include people in your family or it may be friends or other people you see as being like family. Some of these questions may be things you want to think about and not answer today. If you want to pass on any of the questions, that's ok with me.</p>	
<p>1. What goals do you have? How does your family support your goals? <i>Probe: What are your goals for your education and career? What are your goals after release? What do you want to do when you get out?</i></p>	
<p>2. Who is most proud of you? Who are you most proud of? <i>Probe: Who encourages you? Who makes you feel good about yourself?</i></p>	
<p>3. Who is the most important adult in your life, and why?</p>	

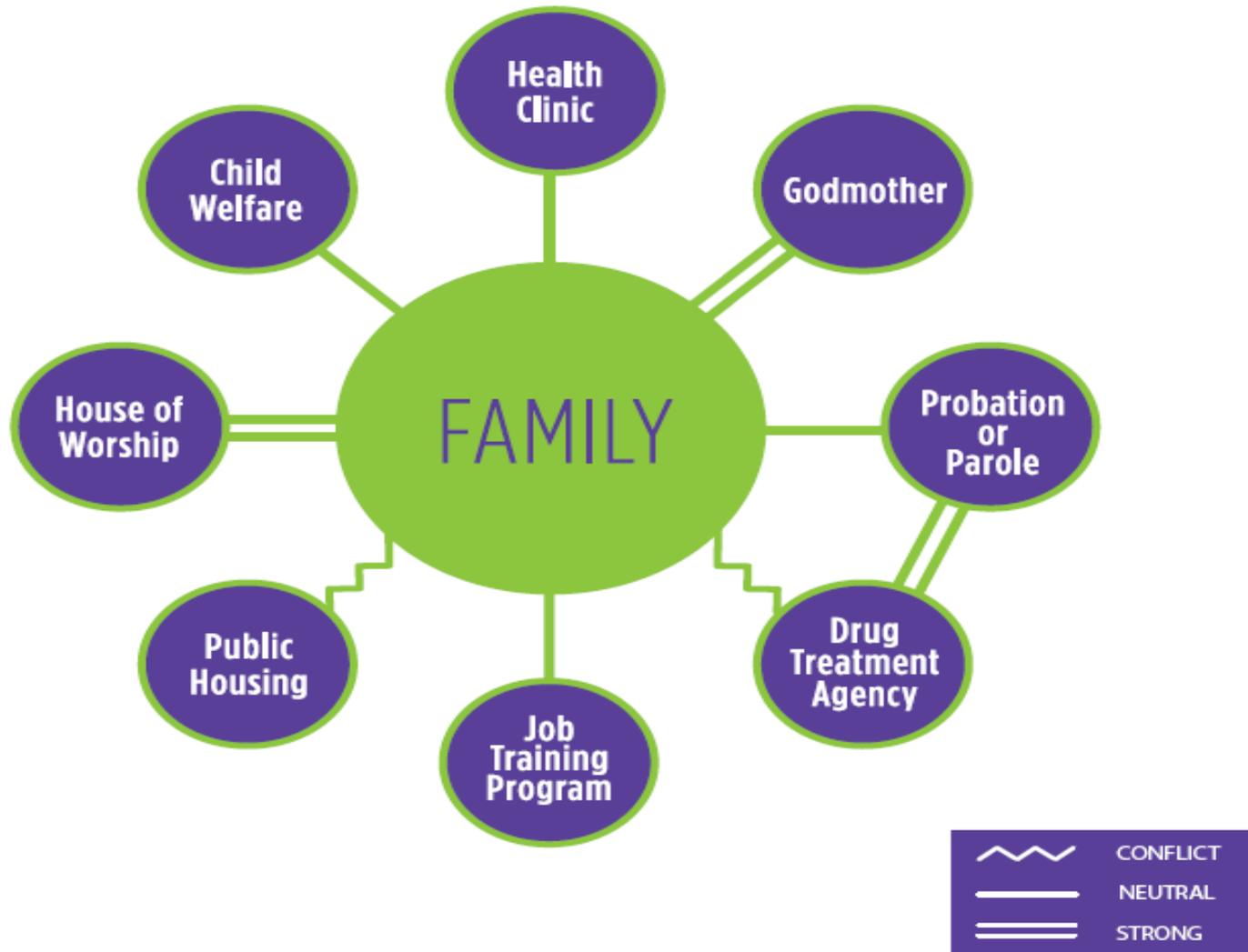
Family Mapping- Genograms



- EMPLOYED
- RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
- TAKES CARE OF CHILDREN
- IN SCHOOL

- MALE
- FEMALE
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT
- MENTAL ILLNESS
- CHRONIC ILLNESS
- DECEASED
- MARRIED
- SEPARATED
- DIVORCED
- FAMILY VIOLENCE
- ENERGY FLOW / FOCUS

Family Mapping- Ecomap



Best Practices in the field

Engagement Strategies

- ❖ Reestablish parent as authority figure
- ❖ Connect whole family to resources
- ❖ Find those who support the whole family



<http://www.fftlc.com/ffp/model.html>

Engagement Strategies

Engaging families of older youth

- ❖ Making support clear and time-limited. Ex. will give a ride for 6 months
- ❖ Capture and share the progress that has been made while youth has been away
- ❖ Broad definition of support – including peers AND significant others
- ❖ Connection to mentors
- ❖ ALPs (Apartment Living Program)

Engagement for youth with children

- ❖ Include parenting partners
- ❖ Child-friendly and contact visitation environments
- ❖ Just Beginning Program – Youth Law Center
<https://www.justbeginning.org/>

Family Support Agreements

The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice is currently piloting using “Family Support Agreements” in their Aftercare case management practice

- ❖ Completed before youth leaves facility
- ❖ Used to make decisions about release level of support (supervision)
- ❖ Not legally binding
- ❖ Goal specific



Family Team/Partnership Meetings

- ❖ Used all the time in the Child Welfare System
- ❖ Trained/Neutral facilitator
- ❖ Convened to make important decisions about youth's case
 - ❖ Treatment
 - ❖ Case planning
 - ❖ Reentry
- ❖ Prioritize the convenience and comfort of family
- ❖ Always more family members than professionals

Virginia Beach CSU

Family Engagement looks like:

- ❖ Family Engagement Coordinator
- ❖ “Family Team Meetings”
- ❖ Broad definition of support
- ❖ Neutral support and guidance for POs



Virginia Beach: Katie
McCurdy

Reentry Circles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N49VCv2R9wc>

You can do it!

Youth Level

- Ask who's important to them and listen!

Family Level

- Connect the family to resources to help themselves and their loved one
- Break down support- make it tangible and realistic
- Schedule things that work best for the family and consider their ecosystem

Reflective Practice

- More family/support than professionals in the room
- Families and youth guide the plan
- Transfer responsibility to family in phases

FIN!

Thank you!

Cymone Fuller

Cfuller@vera.org

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6VnpKLtfNH4Dk09YSGPSyR>
