

## **Background**

Peers (*Family and Youth*) as direct service providers (*Peer Partners*) in Children and Family services is a requirement for many funding sources furthermore, system transformations or reform efforts identify this role as a critical element to reform efforts. Peer support roles and employment of peers as direct service providers has become increasingly important in recent years. Partners can and do play a variety of roles in the broad arena of service provisions. Some agencies already employ partners to provide direct service to clients and families. This new and evolving practice requires Standards of Practice. In 2002 The Family & Youth Roundtable (FYRT) began development of standard of practice; we talked and worked with many families and youth to listen and incorporate their views, needs and perspectives. In addition, we have listened to our public and community partners, and incorporated their view, mandates, and perspectives. These two distinctly different backgrounds are bridged into a multitude of perspectives in an effort to transcend the differences, work together, and incorporated these perspectives into recommendations for standard's of practice for peers as direct service providers in children and families services. In 2005 The Roundtable introduced a credentialing program for peers as direct service providers in children-family serving agencies. The **FYRT Peer Support Certification-Children Services** is similar to other professional institutional accreditation methods. The Roundtable is uniquely qualified to serve in the capacity of a peer training and accreditation entity due to our staffs', Board of Directors', and members' long standing history with Public Children and Family Serving Systems. Furthermore, our certification development team has over ten years experience in the advancement of peer to peer support and partnership. We are guided by our authentic belief in advocacy through partnership. This has translated into national recognition in our implementation of Family-Youth Professional Partnerships. Many of the FYRT's representatives have been active since the inception of building a foundation for a family centered service delivery practice. These representatives have proven to be prominent in the advancement of Family-Youth Support Partner programs; from policy development, program implementation and direct service provisions.

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## **PROCESS**

To receive the ranking as a FYRT ***Certified Peer Support Partner*** requires:

1. Confirmed attendance and completion of 90 hours of FYRT Peer Support Partner Core Training
2. Confirmed attendance and completion of 16 hours of Roundtable Support Partner Advance Training Per year
3. Confirmed attendance of 18 hours of peer to peer supervision meetings. Per Year

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To maintain your certification you are required to attend

1. 24 hours per year Group Consultation Meetings
2. 24 hours per year In service (advance) peer partner trainings. A list of training objectives for the year are posted by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year. The list may be obtained on the web at: <http://fyrt.org/Certification-Program.html> or by calling FYRT at: 619-546-5852