

**FAMILY DRIVEN CARE…SO WHAT CHANGES?**

Much of the training in human psychology and behavioral health adheres to a Medical model that places the professional in the position of an expert who has the special knowledge and skills to determine what is wrong with a patient and prescribe the right treatment to cure the problem.

It is, therefore, not surprising for professionals to be skeptical and anxious when first introduced to the concept of family-driven care.

The image that is likely to come to mind is being run over by a bulldozer.

However, once professionals fully understand the intent behind the definition and they experience the benefits

of practicing their craft in accordance with the principles of family-driven care, they typically find greater satisfaction with their work and see:

* Better outcomes for the children and families with whom they work.
* Their mental image changes to one of taking a journey together.
* They see themselves in a car with the family in the driver’s seat as they themselves read the maps and guide books,
* They are able to look out for landmarks and hazards,
* Feed the passengers in the back seat
* And make suggestions to get safely to the destination.

ClosingTheGap\_FamilyDrivenCare.pdf Blau, G., Osher, T. W., & Osher, D. M. (2005). Ambassador’s guide to family-driven care and practice. Rockville, MD: National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health. 7 National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health. (2005). Working definition of family-driven care. Rockville,

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