



Our Kids Network Family/Caregiver Engagement Policy

PURPOSE:

To ensure that Our Kids Network (OKN) recognises the critical importance of meaningful family/caregiver engagement to achieve our vision '*All Children Thrive*'. Further, Our Kids Network is committed to building awareness of the issue of family voice through family/caregiver engagement literacy and the development of Network and Committee wide activities that actively engage families/caregivers along our continuum of family/caregiver engagement "*For Families – With Families – By Families*".

APPLICATION & SCOPE:

This policy applies to all operations and procedures in all committees within Our Kids Network. The family/caregiver engagement policy will be reflected in all committees' terms of reference and work plan and in any framework agreements between partners.

DEFINITIONS:

For Families/Caregivers – Opportunities are created for family/caregiver engagement by adopting mechanisms for including family/caregiver opinions in an organisation's activities but their inclusion is passive and ad hoc.

With Families/Caregivers – Opportunities are created for family/caregiver engagement by adopting a formal mechanism for gathering family/caregiver opinions and for working with families/caregivers on an ongoing basis.

By Families/Caregivers – Opportunities are created for family/caregiver engagement by making space in an organisation to adopt decisions made by families/caregivers and by recruiting them to fill authentic leadership roles.

PRINCIPLES:

Our Kids Network is committed to:

- Opportunities for families/caregivers voice, involvement and leadership
- Meaningful participation of families/caregivers
- An environment open to everyone's ideas and contributions
- Respectful of all participants
- Opportunities for supportive connections



REQUIREMENTS:

1. Our Kids Network (OKN), under the direction of the Senior Executive Group, in conjunction with the OKN Director (in collaboration with the Collective Impact Planning Committee), will facilitate the directive of this policy.
2. Each OKN Committee will develop their own specific plan to engage families/caregivers based on the core set of family engagement principles and the continuum.
3. The Collective Impact Planning Committee (CIPC) takes responsibility for ensuring family/caregiver voice is embedded in the Network, providing direction for the recommendation of family/caregiver engagement strategies, and ensuring that committee family/caregiver engagement strategies are coherent.
4. Our Kids Network, under the direction of the Research & Evaluation Committee, will commit to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the OKN family/caregiver engagement policy and the use of the family/caregiver engagement continuum across all committees.

Attachments:

- Engagement Continuum
- Family/Caregiver Engagement Examples

Approved by SEG: January 2017