Wraparound: Description

* Wraparound is **community-based** in that services and supports are implemented in natural home, school, and community environments. Restrictive settings are accessed only for brief periods of stabilization.
* A **team**, consisting of the people who know the student best and represent his/her strengths, interest and needs at home, school, and in the community, develops an **individualized plan.** Unlike traditional human services that have relied on a deficit model, the plan is **strengths-based.**  Positive reframing to assets and skills is a key element in all individualized planning.
* Wraparound is **culturally competent** as the composition of the team and the services and supports assure a fit to the person’s culture, values, and life experiences.
* **Families as full and active partners** is a key value reflected in the process as families choose their team members and the team prioritizes needs identified by the family and interventions, supports and services reflect family choice.
* Wraparound is not a service but is a **team-based process, involving family, natural supports, agencies, and community supports.**
* **Flexible approach and funding** across systems is needed to ensure the plan fits the student and family instead of trying to make the student/family fit into a given program.
* **A balance of formal and informal resources** is evident in wraparound plans as teams have the capacity to create individualized supports, activities, and interventions unique to the individual student and his/her family.
* The team makes an **unconditional commitment** to change the plan to meet the needs of the student/family rather than referring them to another program or service system. If the plan doesn’t work the team is committed to changing the plan to ensure success instead of blaming the student/family for an ineffective plan.
* The development and implementation of an individualized service/support plan is based on a **community-neighborhood, interagency, collaborative process.** Plans address multiple life domains that include family, living situation, educational, social/emotional, vocational, safety, medical, spiritual/cultural, and legal.
* **Outcomes are determined and measured through the team process.** The outcomes are defined by blending family/student and school voices and achieving consensus around clearly stated expectations and definitions of success. The outcomes are focused on normalization. Normalized needs are those basic human needs that all persons (of like, age, sex, culture) have.

**Wraparound: Steps to Success**

1. Initial Conversations
2. Clarify Agenda, Determine Logistics/Rules for Meeting
3. Introduce Team Members by Role and Goal
4. Develop or Review Mission Statement

**What Information Do We Have or Need to Make Decisions?**

1. Start Meeting with Strengths
2. Identify Needs Across Life Domain

**What Do We Need to Accomplish**?

1. Prioritize Needs

**What Action Do We Need/Want to Take and When**?

1. Action Planning

**How Will We Decide if it is Working and What to Do Next?**

1. Assign Tasks/Timelines, Ensure Commitment, and Set Next Meeting Date

Adapted from Eber, L. (2003).  *The art and science of wraparound.* Bloomington, IN: The Forum on Education, Indiana University.