



Adolescent Developmental Approach

Hallmark 7: Family Engagement Checklist

Goal of This Checklist

To help service providers determine whether they are on track with adopting each hallmark of the Developmental Approach, which strives to focus on helping youth avoid formal legal involvement unless necessary to ensure accountability or protect public safety. This initiative includes striving to keep youth in their communities and providing the services and interventions needed to support prosocial development of adolescents.

Brief Overview

- A central feature of positive youth development is a positive family experience that entails healthy supervision, guidance, and protection.
- Community-based treatment programs that are effective in reducing recidivism often involve the adolescent’s family in the program and pay attention to the adolescent’s social environment.
- Familial involvement throughout the juvenile justice system processes has been shown to lead to better outcomes for adolescents.
- When appropriate, it is important to allow parents and other family members to participate throughout the process of adolescent involvement in the justice system and service delivery.
- Families are the ally with the most vested interest in creating true systems change.

Have you done the following things as part of Hallmark 7?	Yes	No
1. Explored whether your organization engages in practices that are centered on the child?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Examined the extent that your organization involves families (including children, youth, and extended family) in your work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Determined whether your organization helps families understand how to navigate the system in which you work (e.g., education, child welfare, juvenile justice)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Employed practices that help families understand how to advocate for their children within the system in which you work (e.g., education, child welfare, juvenile justice)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Explored whether your organization ensures that families have the information and resources they need to be active decision makers? If yes, please check each of the following that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> There are resources and information that exist within your organization to engage families.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have you done the following things as part of Hallmark 7?	Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Resources and information are still needed within your organization <input type="checkbox"/> Systems, policies, and practices are in place within your organization to engage families. <input type="checkbox"/> Some systems, policies, and practices are still needed.		
6. Considered what information families will need to be effectively engaged? If yes, please check each of the following that apply <input type="checkbox"/> Explored who can help provide this information. <input type="checkbox"/> Explored how or from whom the information will be best received. <input type="checkbox"/> Explored whether there are family involvement and advocacy centers in your area with whom you can partner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Examined barriers families might face (e.g., transportation, language)? If yes, please check each of the following that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Explored how to address these barriers within your organization. <input type="checkbox"/> Explored the resources needed to address these barriers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Assessed the strengths of each individual family (e.g., extended family, faith communities)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Recognized the influences with which families are competing (e.g., negative peer influences, drugs, etc.) and incorporated practices to address those barriers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Explored the resources available for children and their families (e.g., community-based organizations, youth service organizations, recreation centers, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Factored in the risks families face on a daily basis in their communities (e.g., high crime rates, violence, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Considered the issues family members might be facing themselves? If yes, please check each of the following that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment or underemployment <input type="checkbox"/> Absence of dependable and affordable childcare <input type="checkbox"/> Caring for an elderly family member <input type="checkbox"/> Their own unmet mental health needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Determined what steps families might have taken prior to your contact with them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Examined whether youth and families perceive your organization to be respectful and collaborative in interactions with them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Assessed whether your organization is adept at joint planning and decision-making?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Considered whether your organization is engaged in informed decision-making?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Considered whether your organization is skilled at interagency/multisystem collaboration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Assessed how your state, territory, or tribe learns about the full context of the family? If yes, please check each of the following that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Families are included in the initial risk- and needs-assessment process. <input type="checkbox"/> Family engagement specialists are involved in the process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe how you have used elements of Hallmark 7 in your provision of services.

Follow-Up Questions

What challenges have you experienced?

Would you like training or technical assistance (TTA) in any of these areas? If so, please indicate the desired TTA area.

Legal Parameters of Hallmark 7: Family Engagement

- Specifying in statute what the rights of youth and families, regarding access to the youth while involved in the justice process, have **at each point of contact**.
- Specify how that will be communicated to the youth and their families/guardians during each point of contact.
- What reasonable accommodation (i.e. language barriers, transportation, etc.) are provided to families and youth to ensure they not only receive but also understand these rights?
- Does the status allow for flexibility in terms of how family is defined for engagement purposes at the points of contact? (i.e., parent, guardian, responsible adult, mentor, etc.)