

Mentoring Message

Virtual Support Strategies Forum (Via Teams Meeting “drop-in”)

Happy April! This month, instead of providing information, I would like to extend an invitation. As part of provider supports, we would like to begin offering opportunities to get together with individual or small groups of providers to informally discuss situations which might leave us scratching our heads or pondering how we might interact more effectively. I want start by offering weekly opportunities designed as a “drop in” Virtual Support Strategy Forum. The forum will remain open for approximately one hour per session, and no other scheduling would be required to join – simply join in via the provided access code. Since providers from across our support networks are invited to attend, anonymity on behalf of the person(s) you are providing support for would be critical to observe, however, other than their identifying information, general issues, challenges and successes may be brought forth. My hope is that individual or small groups of support folks might drop by into this atmosphere of facilitated, positive, solution seeking conversation. Please consider joining us as way of intentionally contributing to a positive culture for the folks we serve.

Purpose: To allow Direct Support Professionals and Frontline Supervisors an opportunity to have a platform where by they can discuss and troubleshoot positive solutions for challenging scenarios in an objective environment.

Who: Independent providers; agency providers; natural supports; and caregivers.

Where: Virtual office hours, no appointment needed.

Responsible Party: Positive Supports Experts/Jerry Thomas, Coordinator

When: Mondays 1:00pm & Thursdays 9:00am, beginning Monday, April 25, 2022

Access: [Click here for the access code.](#)

Guidelines:

- No identifying information for individuals served is to be used.
- This is an opportunity to debrief and no critical or disrespectful comments regarding providers or individuals/ personalities will be tolerated.
- Sessions will last 1 hour.
- Sessions can be used for brainstorming ideas and does not replace the team process.
- Civil discussion and listening are expected.
- If needed, an additional virtual session could be scheduled for a small team to focus on a specific concern.

Things to Consider in the Discussion:

- What strategies are working, what strategies are not?
- What was occurring before, during, and after the challenge?
- Are there things we could be doing that we are not?
- Are there strategies that could be done better, more polished?
- How might we be unintentionally contributing to the challenge at hand?
- Is there a planned response? Does it work?
- Could we approach it differently without changing the plan?