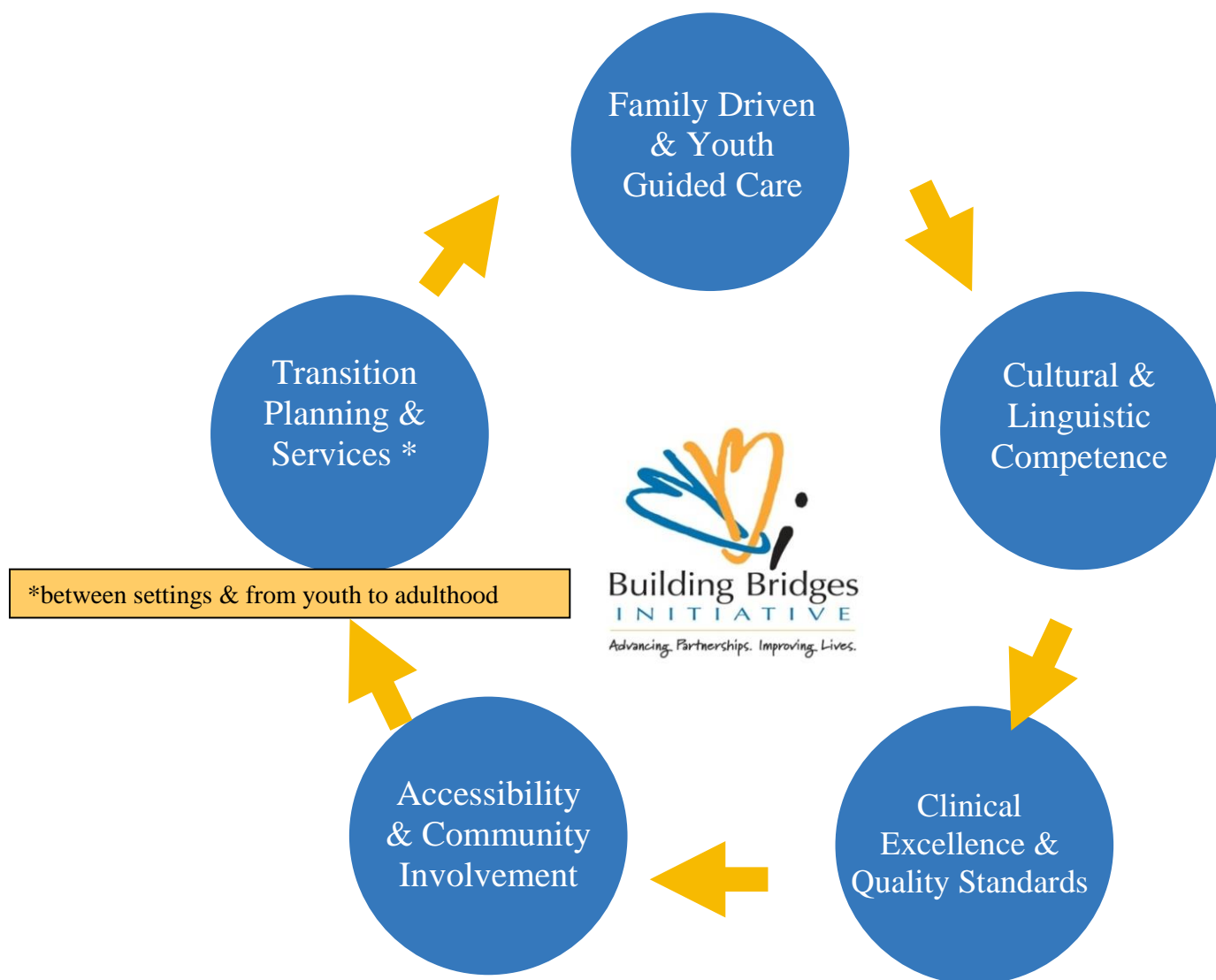


The National Building Bridges Initiative (BBI)

Building Bridges is a national initiative working to identify and promote best practice and policy that will create strong and closely coordinated partnerships and collaborations between families, youth, advocates, community and residential service providers, and oversight agencies. The overall goal of the work of the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) is for families and youth who receive a residential intervention to realize sustained positive outcomes post-residential discharge, including outcomes such as decreased readmissions to congregate care, improved family relationships and home stability, and successfully living in the community.

The Building Bridges Initiative framework, consisting of core principles and a range of best practices, is consistent with the research on effective residential interventions.



The National Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) Overview of Technical Assistance Offerings

Overall Goals for BBI Technical Assistance (TA) with Oversight Agencies:

The overall goals for BBI technical assistance with State, County & City Oversight Agencies are:

- 1) Provide a range of technical assistance activities for oversight agency leaders, their staff and their residential stakeholders to support residential programs and their community counterparts in implementing residential and community best practices that align with the research on achieving sustained positive outcomes for youth and families post-discharge.
- 2) Provide a range of technical assistance activities that will result in making language and practice expectation improvements in oversight agency documents that impact residential programs (e.g., licensing; regulatory; contracts; managed care agreements) and use of strategies (e.g., fiscal; use of data) that are consistent with the research for youth and families realizing sustained positive outcomes post-residential discharge.

The BBI Technical Assistance Approach for Oversight Agencies (e.g. state, city, and county entities):

BBI is guided by both a diverse national BBI Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from residential stakeholders (e.g., SAMHSA; ACRC; CWLA; NACBH; Alliance for Strong Families and Communities; National Council; FFCMH), and inclusive of youth and family advocates. BBI is also supported through partnerships with national organizations (e.g., Annie E. Casey Foundation; Chapin Hall; University of Maryland at Baltimore TA Network; YouthMOVE National; FREDLA) who support the work of BBI in many different ways (e.g., funding projects; partnering on the development of documents and/or specific projects to support the field).

BBI has a small core team of consultants who oversee the work of BBI and can contract with a larger diverse group of consultants, inclusive of family and youth, and advocates, from around the country. This pool of national consultants have demonstrated expertise to inform practice improvement in many defined areas such as:

- Transforming to the use of residential interventions that are short-term, family-driven, youth-guided, trauma-informed, cultural and linguistic competent and that interface with the community;
- Enhancing permanency connections;
- Implementing outcomes, cultures of care and post-discharge outcome measures;
- Instituting residential business transformations;
- Improving managed care and oversight agency licensing, policies, contracts, RFP's and regulations; and
- Implementing Medicaid & fiscal strategies that support residential best practices.

Examples of common TA activities outlined in BBI contracts or agreements with oversight agencies include:

- Sharing of best practices from exemplary programs through on-site training, webinars, customized consultation approaches, and on-site learning exchanges;
- Creating coaching partnerships and peer-to-peer learning/quality improvement collaboratives;
- Reviewing new RFPs to ensure the language and practice expectations reflect residential best practices;
- Reviewing/updating licensing, contracts and oversight agency documents to reflect best practice expectations;
- Supporting the developing of revised/new Medicaid regulations and fiscal strategies that enable the implementation of best practices that align with the research on improving long-term positive outcomes for youth and families post-residential discharge; and
- Identifying and implementing outcome-driven cultures of care and use of post-residential outcome measures to assess program impact and inform practice improvement.

For more information about BBI: Go to the BBI website: www.buildingbridges4youth.org

How to Contact BBI to Discuss Developing an Agreement/Contract with BBI

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