Family Engagement in a Tertiary Cerebral Palsy Center
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**Purpose:**
To facilitate a discussion of intentional methods to improve family engagement in the health care of their children with cerebral palsy, with specific goals of creating a family advisory group.

**Course Summary:**
Family-centered care should be the hallmark of our health-care delivery system for children with cerebral palsy (CP). This breakfast seminar will provide an opportunity for health providers to interact, ask questions, share experiences, and discuss programmatic approaches to support family engagement. Presenters will review the steps taken at our specialty practice in a regional children’s health specialty network. We will review the processes of forming a family advisory committee, utilizing feedback to drive process improvements, and extending specialty care in ways that are meaningful and beneficial to families.

Learning Objective 1: To understand how important family engagement is the overall health and well-being of children with CP.

Learning Objective 2: To appreciate the process of creating a family advisory council in a tertiary care CP program.

Learning Objective 3: To review specific ways that improved family engagement can lead to better health care outcomes of children with CP.

**Target Audience:** Special Needs Health Care Physicians, Nurses, Therapists, Family members

**Course Format**
This 60 minute seminar is designed to inform participants and answer questions about engaging families within a specialty practice through a team presentation and audience participation.

- 8-10 minutes: One Model of Family Engagement: How We Do it at duPont
  - Nancy Lennon, MS, PT, Cerebral Palsy Program Manager
  - Discuss the institutional and logistic support needed to form an advisory council and host family events within a CP specialty practice. Trace the formation and growth of our family advisory committee.

- 8-10 minutes: Being a Member of the Nemours CP Family – Psychosocial Support For Families through the Creation of a Community
  - Carrie Sewell Roberts, MA, MSS, LSW, A.I. duPont Social Worker
  - Describe how hospital support groups and events create opportunities for families to come together, support one another and share information about resources

- 8-10 minutes How To Leverage the Family Advisory System for Better Care
  - Maggie Salzbrenner, MSN, CPNP-AC, duPont Cerebral Palsy Center
Facilitate a discussion of the needs that should be addressed to promote family participation in advisory councils or educational/social opportunities. Describe potential barriers and solutions, including recruitment of reliable volunteer networks from collegiate institutions to support family events.

- 8-10 minutes: What’s the Evidence of Family Centered Care?
  - M. Wade Shrader, M.D, Director of the duPont Cerebral Palsy Center
  - Review relevant evidence in the literature of how family-centered care improves health outcomes, and relate one parent’s perspective of the importance of family engagement.

- 20 minutes: Q&A and Group Discussion

REFERENCES


