

Engaging Youth and Families with Lived Experience

Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 Annual Conference

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Disclaimer

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Presenters

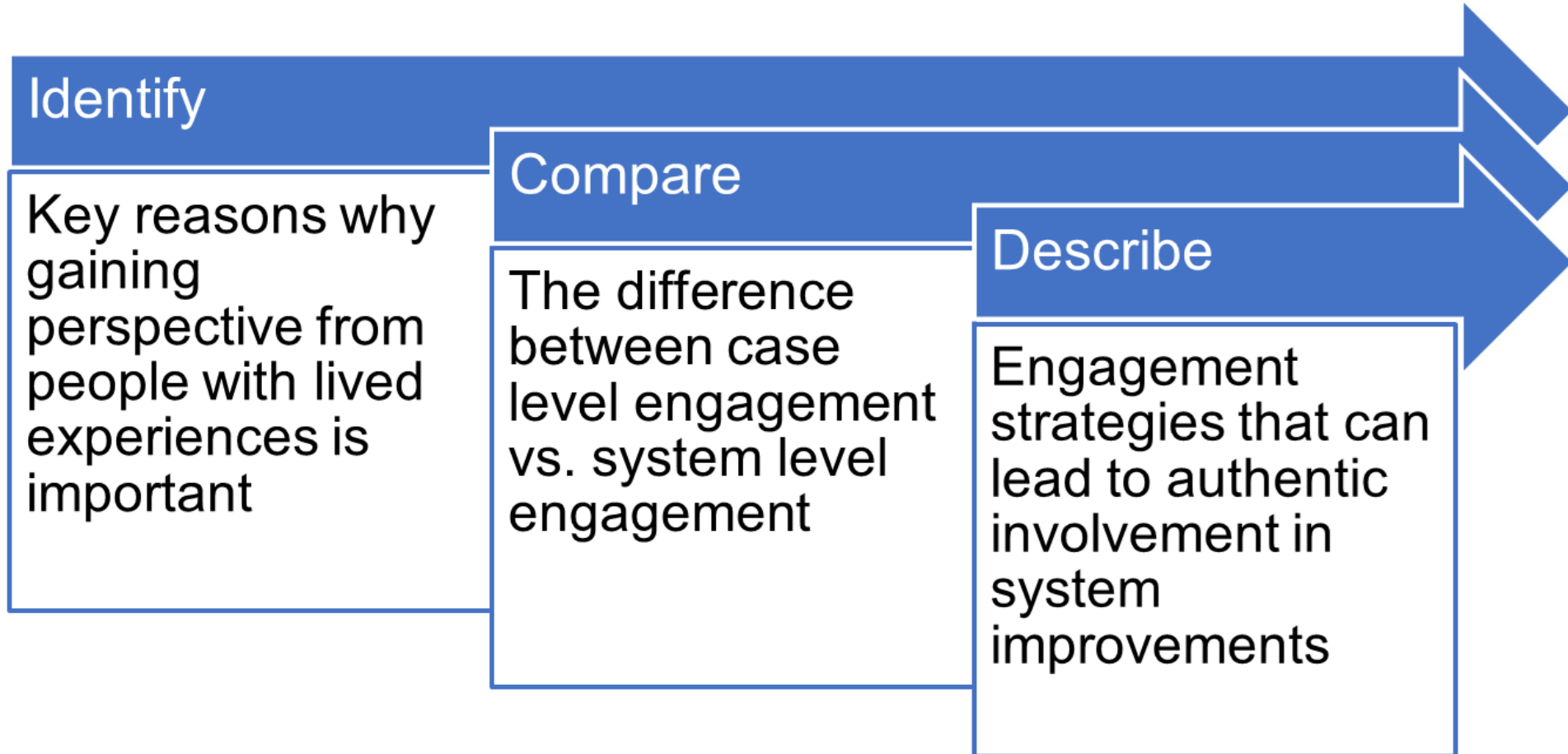
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Learning Objectives



What is lived
experience and why
is it so important?

Who Are We Talking About



People who have gone/
are going through
certain circumstances

- Experience w/ substance use, mental health challenges, domestic violence
- Involved in the juvenile and family justice system



Engaging Youth and Families in their Cases

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What is your definition of an engaged youth or family?

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What do you notice about most of the definitions of an engaged youth or family?

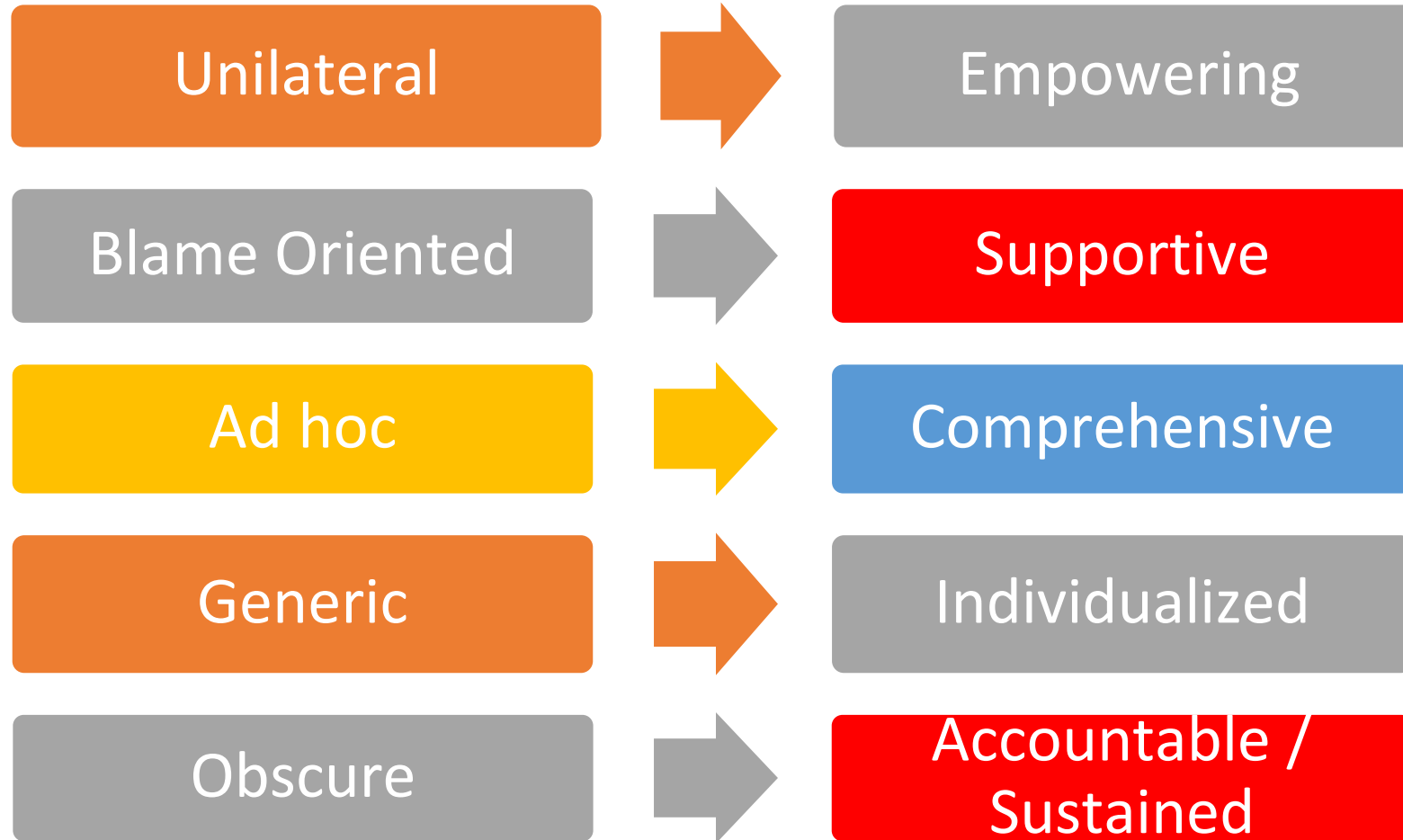
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Why don't people engage?



- Unilateral
- Blame Oriented
- Ad hoc
- Generic
- Obscure

What could it look like?



Empower

- Limit conditions of probation and parental participation requirements
- Incentivize youth and parents
- Let them define who family is
- Schedule meetings at their convenience whenever possible

Supportive

- Recognize that youth have competing priorities
- Recognize that parenting their child may be difficult
- Focus on strengths
- Treat them as partners
 - Decision making
 - Incentives and sanctions

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How do you support youth and parents?

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Comprehensive

- Create a wide network of services and providers
- Make sure parents know what their child is working on
- Coordinate youth and family services between agencies/court
- Train together as a stakeholder group on engaging families

Individualized

- Give youth voice and choice
- Ask parents what they need to be successful
- Practice cultural humility
- Recognize that each family has their own values

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How are you individualizing your approach to youth and families?

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Accountable

- Explain decisions to youth and parents
- Communicate early, often, and multiple ways
- Ask for feedback
- Invite youth and parents to be part of your stakeholders

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How are you accountable to youth and families?

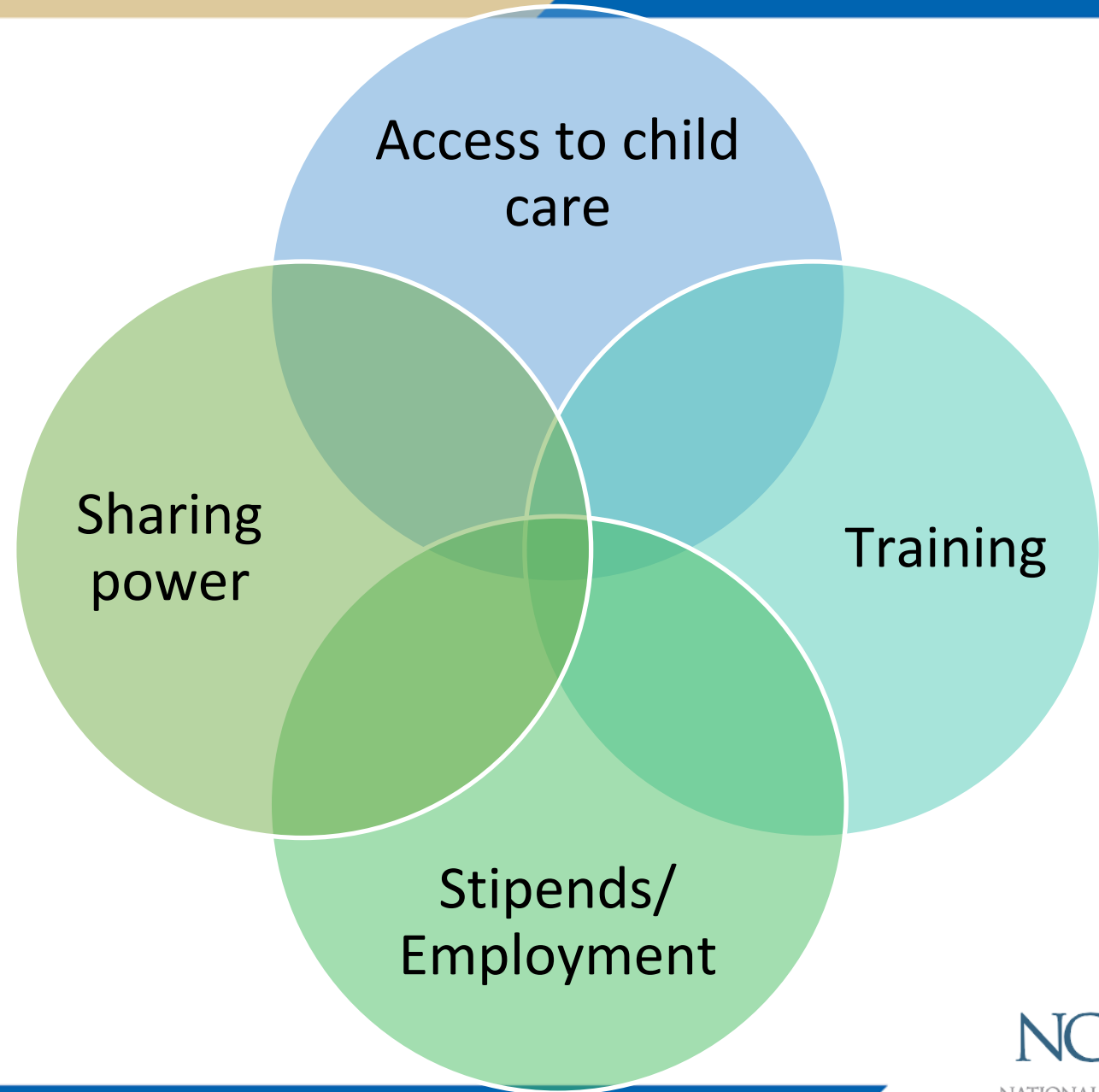
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Sustained

- Create structures in your agency that give youth voice and choice
- Make family engagement part of someone's job
- Collect data on family engagement
- Train together as a stakeholder group
- Take youth and family voice seriously

Engaging Lived Experience Experts in Systems Change

Engagement Strategies



How can lived experience experts participate?

- Exit interviews / surveys
- Stakeholder committees
- Policy development / review
- Advocacy (for funding, resources)
- Mentorship / peer support
- Training (providing & receiving)

- Empowering
- Supportive
- Comprehensive
- Individualized
- Accountable
- Sustained



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What can you do in the next three months to further engage youth and parents with lived expertise, either on an individual or a system level?

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Final Thoughts & Future Reading



Strategies for
Engaging Youth and
Families with Lived
Experiences