

Advisor on a Committee: More than one Advisor

Whenever possible, it is preferable to have at least two advisors be part of a committee. The main reason for this is to provide different perspectives – even when patients and families use the same service, their experiences are unique for many different reasons. (*Refer to the Diversity, Representation and Inclusion resource*). As well, some advisors report that being the only advisor can feel like a huge responsibility. Having more than one advisor shares the load, allows for mutual support, and provides more than one patient/family voice.



When you and another advisor share **different** experiences and/or perspectives, view this as an opportunity to dive deeper

into what makes these views/experiences different.

Reminder: As an advisor you can only speak from your own experience. It is always important to encourage additional engagement with a broader patient/family group to ensure it meets the service population needs. You can not represent all perspectives or experiences.

Example phrases an advisor can use when their experience and/or perspective is different than what is being shared by other patients/families:

- "I am not sure if "X" advisor has the same experience/view but here is my perspective..."
- "That hasn't been my experience..." and then respectfully share your experience
- "I don't have the same view based on my experiences..."
- "Given that the two of us have different views/(or experience) it would probably be of value to validate/confirm with other patients or families.
- "Based on our different views, our two voices might not be enough. I suggest we look at other engagement options to hear from other patients and families."

PERSPECTIVE TAKING EXERCISE

Sometimes it can be helpful to actively consider the other person's point of view. This happens when you do your best to suspend judgement and understand that person's thoughts, motives, and emotions; try to think and feel the way they do.

Doing this exercise might give you an appreciation for different views and reinforce the need to recommend the committee engage additional patient and family voices.

Questions or Concerns?

Don't hesitate to reach out to your committee staff liaison or your PFCC team contact.