



Youth Peer Support Services

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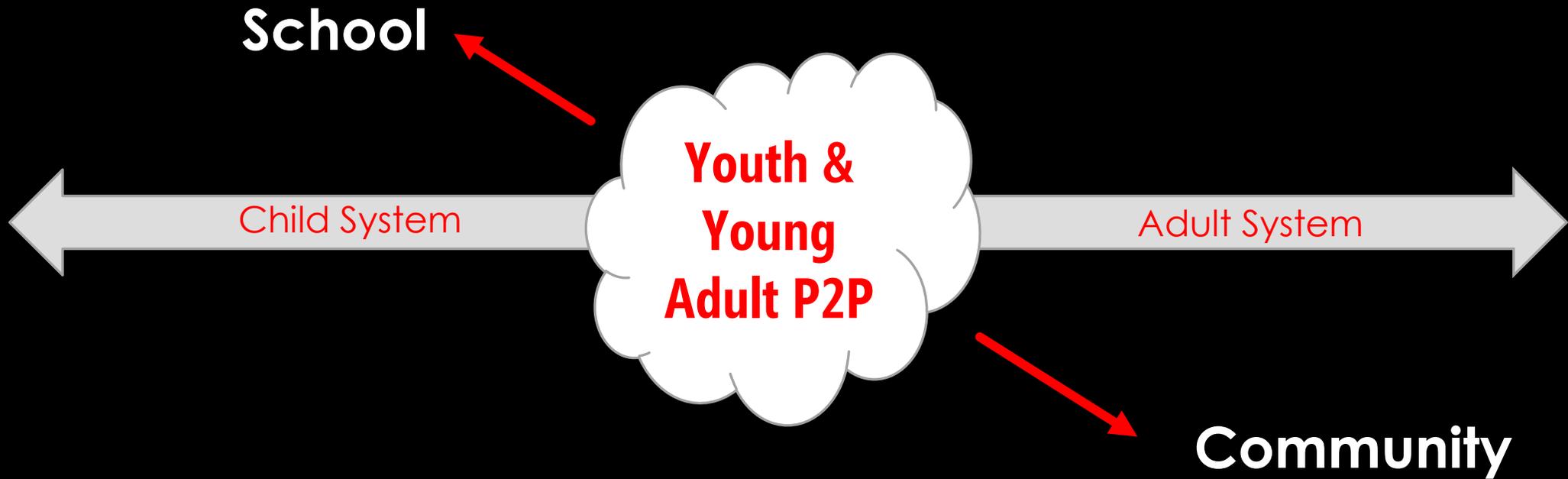
Why Youth Peer-To-Peer Support

- Youth have unique developmental needs
 - Defining recovery, support, supervision
- Developmentally, peer connections are prominent during adolescence and transition to adulthood
- “Family of choice” for youth of transition age
- Role:
 - Help navigate current systems
 - Provide support and facilitation for case planning
 - Model positive self-advocacy
 - Provide guided support in individual recovery

Why Youth Peer-To-Peer Support

- Informal peer support
 - Recreation, social groups, internships, supportive social programming
- YPS components exist in many programs
- Progression of youth-guided, youth-led, and youth-driven programs
- Formal YPS programs
 - Medicaid reimbursable, grant funded, etc.

Cross Systems Approach



Continuum of Help

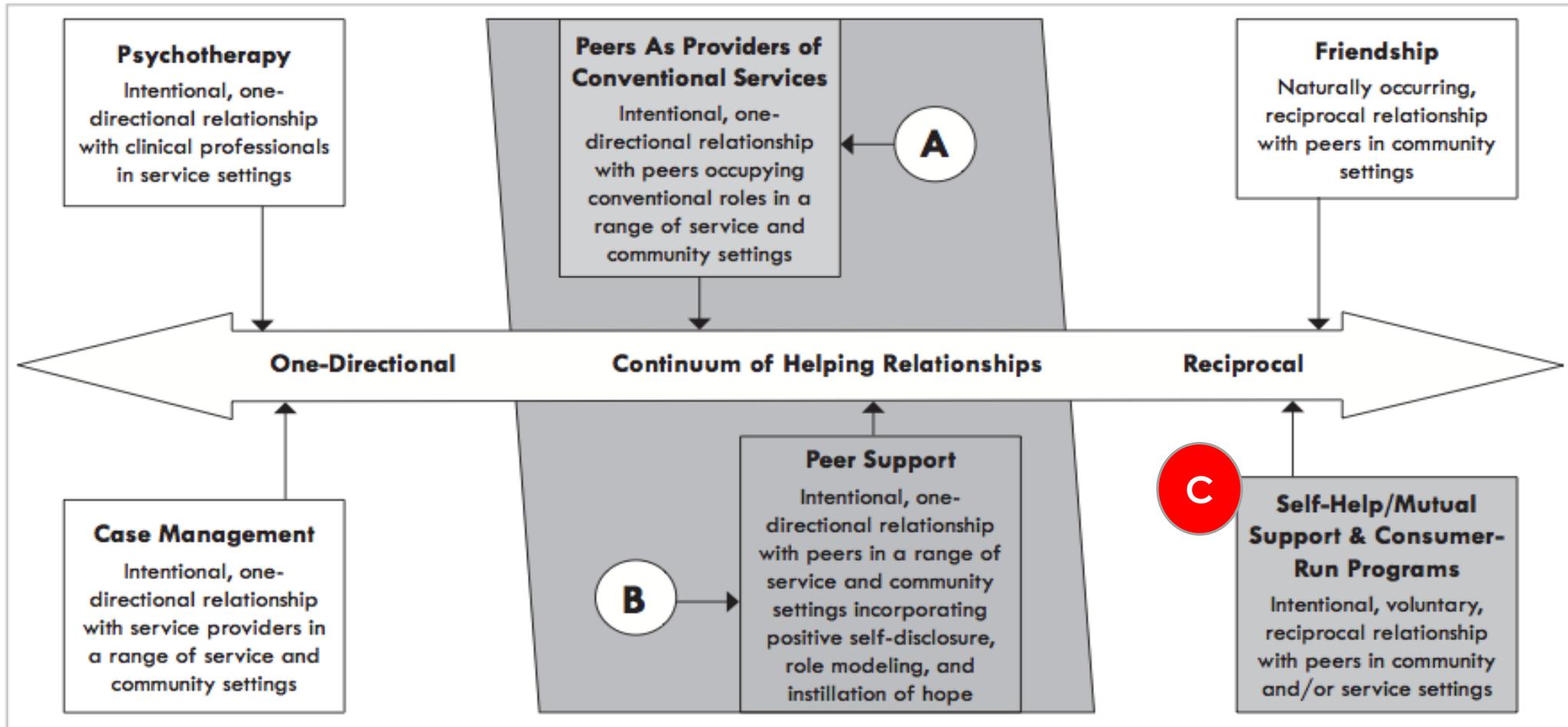


Figure 1. A Continuum of Helping Relationships

Models of Peer to Peer

- Family Support Partners
- Adult peer support MH/ Recovery
- School based peer mentor
- Public health peer to peer models (teen pregnancy & anti tobacco)
- Juvenile Justice (teen court peer models/ restorative justice models peer to peer)
- Foster Care Alumni, Alumni of Care

Things to Consider

- Youth peer to peer is unique
- Adapting a model vs. creating a model
- Young adult peers fall in both the children's system and adult
- Connecting peer to peer with specific treatments
- Organizational Development
- Fidelity Monitoring & Evaluation

P2P Standards

1. The organization demonstrates a readiness for youth peer to peer support through documented ongoing education to providers and other professionals on the role of youth peer supporters, lived experience and other topics identified by youth, respectively.

2. Peer supporters are treated as equal community partners through financial compensation and mutuality between peer supporter and colleagues.

3. Peer supporters are prepared through documented orientation and receive ongoing training and coaching

P2P Standards

4. The organization provides ongoing professional support to peer supporters through documented strength-based supervision, regular meetings with a professional mentor/coach, and access to continuing education and opportunities to network with other peer supporters.
5. The organization demonstrates accessibility of peer support services.
6. Services are provided based on the identified goals of the youth served and definition of peer, crisis and readiness.

P2P Standards

7. When individual youth peer support services are provided the organization promotes cultural and gender responsive, flexibility, freedom to choose a peer supporter, holistic care, and self-determination of youth driven goals.

8. Peer supporters demonstrate a readiness to share lived experience, as defined by the peer supporter.

So Where Are We?

- Current practice in the field primarily based off adult peer support models
- Youth and young adults have unique developmental needs
- Although many states have established programs very few states have Medicaid language or programs specific to youth peer support
- Service delivery and supervision must take into account positive youth development principles