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Family Group Decision Making

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) With Lakota Families in Two Tribal Communities: Tools to Facilitate FGDM Implementation and Evaluation.

Special Issue: Services for Native Children and Families in North America.

Marcynyszyn, Lyscha A. Small Bear, Pete. Geary, Erin. Contti, Russ. Pecora, Peter J. Day, Priscilla A. Wilson, Stephen T.

2012

Child Welfare

91 (3) p. 113-134

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

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Washington, DC 20036

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This article describes an adapted Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) practice model for Native American communities, the FGDM family and community engagement process, and FGDM evaluation tools as one example for other native communities. Challenges and successes associated with the implementation and evaluation of these meetings are also described in the context of key historical and cultural factors, such as intergenerational grief and trauma, as well as past misuse of data in native communities.

An Evaluation of Family Group Decision Making with Native American Families. Toolkit.

Casey Family Programs.

2011

Casey Family Programs

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Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) represents a viable approach to safely reduce the number of children in foster care. Yet the effectiveness of FGDM as an alternative strategy to placement has not yet been examined carefully for American Indian children, who as a group experience a disproportionately high rate of placement. In collaboration with Lakota Oyate Wakanyeja Owicakiyapi and Sicangu Child and Family Services in South Dakota, Casey Family Programs is evaluating participant satisfaction with FGDM meetings. Our evaluation of FGDM meetings will provide useful data on parent engagement and recommendations for program improvement with the ultimate goal of program sustainability and replication in other tribal communities in order to serve more at-risk children and families. The toolkit contains surveys and guides to help communities that are interested in conducting their own evaluations of FGDM meetings. Sample

evaluation surveys, consent and assent forms, and procedural summaries are enclosed within the toolkit in order to assist those interested communities. (Author abstract)
<http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/pdf/Evaluation-FGDM-Native.pdf>

Finding Our Roots: Family Group Conferencing in Washington.

Harper, Carol J. McLaughlin, Oma.
National Association of Social Workers.
2011

Child Welfare Section Connection
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
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Over the past 10 years various forms of family group decision making have been used in the state of Washington to promote child safety, permanence, and well-being. This article provides a brief historical overview with a specific focus on a pilot study that field-tested the effectiveness of family group conferencing (FGC) to address racial disproportionality in the child welfare system and whether continuous use of FGC would create permanency for youth with extensive placement histories who were without viable permanency plans. (Author abstract)

National Child and Youth Care Practitioner Professional Certification: Promoting Competent Care for Children and Youth (article in Residential Care and Treatment).

Curry, Dale. Eckles, Frank. Stuart, Carol. Qaqish, Basil.
2010

Child Welfare
89 (2) p. 57-77
Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)
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This article provides an overview of the history, development, and conceptual framework guiding a national certification initiative for child and youth care workers. Summarized are descriptions of three certification assessment measures (supervisor assessment, situational judgment certification exam, and portfolio assessment), integrated with results from an international pilot validation study. The certification program is the first national effort to identify and assess underlying child and youth work competencies that transcend work setting (community-based to out-of-home care), population characteristics (diagnosed mental health concerns, experiencing child abuse, etc.), and age of the child/youth (early childhood through adolescence). The authors assert, building on a seven-year collaborative effort to establish the certification program, that it is time to transform the child and youth serving workforce crisis into an opportunity to bring together the varied child- and youth-caring fields into a united profession that has a rich knowledge and skill base of international scope. (Author abstract)

Innovation in Child Welfare: The Adoption and Implementation of Family Group Decision Making in Pennsylvania.

Rauktis, Mary E. McCarthy, Sharon. Krackhardt, David. Cahalane, Helen.
2010

Children and Youth Services Review

32 (5) p. 732-739

Elsevier

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This paper explores what system factors influenced the adoption of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) in Pennsylvania and what the perceived barriers and facilitators of adoption and sustainability are according to the individuals involved in FGDM. A mixed methods design is employed, using geographic autocorrelation modeling and analysis of qualitative data about barriers and facilitators. The findings reveal that maltreatment and poverty rates and the size of the population of children are non-significant predictors of a county using FGDM, but having a FGDM pilot grant is a significant predictor, along with having had a system of care initiative. Population density and number of caseworkers also are significant, if weaker, predictors; population density became insignificant once the two largest counties, Philadelphia and Allegheny were removed from the model. Having a neighboring county that practices FGDM e.g. the neighborhood effect is the most powerful predictor ($z = 8.98, p < 0.000001$) and contributes a sizeable effect. The individuals working in counties new to FGDM perceive that adoption required additional resources such as more staff, money and training. The survey results from counties that recently adopted FGDM compared to counties that have more experience with FGDM suggest that leadership becomes even more important in maintaining progress in FGDM implementation compared with leadership needed to begin FGDM. The findings suggest that to facilitate the adoption of FGDM, funders should look to strategically place new programs close to established programs, provide start-up funding and utilize networks established through system collaboration activities. Continued research in the nature of innovation in child welfare practice using theories and analyses more commonly associated with sociology and economics may better inform the child welfare systems change efforts. (Author abstract)

Developing a Values-Based Family Engagement Model to Facilitate Transformative Child Welfare Practice (article in Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches to Child Welfare Decision Making).

McDonald, Erin L. Wright-Gurdon, Nicole.

American Humane.

2010

Protecting Children

25 (2) p. 7-18

American Humane Association

63 Inverness Drive East

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The Family Team Meeting Program model and its influence on practice is discussed using Kotter's (1995) eight steps to organizational transformation: establishing a sense of urgency, forming a powerful guiding coalition, creating a vision, communicating the vision, empowering others to act on the vision, planning for and creating short-term wins, consolidating improvements and producing more change, and institutionalizing new approaches. 1 table, 4 figures, and 17 references.

Involving Dads in Family Group Decision-Making.

Spotlight on Father Engagement

2010

Children's Bureau Express

11 (5) Child Welfare Information Gateway

Children's Bureau/ACYF 1250 Maryland Avenue, SW Eighth Floor

Washington, DC 20024

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This digest explains how family group decision making (FGDM) can be used as a powerful tool for improving the engagement of father and paternal relatives in the lives of children involved with the child welfare system. It highlights a brief published by American Humane that discusses how FGDM can overcome barriers to father involvement in child welfare and strategies to minimize safety concerns relating to FGDM.

<http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=117&ionid=2&articleid=2899>

Family Group Decision Making: A Solution to Racial Disproportionality and Disparities in Child Welfare.

American Humane.

2010

American Humane Association

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This paper discusses the role Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) can play in reducing racial disparities in child welfare systems. It explains the development of FGDM in New Zealand to address issues of institutional racism experienced by Maori and the adoption of FGDM in America in the 1990s. Research results from Casey Family Programs' 2005 Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC) on Reducing Racial Disproportionality and Disparate Outcomes for Children and Families of Color in the Child Welfare System are shared and indicate child welfare teams that focused on family engagement in case planning and decision making reported more children remaining in their homes, greater rates of kinship placements when removal was necessary, increased exits from out-of-home care, and shorter lengths of stay in care. Findings from a synthesized international research project regarding FGDM are also shared and indicate FGDM compares favorably in providing child safety, create stability for children, increase family supports and helps family functioning, and safeguards other family members. Additional positive outcomes

for children and families of color are discussed.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/pdfs/children/fgdm/dispfgdm.pdf>

Family Group Decision Making: The Importance of Independent Coordination.

American Humane Issue Brief.

Doolan, Michael.

American Humane.

2009

American Humane Association

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In 2008, after broad consultation with the family group decision making (FGDM) community in the United States and abroad, American Humane issued a statement on the purpose, values and processes of FGDM in order to "[aid] the understanding of FGDM and [enable] the accurate classification of appropriate family-involvement practices as being FGDM for the purposes of funding application, research and evaluation, and training and education." The statement advocates for FGDM processes to be carefully crafted to ensure fidelity to FGDM values and to ensure those values drive practice. Five items were identified as critical to supporting exemplary practice in FGDM. The first of these was that independent (i.e., non-case carrying) coordinators be responsible for convening family group meetings with agency personnel. This brief expands upon the importance of independent coordination of the FGDM process. (Author abstract)

<http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/pdfs/children/fgdm/pc-fgdm-ib-independent-coord.pdf>

Through Family Group Decision Making, Families and CPS Strive to Keep Children Safe.

Texas. Dept. of Family and Protective Services.

2009

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

701 W. 51st Street

Austin, TX 78751

Tel: 512-438-4800

https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/Default.asp

Available From: <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/>

Designed for parents in Texas, this brochure provides information about Family Group Decision Making in child welfare cases. It explains basic values underpinning Family Team Meetings and Family Group Conferencing and the benefits of Family Group Decision Making for children and families.

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/About_Child_Protective_Services/fgdm.asp

A Compilation of State and Provincial Laws, Policies, Rules and Regulations on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches in Child Welfare Decision Making.

American Humane. National Center on Family Group Decision Making.

2009

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63 Inverness Drive East



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Available From: <http://www.americanhumane.org/>

This document compiles state and provincial laws that identify family group decision making (FGDM) and other family engagement approaches in the United States and Canada. (Author abstract)

<http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/pdfs/children/pc-fgdm-leg-chartpdf.pdf>