Key Outcome Evaluation Findings

**Family Connections Oregon (FCO)** was a demonstration project funded by the Children’s Bureau with both service delivery and systems change components. Service delivery consisted of a co-located FCO Coordinator that provided a package of services (intensive family finding and engagement, family group conferencing [FGC], and follow-up) within the first 60 days of a child’s out-of-home placement. Systems change sought to install leadership, workforce, and infrastructure supports for sustainable family meeting practice in Oregon.

### Service Delivery Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Finding</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenging to provide complete service to all families</td>
<td>• 2 in 3 cases had enhanced family search and initial contact&lt;br&gt;• 1 in 2 cases participated in a family group conference</td>
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<td>Time spent on each case varied widely</td>
<td>• 29: Median total service hours per case when family had FGC&lt;br&gt;• 55: Maximum number of service hours per case reported</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families and caseworkers generally satisfied with service</td>
<td>• Focus on strengths improved family &amp; caseworker attitudes&lt;br&gt;• Value of family voice at meetings&lt;br&gt;• Improved information sharing and communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>No clear impact on child well-being and family support compared to control children</td>
<td>• Both FCO and Control children’s well-being improved equally&lt;br&gt;• No change in family protective factors or perceptions of support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trends (not statistically significant) in child welfare outcomes compared to control children</td>
<td>• FCO children spent fewer days in paid foster care than control children&lt;br&gt;• FCO children less likely to return to foster care placement after trial reunification than control children</td>
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**Evaluation Limitations:** Small sample sizes made it difficult to find statistically significant results when analyzing quantitative data, and to generalize findings. Reasons for small sample sizes for the FCO evaluation were:

- Fewer children met eligibility criteria than expected (1 site)
- Coordinators able to handle fewer cases than expected
- Difficulty getting permission to contact families randomly assigned to control group
- Short program duration (2 years) and limited follow-up timeframe (6 months)

### Systems Change Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Accomplishments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Continuum of Five Meetings Model presented to DHS leadership; basis for policy option package for 2016 legislative session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant influence on new Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration project planning (Leveraging Intensive Family Engagement, or LIFE)</td>
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<td>Ongoing state-level parent advisory board with sustainable funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elements of FCO Model included in new meeting facilitator training provided by Child Welfare Partnership at PSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ongoing family meeting practice course offered at the School of Social Work at PSU</td>
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**Questions?**

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