



Key Process 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.

Conditions for Promoting Positive Family Meeting Experiences

	Conditions	
Promotes positive meeting experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing positive family relationships Agreement about what needs to happen Adequate preparation Strengths focus Productive family time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New family connections made Caseworker approves of family plan Family plan presented in court Monitoring & follow-up Well-planned, organized meeting
Undermines positive meeting experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing family together was too stressful Not enough support people at meeting Lack of agreement about what needs to happen Inadequate preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator unable to manage family dynamics Meeting is not strengths-based No real choice/family voice Poorly planned or scheduled meeting

Supporting FCO Practice: Implementation Drivers

Driver	Examples of Supports
Branch leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champions at multiple levels Consistent, ongoing communication between leadership & staff Addressing any staff concerns about FCO practice Clear support for Coordinator role
Training/coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive, ongoing Individualized, multiple modes (e.g., practice, observation, lecture) Training on how to promote practice among agency staff On-site supervision from someone familiar with the practice Prepare for Coordinator turnover
Branch infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator co-located in branch Addressing barriers to Coordinator-Caseworker communication Providing access for contracted Coordinators to information, policies, & procedures Dedicated full-time FTE

Questions?

Contact Carrie Furrer, FCO Lead Evaluator at Portland State University
cfurrer@pdx.edu (503) 725-2138

