

# Family Connections Oregon: Core Components of Combined Model

Component	Rationale
<b>FCO intervention</b>	<b>Family Finding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expands family network &amp; supportive resources</li> <li>• Ensures cultural responsiveness and specificity</li> <li>• Widely accepted approach with older youth in care</li> <li>• Testing with early intervention cases shows promise</li> <li>• More comprehensive than traditional relative searches</li> </ul>
	<b>Family Group Conferencing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets requirements of State of Oregon statute</li> <li>• Promotes family voice and empowers family to make decisions</li> <li>• Strengths-oriented and culturally-relevant</li> <li>• Increased family engagement and follow-through</li> <li>• Families often choose informal support over services</li> <li>• Evidence of reduction in racial disproportionality</li> <li>• Evidence of increased relative placements</li> </ul>
<b>Single Family Connections Coordinator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The same person initially contacts family, then plans and facilitates meeting</li> <li>• Increased knowledge of and engagement with family</li> <li>• Combined role improves continuity of relationship and coordination</li> <li>• Coordinator is familiar with family dynamics prior to meeting</li> <li>• As facilitator, coordinator has a holistic sense of family strengths, culture, and needs</li> <li>• One person interacts and collaborates with DHS caseworker; less risk of information loss</li> <li>• Coordinator must have DHS experience or comparable skills demonstrating an ability to understand the complexities of casework, policies, and the demands and priorities of caseworkers</li> <li>• Lowers risk of “role drift” due to DHS workforce needs</li> <li>• Seen as neutral by family members</li> </ul>
<b>Co-location in branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitates coordination and information-sharing</li> <li>• Promotes familiarity and trust through informal contact</li> <li>• Eases service provider access to case files and databases</li> <li>• Sharing space encourages case referrals</li> <li>• May offer more options for sustaining the practice after the grant</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expands family support and resources early in the case</li> <li>• Potentially prevents early placement changes or disruption</li> <li>• Developing family resources encourages relative placement, supports reunification efforts, and likely prevents re-entry</li> <li>• Promotes both legal and emotional permanency</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves child well-being</li> <li>• Assessment-driven</li> <li>• Increases individualization of services</li> <li>• Promotes awareness of parent/family trauma experiences</li> <li>• Engage families without triggering a trauma response</li> <li>• Possibility of increased stability in placement</li> <li>• Helps family plan for child and parent needs</li> <li>• Promotes resilience, coping skills, &amp; family protective factors</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowers family members to make decisions that meet safety needs of child</li> <li>• Increases ownership of plan and outcomes</li> <li>• Draws on family knowledge and expertise of ‘what will work’</li> <li>• Family voice at the policy level provides important input and advocacy for effective implementation and sustainability</li> </ul>
<b>Culturally and linguistically responsive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces disproportionality in the child welfare system</li> <li>• Empowers families</li> <li>• Increases engagement and possibility of success for families</li> </ul>

## Sources:

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*The 9 Essential Elements of Trauma-Informed Child Welfare Practice* [http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn\\_assets/pdfs/CWT3\\_SHO\\_EEs.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/CWT3_SHO_EEs.pdf)

*The 12 Core Concepts: Concepts for Understanding Traumatic Stress Responses in Children and Families*

<http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers/what-is-cts/12-core-concepts>

Involving Families in Decision Making in Child Welfare: A Review of the Literature on Family Meetings

Conducted by the Child Welfare Partnership, Portland State University April 2010

<http://www.pdx.edu/ccf/sites/www.pdx.edu.ccf/files/Involving%20Familiesin%20DecisionMaking-4-12-10.pdf>

Involving Families in Decision Making in Child Welfare: A Review of the Literature on Family Meetings - Executive Summary

Conducted by the Child Welfare Partnership, Portland State University April 2010

<http://www.pdx.edu/ccf/sites/www.pdx.edu.ccf/files/InvolvingFamiliesExecSum.pdf>

Birth Parents with Trauma Histories and the Child Welfare System, Resources at:

<http://nctsn.org/resources/topics/child-welfare-system>

[http://nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/birth\\_parents\\_trauma\\_history\\_fact\\_sheet\\_final.pdf](http://nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/birth_parents_trauma_history_fact_sheet_final.pdf)