

The Practice of FGDM vs. Traditional Practice

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Family meetings” are family gatherings to which agency representatives are invited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Family meetings” are agency-hosted meetings to which family members are invited.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families choose whether to have a meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are mandated to attend the meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are defined broadly – the family identifies as many family members, close friends and other community support people as possible and invites them to attend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are defined narrowly – only family members directly involved with the care of the children are invited to attend by the agency hosting the meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a few key representatives from local agencies and the children and youth case manager or primary agency case manager attend the meeting; family members outnumber agency representatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple agency representatives attend and are often referred to as a “multi-disciplinary team.” Agency representatives usually outnumber the family who does not necessarily perceive themselves as part of the “team.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting is held at a community location that the family chooses or agrees to, such as a church or community center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting is held in an agency conference room.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting begins with a discussion of family strengths, followed by needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting is problem-focused.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families engage in private family time during the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency staff is present for all discussion during the meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members take on the role of “experts” in determining what is best to meet their needs. Agency representatives take on the role of “consultants” and share concerns, information, and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members are seen as “clients” or “customers.” Agency representatives are the “experts” who know what is best and perform interventions to solve family problems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family members are responsible for creating a plan to address identified needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency representatives are responsible for creating a plan to solve family problems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family is responsible for following through with the plan; agency representatives are available to assist and monitor as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency representatives are responsible for making sure that family members comply with the plan.