

Benefits of FGDM

- ✓ Anecdotal information stemming from Pennsylvania and the nation suggests the following.
 - Family is invested in the plan. The family has a say and are more likely to follow through with a plan they helped to create.
 - Families are often stricter on themselves and more detailed in their planning than providers.
 - Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) creates better futures for our children by decreasing their involvement in formal systems and decreasing repeat offenses.
 - FGDM increases family ownership by having family and extended resources take over decision making and bring accountability back to the family.
 - FGDM presents an opportunity to strengthen families and to have families resolve concerns in a safe environment.
 - FGDM offers cost neutrality/savings such as:
 - Decreased court involvement both in frequency and duration;
 - Reduced restrictive placements; and,
 - Decreased intensive and emergency services.
 - FGDM can reduce the amount and length of time a referral source works with a family.
 - FGDM brings systems together.
 - Children remember their FGDM meeting as a significantly positive event in their life.
- ✓ In addition, according to an American Humane Association 2010 Child Welfare Policy Briefing, FGDM:
 - Results in a high percentage remaining with extended family for children who require out-of-home placement;
 - Provides for timely decisions and results;
 - Results in providing child safety;
 - Can address long-term foster care and enhance relative connections;
 - Results in greater community, trust, and awareness; and,
 - Helps to address disproportionality and disparities in child welfare.