

Herr Family Scenario

Read the following scenario to yourself. Once you have finished, you will participate in a role-play in which you will consider how to identify the “concerns under the concerns.” During the role-play, one participant in the group will act as the facilitator, one as an observer and the rest in the group as family members. This will require that those acting as the family members add to the scenario while staying within its confines.

The facilitator is to ask the “family members” to share concerns, with the purpose of helping the “family members” drill down to the true “concerns under the concerns.” You will have 5 minutes to conduct the role-play and 2 minutes to provide feedback. After time is up, you will switch roles. You will change roles and repeat this activity until everyone has a chance to facilitate.

Family Composition:

Kevin	Biological Father	38 years of age
Sarah	Biological Mother	Deceased
Courtney	Child	14 years of age
Carey	Child	16 years of age
Linda	Maternal Grandmother	62 years of age

You are facilitating a Family Group Decision Making meeting for the family of 38-year-old single father, Kevin. Sarah, the mother in this case, died in a car accident 2 years ago. Kevin and Sarah had two daughters, Courtney, currently 14 years old and Carey, currently 16 years old.

Courtney and Carey have had a very difficult time dealing with the death of their mother. Since her death, their behavior has become increasingly challenging. Both girls struggle with truancy issues and are involved in the Student Assistance Program at school due to drug and alcohol abuse. Kevin just found out that Courtney is 2 months pregnant.

Kevin contacted Children and Youth Services asking for help. He states that he simply does not know what to do with the girls. Nothing he does seems to work. He has expressed that he sometimes feels like he has no business raising two teenage girls. He is struggling financially, as the family was used to getting by on two incomes and now they have only one.

The caseworker felt that the Family Group Decision Making process would be ideal for this family, as the family was able to identify numerous friends and family who were willing to help. Kevin was just too ashamed to ask for help before. Kevin was convinced by his caseworker that Family Group Decision Making was the way to go.