



University of Pittsburgh

Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program

Family Group Decision Making Conference Survey Report

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

July 01, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Survey Domains

Cultural safety: The conference was held in the right way for the family group. The 4 items in this construct all point to the conference being held in a way that felt right to the family group and is an indicator of the cultural safety pathways. Three of the items relate to the family culture: where and how the conference was held and who was in attendance. When achieved, these objectives heighten the family members' sense that the proceedings are appropriate and set them at ease. The 4th item about enough supports and protections is about ensuring that the family feels the physical and emotional safety required to participate.

- 5. *The conference was held in a place that felt right to the family group*
- 6. *The conference was held in a way that felt right to the family group*
- 9. *People at the conference were relatives and/or people who feel like family.*
- 12. *The conference had enough supports and protections*

Community Partnerships—providers and families are clear about what they are doing This subscale relates to the community partnerships pathway. These items emphasize that service providers must be clear about their role at the conference, the family group must understand why the conference has been convened and both providers and family group must be prepared to take part and to work to make it happen and reconvene if needed.

- 1. *Each paid professional was clear about their role.*
- 4. *The family group understood the reasons for holding the conference.*
- 10. *The family group was prepared for the conference.*
- 11. *The paid professionals were prepared for the conference.*
- 16. *The plan included steps to evaluate if the plan is working and to get the family group back together if needed.*
- 17. *The plan was approved quickly.*

Family leadership—empowering the family to make a plan This is the family leadership pathway. These items are about the relationship of the coordinator/facilitator to the family group, the relationship of the providers to the family group and the relationships among family group members. These items are about how the facilitator and coordinator support the family members as competent decision makers; about balancing the power between providers and families and placing the family at the center for the search for solution.

- 2. *The FGDM facilitator was respectful of the family group.*
- 3. *The FGDM facilitator/coordinator did not have other jobs to do with the family besides organizing and/or facilitating the group.*
- 7. *More family group than service providers were invited to the conference.*
- 8. *Different sides of the family participated in the conference.*
- 13. *Paid professionals shared their knowledge but didn't tell the family group how to solve their concerns.*
- 14. *The family group had private time to make their plan*
- 15. *The plan included ways that the family group will help out.*

From.

Widening the Circle, The practice and evaluation of family group conferencing with children, youths and their families, Eds Pennell, J. & Anderson, G. (2005). Joan Pennell: Checking for Model Fidelity. Pp-107-121.