Key Principles and Practices of Family Group Conferencing
(Pennell, Hardison & Yerkes, 1999)

1. Build broad based support & cultural competence
   • Wide range of community & public organizations
   • Partners retain roles & responsibilities

2. Enable coordinators work with families to organize conferences
   • Coordinators respect families & communities
   • Primary role of coordinator is conference organizing
   • Culture and practice consultation
   • More family members than professionals

3. Have the conference belongs to family group
   • Holding conference in a place that fits the family culture
   • Reasons that families & professionals can understand for holding conference

4. Foster understanding of the family & creativity in planning
   • Inviting different sides of the family
   • Broadly defining what is “family”

5. Help participants take part safely & effectively
   • Preparing family group & service providers
   • Building in supports & protections
   • Arranging transportation, childcare as needed
   • By asking information providers to share concerns, knowledge & resources
   • but not to dictate the solutions

6. Tap into family strengths in making a plan
   • Ensuring that the family group has private time to come up with its plan

7. Promote carrying out the plan & fulfilling the mission
   • Timely approval of plans regarding safety & resourcing
   • Integrating supports & resources of the family group organizations and public agencies
   • Building in monitoring & evaluation of plans and follow up meetings
   • Implementing & revising plans

8. Fulfill the purpose of the plan
   • Supporting efforts of the family group & service providers

9. Change policies, procedures & resources to sustain partnerships among family groups, community organizations & public agencies
   • Using program evaluation as a means of change
   • Developing and using integrative & culturally competent approaches