Best Practice FGDM Implementation
Pennsylvania FGDM Statewide Implementation Team

Submitted by: Brandie Gilbert

Pennsylvania’s Family Group Decision Making Leadership Team believes that the implementation of FGDM must be guided by the following:

- Hope for the family
- Family decision making in the planning
- Safety for everyone
- Voluntary practice
- Cultural competence
- Trained neutral, coordinators and facilitators
- Neutral venue
- Adequate preparation for all those involved

We also believe the following steps must occur in the implementation of Family Group Decision Making:

- Coordination and preparation for the family
- Pre-conference meeting
- Sharing of strengths
- Sharing of concerns
- Offering resource options
- Coaching family for Private Family Time
- Allowing for mealtime
- Private Family Time
- Evaluation
- Follow-up

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“If you can’t fly, then run,
If you can’t run, then walk,
If you can’t walk, then crawl,
But whatever you do,
you have to keep moving.”

-MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Best Practice FGDM Implementation

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The Leadership Team further believes the following items are flexible in the implementation of FGDM:

- How workers express hope for the family
- How the pre-conference meeting proceeds (referring worker, service provider, facilitator)
- Who facilitates meetings (coordinator or facilitator)
- How you ensure safety
- Specific location
- How to facilitate a strengths discussion
- How to facilitate a concerns discussion
- Menu, time, and participants
- How to offer resource options
- How follow-up occurs
- How to conduct the evaluation

The DSM-5 is Here!

After ten years of effort, the long anticipated Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) was released at the American Psychiatric Association’s Annual Meeting in May 2013. This volume is the most widely used authority that defines and classifies mental health disorders. The new edition reclassifies several mental health disorders that affect the children and families served by child welfare professionals.

Practitioners have been authorized to begin using the DSM-5 immediately. However, insurers and other agencies may require use of DSM-IV diagnostic names or the multi-axial system for a short period of time while forms and data systems are updated to reflect DSM-5. The transition from DSM-IV to DSM-5 will be complete by January 1, 2014.

These changes will affect the following curricula trained by the Resource Center:

- 303: Childhood Mental Health Issues: An Introduction for Child Welfare Professionals
- 921: Childhood Mental Health Issues: An Introduction for Resource Parents
- 308: Adult Mental Health Issues: An Introduction for Child Welfare Professionals
- 921: RAD: An Overview (for resource parents)
- 921: RAD: Parenting and Therapeutic Interventions (for resource parents)
- 303: Understanding RAD

In addition, revisions to the curriculum, 303: Understanding RAD will likely include a title change to 303: Understanding Reactive Attachment Disorder and Disinhibited Social Engagement Disorder. The title change is needed to reflect the changes in the DSM-5.

Revisions will be complete between now and early Fall 2013. If you think we have overlooked any course that requires revisions resulting from the DSM-5 or if you have any questions, please contact Sharon England at 717-795-9048 extension 50299 or see8@pitt.edu.
The Pennsylvania Family Group Decision Making Conference Advisory Committee is pleased to announce the

Call for Presentations

for the Pennsylvania 2014 Conference on Family Group Decision Making (FGDM):

Family Values, Value Families

To be held:
April 22 and 23, 2014 at the Hershey Lodge

Please review the attached documents for complete information. Proposals must be received no later than September 3, 2013.
"Family Values, Value Families"


This year’s conference theme, Family Values, Value Families, is focused on the incorporation of and sustainability of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) across practice areas. The keynote presenter on April 22nd, Dr. Janine D’Anniballe, will speak about the effects of trauma on the children and families with which we work. In keeping with the theme of trauma from the first day of the event, it will be necessary that each presenter weaves this theme throughout their workshop. Additionally, there should be a focus on ensuring fidelity to Pennsylvania FGDM Model. Attached, you will find a document titled Best Practice FGDM Implementation for reference.

Below you will find a list of topic areas along with potential learning objectives. We are seeking presenters for each topic area.

The audience includes child welfare and related professionals from across the Commonwealth.

Older Youth
- Best practice to prevent the resumption of jurisdiction through establishing successful relationships and lifelong connections
- Addressing the youth's past so they are able to establish and maintain successful relationships

Mock FGDM Conference and Coordination (Role Plays) (This is a 2-part workshop, totaling 3 hours)
- Demonstrate how the coordinator addresses the various feelings/reservations that families have/experience about participating in the FGDM process
- Demonstrate how the coordinator prepares family members to participate in the conference
- Set up and facilitate a mock FGDM Conference
- Things to consider if you are an advocate for FGDM

Best Practice in Court
- Bench book best practice
- Bench card questions
- Ensure fluidity of the process and plan
2014 FGDM Conference
Call for Presentations

Creative Ways to Incorporate FGDM
- Cross-systems approaches
- Working with various populations
- Tools and resources

Presenting FGDM to Families (from the caseworker’s perspective)
- Tools to talk with families
- Values and Beliefs
- The process
- Who is involved and the various roles over the life of involvement with the agency

Supervisor/Middle Management Support and Accountability
- Clear expectations
- Coaching
- Accountability
- Embedding FGDM into practice
- Ensuring the family’s plan becomes THE plan

Family Finding and FGDM
- Differences and similarities
- How the models can be integrated

Other proposals for presentations will be accepted:
- Must relate to FGDM, and include elements of trauma in child welfare

To Submit a Presentation Proposal:
- Complete the Workshop Proposal Form
- Compile the required supporting documents listed on the Workshop Proposal Form
- Submit the Workshop Proposal Form and supporting documents by email to Stephenie Strayer at stephenie.strayer@pacourts.us
- Presentation proposals are due by September 3rd!
- If your workshop has been selected, you will be notified via email with information regarding the materials that will need submitted by February 17, 2014.

All questions about the 2014 FGDM Conference may be directed to Stephenie Strayer at (717) 231-3300 ext. 2838 or stephenie.strayer@pacourts.us.
2014 FGDM Conference
Call for Presentations

WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM

Presentation Title:

Presenter's Name: ___________________________ Title: ___________________________
Agency/Company: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________
Telephone: ___________ Fax: ___________ Email: ___________________________

Do you have a co-presenter: ____ Yes ____ No (attach a separate sheet for additional co-presenters)

Co-presenter's Name: ___________________________ Title: ___________________________
Agency/Company: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________
Telephone: ___________ Fax: ___________ Email: ___________________________

Presentation Information:

Please note: All workshops are 1.5 hours long.

Audio/Visual Requests: Each breakout room will have a podium, flip chart with markers and screen.

____ LCD Projector ____ Laptop

____ Speakers

____ Additional Equipment Needs: ___________________________

Submit proposal and all supporting documentation by September 3, 2013 to Stephenie Strayer at
Stephenie.strayer@pacourts.us

Please submit the following information with this form by September 3, 2013:

• Presentation Summary: A 50 word maximum summary for inclusion in the event brochure

• Agenda: Include presenter(s) name(s), topics to be presented in order of presentation, brief description of each content area, as well as format, e.g., lecture, video, role-playing, etc.

• Learning Objectives: Three to six bulleted session learning targets

• Biographical Statement: A 50 word maximum summary, including education and current job
## Regional Team Contact Information

Our local number is 717-795-9048  
Our fax number is 717-795-8013  
Registration and winter weather number 1-877-297-7488

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