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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### AUGUST

- Lester M. Goodman 2
- Mariecia Smith 3
- Bruce Schaffer 6
- Chuck Laudermilch 11
- Anne Shenberger 13
- Kathleen Moore 18
- Tom Trafalski 21
- Debbie Leasure 22
- Rhonda Farley 24
- Marilou Doughty 31

### SEPTEMBER

- Patti Moyer 16
- Charlene Kolupski 17
- Audra Hennessey 17
- Mary Ann Grec 21
- Corrie Harold 25
- Jacqueline Goldstein 28
- Gary Shuey 28

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“When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down ‘happy’. They told me I didn’t understand the assignment, and I told them they didn’t understand life.”

~ John Lennon
Best Practice FGDM Implementation

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*. If you train any of these courses, you can anticipate to be notified of revisions between now and early Fall 2013. In the meantime, please review summaries of the disorders that have been reclassified, by reviewing the *What's New* section after clicking here. 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.
MONROEVILLE AND PITTSTON CONFERENCE ROOMS

As you may know, the CWRC’s training rooms in Monroeville and Pittston now have conference rooms attached to them. These conference rooms are used by CWRC Regional Teams and others for meetings that may or may not be scheduled in advance. At times, meetings may occur in the conference rooms while you are delivering training in the attached classrooms. When the conference rooms are in use, you may not be able to access any items left in the room. Please be mindful of this when you train in Monroeville and Pittston and keep your belongings in the training room with you. Thank you for your cooperation in making our facilities work for all of us.

Your Feedback on the New Trainer Feedback Form

In March 2013, we implemented a new Trainer Feedback Form. This new form replaced two forms: the Confidential Trainer Feedback Form and the Charting the Course (CTC) Trainer Feedback Form. The objectives of creating a new form were to develop a form that would:

◊ Eliminate the need for trainers to complete two feedback forms for Charting the Course workshops.
◊ Enable the CWRC to gather trainer feedback and suggestions regarding ALL curricula, not only CTC.
◊ Provide trainers with an option to provide feedback electronically.

Our rollout plan for this new form included a three-month review period. During the June 2013 CTAG Monthly Conference Call, trainers, consultants and CWRC staff discussed the use of the New Feedback Form. Feedback offered included: “I like being able to have a place to give feedback”; “It works better than two separate forms”; “I like the online version”; and “It is a bit lengthy”. The participants on the June CTAG Monthly Conference Call did not recommend making any changes to the form at this time.

Some participants on the call were surprised to learn how many CWRC staff review and act upon the information that is gathered via this form. For example, the information that the CWRC receives on this form is used by the Curriculum and Trainer Development department to make changes to courses and to provide support to trainers. The Administrative Department uses this information to address issues with course materials, training rooms and supplies. The Technology Development Department uses the information to resolve issues with training room equipment. The Regional Resource Specialists and Regional Team Supervisors use your feedback to verify that our consumers’ needs are being met.

Your feedback is important! If you have questions/comments or suggestions about the new Trainer Feedback Form, please direct them to Amy Warnagiris, Curriculum and Trainer Development Supervisor: alw130@pitt.edu.
Schedule of Upcoming CTAG Monthly Conference Calls

Below is a list of the dates for the upcoming CTAG Monthly Conference Calls. All calls are held from 12 pm – 1 pm. **ALL CWRC TRAINERS AND CONSULTANTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.** The agenda and conference call information is sent to all trainers and consultants prior to each month’s call.

- **September 18, 2013**
- **October – No Call – Fall Event**
- **November 13, 2013**
- **December 11, 2013**
- **January 22, 2014**
- **February 19, 2014**
- **March 19, 2014**
- **April 16, 2014**
- **May - No Call – Spring Event**
- **June 18, 2014**

If you do not receive an agenda and conference call information, please contact Amy Warnagiris: alw130@pitt.edu.

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In August 2012, we published an article regarding recycling handouts and other materials that are left over at the end of a training or consulting session. At that time, we had limited recycling capabilities at most of our training locations and we encouraged trainers and consultants to use extra handouts as scrap paper and/or to recycle them in the local community. We are pleased to inform you that we now have the capability to recycle paper in six of our eight training rooms: Altoona, Pittston, TUCC, Norristown, CWRC and Monroeville. Please use these recycling facilities and don’t leave leftover materials in the room or save them for future sessions, as they may become outdated before you have the opportunity to use them. Thank you for your efforts to help us reduce our impact on the environment!
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.
2014 FGDM Conference
Call for Presentations

“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

In partnership with families, communities, public and private agencies, we prepare and support exceptional child welfare professionals and systems through education, research and a commitment to best practice.”