Next 2 days

• Finding the Fit & Flow
• Identification & Discovery of Family/Supports
• Agency & Social Workers Role in Successful Family Involvement
• Working Through Challenging Situations
• Youth/Child’s Involvement
FLEXIBLE PRACTICE WITHIN CONFERENCING MODELS:
FINDING THE FIT AND FLOW
Family is not an important thing, it is Everything.
FGDM Values

- Children’s right to connections
- Wider family system responsible
- Family Group is context for resolutions
- Families entitled to the respect of the State
- State responsible to support family’s capacity to care for youth
- Family Group experts & can construct thorough plans
- Address power imbalances
- State responsible to defend from unnecessary intrusion
Family Group Conferences are prefaced on the assumption that families are competent to make decisions, rather than the more traditional notion that they are dysfunctional.

-Turnell and Edwards, 1999
Role of Coordinator

- Independent
- Philosophy
- Create communication channels
- Keeper of the process
Families, along with their support network, craft initial plans that are subsequently shared with the professionals who work collaboratively with the family to ensure it is attainable and meets the highest standards for achieving the goals of safety, permanency, and well-being.

Families are part of the decision making team. In these instances, families partner with professionals to create consensual decisions acceptable to all parties.

Families have a genuine voice at the meetings. Their ideas, needs, perspectives, and other inputs are sought at the meetings, but the decision making rests with professionals.

Families are present at meetings where decisions will be made about their children.

Families are not included in meetings or other forums where decisions are made about their children.

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Family Involvement Strategies

- Rapid Response Case Planning Conference (RCPC)
- Family Case Planning Conference (CPC)
- Parallel Protection Process Case Planning Conference (PPP)
- Family Group Conference (FGC)
Information Sharing Framework

Danger/Harm
- Detail re: incident(s)
- Bringing the family to the attention of the agency.
- Pattern/history

Risk Statements
- Risk to child(ren)
- Context of risk

Complicating Factors
- Condition/behaviors that contribute to greater difficulty for the family
- Presence of research based risk factors

Safety
- Strengths demonstrated as protection over time
- Pattern/history of exceptions

Strengths/Protective Factors
- Assets, resources, capacities within family, individual/community
- Presence of research based protective factors

Partnering: Action w/family in their position: willingness, confidence, capacity
• On-going
• Share Information & Develop Immediate Next Steps
• 1-1.5 hours
• Agenda Based
PARALLEL PROTECTION PROCESS-
CASE PLANNING CONFERENCE
Reflection

• Think about a youth you are currently working with or worked with in the past.
• Discuss how utilizing one of these family involvement strategies may have impacted the outcome for the youth.
FINDING THE FAMILY NETWORK

Tools to Engage in Discovery of Family
Genogram/Eco Map
Concentric Circles

Self

See every day/week

See once in awhile

Don’t see but want to
Person Circle

- Family
- Friends
- Formal Supports
- Community
Connectedness Maps
What tools do you have in your tool box?
Mobility Mapping

• Pre-work
• Mobility Mapping Process
  • Getting Started
  • Mapping
  • Wrapping up
• Closing
Video Clip of Kevin Campbell

MOBILITY MAPPING
Day 2

- Agency & Social Worker’s Role
- Family Involvement in Difficult Situations
- Children & Youth’s Voice in Family Meetings
System Support of Involving Families in Decision Making

- Philosophical Match
- Laws to support children’s rights to their family support
- Policies, Procedures and Processes
- On-going Training
- Not just Social Services
  - Judges
  - Guardian Ad Litems
  - Attorneys
When it comes to involving extended families in decision making.....

1. What are your system’s strengths?
2. What are areas of concern within your system?
3. What is one small step you can take within your role to positively influence the system’s support of extended family network involvement in planning?

When ready, discuss in small groups....
Social Worker Considerations

• Hope
• Plan or Decision
• Authentic Influence
• Accept the Plan
• Shared Purpose
Bringing Focus to the Referral

• Reason for Referral
  • What is the incident or incidents that brought the family to the attention of Social Services?

• Purpose of Meeting
  • What plan or decision needs to be made?

• Risk to the Children
  • What is the agency worried about for the children and when are they most worried that would happen?

• Bottom Lines or Non-negotiables
  • What are the statutory non-negotiables the agency needs to see in order to accept the plan?
Referral Made, Now What?

- Inform Family
- Meet with Coordinator
- Role Clarification
- Keep in Touch
  - Patient
  - Flexible
- Prepare for the Meeting
Tips for the Referring Worker

- Prepare
- Arrive Early
- Pay attention to where worker will sit
- Balance strengths/concerns
- Keep it simple

- Don’t prescribe the plan
- Be captivated
- Give immediate feedback to plan
- Be prepared for criticism and your own defensiveness
- Take care of yourself
Can you help me, Mrs. Martin? This wasn't covered in any of my education courses.
Disengaged Parents and Families

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT
Engaging Parents

- Buy-In
- Explore
  - Tools
  - Open Ended Questions
- Unpacking the Block
- Follow-up and Follow-through
• Individually think of 5 questions you can ask to help explore their support network

• Share with your small group

• Pick the TOP 3 and write them on the flip chart
Engaging Family Network – Initial Contact

• Why Connecting
  • Confidentiality
• Emotions
• Who Else
• Leaving the Door Open
• Stay positive
Engaging Family Network

• Purpose of the Meeting
• How can I be involved?
• Process
  • Participants
  • Role
• Barriers
Family Involvement Strategies

SAFETY
General Safety

• Preparation
  • Questions
  • Tracking Comfort/Safety Planning
  • Support Person
  • Taking Breaks
• Location of the Conference
• Room Set-up
• Special Needs of Participants
• Guidelines
Victims & Victimizers Together?

- Listen to the Victim
- Understand the Impact
  - Provider View
  - Caregiver View
  - Victim View
  - Victimizer View
- Emotional Safety Planning
- Intergenerational Abuse
Domestic Violence

• Victim Preparation
  • Safety Before, During, After
  • Sharing Their Voice

• Victimizer Preparation
  • Accountability
  • Safety Planning

• Order for Protection

• Careful Considerations
Chemical Use/Misuse & Family Meeting

• Impact of Use on Process
  – System Response
  – Perspectives of Players

• Safety Planning
  – Extra Recovery Support
  – “What if” Planning for All
Safety Planning Exercise

• Pick one person in the family you have worries about participating in the family meeting
• Tell your partner in 2 sentences what the worry is about

• **Role play:**
  • Person 1 role play the family member they are worried about
  • Person 2 practice preparing person 1 to participate in the family meeting
“Nothing About Me Without Me”

CHILDREN & YOUTH
Preparation

- Setting the Stage
- Sharing Information
- Formulating Thoughts
- Options
Child Present @ Family Meeting

• Emotional Comfort
  • Support Person
  • Sharing Thoughts

• Physical Comfort

• Preparing Others
  • Adult Time

• Check In After Meeting
Other Way to Involve Children

- Pictures
- Drawings
- Special Toy/Blanket
- Support Person Share Child’s Voice
- Video
- Three Houses
- Letter
- Attend part of the meeting
- Song/Book/Poem
• How can the young person be involved in the family meeting?
• What barriers may get in the way of involving the young person?
• What steps will need to happen in order to fully involve the young person?
Take Aways

• What are the key pieces of information you will take away from the last two days?

• What are two things you can commit to doing when you return to work to implement involving family networks in planning for children?
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