

Jeffco Community Connection

A Jefferson County Human Services federally funded demonstration grant project committed to collaboration between TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and Child Welfare (Children, Youth & Families).

Families will benefit when the two systems share information and develop single case plans. Many services will occur within the family's neighborhood.

The work of this grant is aimed at helping families to build on their strengths to become self-sufficient, and to sustain safe and healthy homes for their children.

families

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Connecting Services for Jefferson County Families

Family Group Conference ... a family focused & family driven decision making process

**Information for Professionals &
Service Providers**



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Family Group Conference

A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

The purpose of a Family Group Conference is to create a plan for child safety, permanency, well being & self-sufficiency. Families are encouraged to build on their strengths, plan for their children & family's future. The conference is attended by people



who can help the family create & execute their plan. No two Family Group Conferences are alike because no two families are alike.

Partnering Together with Families to Protect & Provide for Children

The Meeting

The Family Group Conference is broken into stages. The first stage, "Information Sharing", will include all attendees. They will discuss concerns, resources and strengths.

Stage two is called "Private Family Time". During this stage the service providers leave the room while the family privately develops their plan. The plan will identify persons responsible for activities & time frames for the plan. Service providers are available to answer questions, as needed by the family.

During stage three, "The Agreement", all of the attendees reconvene. The family presents their plan. Modifications are made, as needed, and a consensus is reached.

The Family Plan

The details are written into a 'Family Service Plan' that includes the family's plan. Plans include:

- * Parents' & other family members' commitments
- * Commitments & expectations of service providers
- * Timelines for carrying out the 'Family Plan'
- * How to know when commitments & expectations are complete
- * Who will monitor completion of the 'Family Plan'
- * All attendees will receive a copy of the plan.

Who Participates

- * Parent, grandparents, other family members who are concerned with the interests of the child(ren) and family & non-related persons who are considered to be 'family'

- * Children may attend in some instances.— a support person will be assigned to attend with the child
- * Community people, such as neighbors & ministers, school representatives, counselors, case workers/managers and other types of service providers
- * Speakerphones will be used when people can not attend due to distance, illness or other reasons
- * The facilitator will not include people who could harm other attendees

Preparation

- * The facilitator will talk to each person before the conference and prepare him/her for the process. People will be encouraged to consider family strengths & ideas for resolving areas of concern
- * Case workers/managers and other professionals will be prepped about identifying current issues, concerns, resources and strengths related to the family
- * Any attendee may identify other people who should attend the conference
- * Arrangements for disabilities, transportation, child care & language needs will be made in advance
- * Family traditions will be added to the format of the conference, this might include food or meals.
- * The Facilitator will ask about safety concerns, prior to the meeting.
- * Parents/Legal Guardians and attendees receive conference invitations with the date, time and location