

2008 Making Lasting Change through Family Connections November 13 & 14, 2008

Agenda

Thursday, November 13, 2008

11:00-1:00 Registration

1:00-1:15 Welcome - Sandra Moore, Office of Children & Families in the Courts and Richard Gold, Esq., Office of Children, Youth & Families

1:15-2:00 Opening Remarks- The Honorable Supreme Court Justice Max Baer and the Honorable Estelle Richman, Department of Public Welfare

2:00-2:45 Pennsylvania Foster Youth

Moderator: Sandra Moore, Office of Children & Families in the Courts

Panel Members: Heather Merryman, Adams County
Barbara Huggins, Dauphin County
Brianna Sports and Dauphin County

Youth who have experienced the child welfare and court systems will discuss the importance of strength-based professionals and the need for connectedness to community and family.

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-4:30 FGDM Expansion

Moderator: Peter Vriens, Dauphin County Human Services/PA FGDM Leadership Co-Chair

Panel Members: Honorable David Addy, Carbon County Court of Common Pleas
Sallianne Newton, Carbon County Children & Youth Administrator
Bill Browning, Lackawanna County Children & Youth Administrator
Honorable Oliver Lobaugh, Venango County Court of Common Pleas
David Schwille, Venango County Human Services Director
Bill Cisek, Esq., Venango County Children & Youth Solicitor

In June 2007, the Statewide Roundtable selected Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) as a Court Improvement practice. In November 2007, a historic conference, highlighting this practice, brought together "teams" from more than 45 counties. Since that time, approximately 60 counties are in some phase of practice implementation. Panel members will discuss progress made and challenges faced since the November 2007 conference.

4:30-5:00 Accurant Internet Search Presentation

5:30-6:30 Networking Reception

6:30-8:30 Dinner and Keynote Presentation - The Foundation of Family Finding by Kevin Campbell

Family Finding, an innovative approach to locating and engaging family members in the care of children, was also selected by the Statewide Roundtable as a core court improvement practice. Seen as a complimentary process to FGDM, Family Finding widens the circle of caring adult relationships for children and youth in the dependency system. Kevin Campbell, founder of Family Finding, will share highlights of this exciting practice and its implications for children welfare and dependency court.

Friday, November 14, 2008

7:30-8:30 Registration & Breakfast Discussion Groups (optional)

Family Finding

- Kevin Campbell, Founder
- Honorable Oliver Lobaugh, Venango County Court of Common Pleas

3-5-7 Model

- Darla Henry, Family Design Resources
- Angelo Santore, Office of Children & Families in the Courts

Family Development Credentialing

- Betsy Crane, Widener University
- Marc Cherna, Allegheny County Human Services
- Honorable Carol Hanna, Indiana County Court of Common Pleas

Family Group Decision Making

- Peter Vriens, FGDM Leadership Team
- Karen Jenkins, American Humane Association
- Honorable Todd Hoover, Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas

Expedited Court Reviews

- Cindy Stoltz, Esq., Allegheny County Children's Court Administrator
- Honorable Chester Harhut, Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas

CPCMS

- Denise Aylward, Judicial Automation—AOPC
- Honorable Mark Mascara, Washington County Court of Common Pleas

Youth Perspective

- Heather Merryman, Adams County
- Barbara Huggins, Dauphin County
- Brianna Sports, Dauphin County
- Helen Spence, Dauphin County Human Services
- Honorable Brian Johnson, Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas

8:30-10:00 Family Development Credentialing - Betsy Crane, Widener University & Marc Cherna, Allegheny County Human Services

The Family Development Credentialing (FDC) Program, a professional development course and credentialing program for frontline family workers, was selected by the Statewide Roundtable as the third practice initiative. FDC focuses on the recognition/development of strengths and teaches skills needed to engage and support families.

Ms. Crane will highlight core elements of the FDC program and related research/evaluation. Mr. Cherna will address issues regarding implementation strategies, leadership and funding.

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:45 Family Finding - Kevin Campbell

This session will continue the Keynote evening discussion regarding the importance of Family Finding, core to the Pennsylvania Court Improvement process. Founder, Kevin Campbell, will provide specific examples of the process and enhance participant appreciation/understanding of the critical importance of family connections for abused/neglected children and their parents.

11:45-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:15 3-5-7 Model - Darla Henry, Family Design Resources

The 3-5-7 Model (three tasks, five conceptual questions, seven skill elements) is a guide for working with children and youth who have experienced losses: the primary trauma of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment and the secondary trauma of being placed in out-of home “temporary” care. It assists social workers, child care professionals and resource parents by engaging children and youth in working through grief, finding their identity and building permanent relationships through the attachment process. The model, a core theoretical foundation for child preparation services throughout Pennsylvania, also has significant implications for mainstream child welfare and dependency court practice.

1:15-2:15 From the Bench

Moderator: Honorable Max Baer, Supreme Court Justice

Panel Members: Cindy Stoltz, Esq., Allegheny County Children’s Court Administrator
Honorable Todd Hoover, Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas
Honorable Chester Harhut, Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas
Honorable Mark Mascara, Washington County Court of Common Pleas

Judges and court personnel from Phase One Counties will provide an overview of the specific changes being made in local dependency courts including CPCMS implementation, Children’s Roundtable and three Month Judicial Reviews. Panelists will share challenges and real life solutions that support successful change, including the leadership role of the courts.

2:15-2:30 Break

2:30 – 4:00 Putting it all together

Panel Members: Honorable Max Baer, Pennsylvania Supreme Court
Sandra Moore, Office of Children & Families in the Courts
Richard Gold, Esq., Office of Children, Youth & Families
Peter Vriens, FGDM Statewide Leadership Team

Panel members will provide an overarching discussion regarding the integration of the various Court Improvement practices and respond to questions from county teams. Additionally, local judicial teams will participate in a planning process aimed at enhancing the integration/implementation of practices.

- Part 1: Discussion
- Part 2: Planning Time
- Part 3: Sharing of action steps

