

Mission and Philosophies

Mission

Family Group Decision Making meetings will establish a supportive environment for family to join with their relatives, friends and/or service providers for the purpose of developing a plan that will manage safety and provide permanency and well-being for children.

Philosophies

- ✓ All persons and families have a natural support system.
- ✓ Solutions can be found within family strengths.
- ✓ Families make well-informed decisions; they are their own experts.
- ✓ Families are capable of keeping their children safe.
- ✓ Families have many of their own resources.
- ✓ Empower families to take responsibility and commit to caring for their children.

Contact Us

For more information, contact your local Family Group Coordinator:

Region 1: Rapid City
605.394.2525

Region 2: Sturgis, Deadwood, Hot Springs, Martin
605.347.2588

Region 3: Pierre, Eagle Butte, Mobridge
605.845.2922

Region 4: Mission, Winner, Chamberlain
605.842.0400

Region 5: Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings, Huron
605.688.4330

Region 6: Sioux Falls
605.367.5444

Region 7: Mitchell, Lake Andes, Yankton, Vermillion
605.668.3030

Department of Social Services
Division of Child Protection Services

Phone: 605.773.3227

Email: CPS@state.sd.us

Online: dss.sd.gov/childprotection/

Family Group Decision Making

A Guide for Service Providers



Service Providers' Role in the Team Meeting Process

- ✓ Families depend on clear, accurate information from service providers to develop thorough plans that will fully address care and protection of the child.
- ✓ At the beginning of each meeting, service providers share information about their role with the child and/or family.
- ✓ Family members are encouraged to ask questions regarding the information provided.
- ✓ Service providers should be prepared to answer questions regarding the services they provide.
- ✓ Information sharing should be clear and concise to allow the family more time to develop their individual plan.
- ✓ It is not the role of the service provider to agree/disagree with the family's plan.

Information Sharing Outline for Service Providers

- ✓ Introduction including how you are connected to the family and a brief description of the services your organization provides.
- ✓ Length of time you have been involved with the family.
- ✓ Specific strengths you see in the family, and potential strengths the family possesses.
- ✓ Potential challenges you see in working with the child/family.
- ✓ A few things to keep in mind prior to the meeting:
 - Necessary information releases should be completed prior to the meeting.
 - Share all information that will be important for the family to know when they are developing their plan, including additional services that may be available through your organization.
 - Share any issues that could potentially impact the family's successful involvement with your agency (i.e. positive drug/alcohol screens).
 - Share information about other services that may benefit the family and why you feel that they may be beneficial, so the family group can decide if they would like to include these things in their plan or not.
 - Share any information regarding timelines or paperwork needed from the family in order to access services, and where they may gain access to further information.