

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 Collaborative Effort
to Keep Children Safe

DSS 
Strong Families - South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future

Placement Team Meeting (PTM)

- ✓ Develop a plan to assure and support a safe and stable placement to meet the needs of the child and the placement resource.
- ✓ The meeting will last approximately 1-2 hours.
- ✓ Typically these meetings are held at the local DSS office.

Team Decision Making (TDM)

- ✓ TDMs are held when critical decisions need to be made.
- ✓ TDMs are more immediate in nature and scheduled quickly.
- ✓ TDMs can be tailored to fit the needs of the family at any point in the case.
- ✓ The meeting will last approximately 1-2 hours.
- ✓ Typically TDMs are held at the local DSS office.

Family Group Conference (FGC)

- ✓ Brings the family together to discuss and make decisions regarding the care and protection of the child.
- ✓ The family is informed of the parents' case plan goals to understand how they may support positive change.
- ✓ FGCs are voluntary and coordinated with the consent of the parent/caregiver.
- ✓ FGCs include an extensive preparation period and sometimes take several weeks to coordinate.
- ✓ The meeting is generally held in a neutral setting that the family has suggested.
- ✓ The family meets privately and for as long as needed to discuss and develop a plan for the children. Meetings can generally last 2-4 hours.
- ✓ The family is encouraged to include their culture and traditions into their meeting.
- ✓ Preference is given to the family's plan, as long as the child is safe.

Concurrent Planning Meeting (CPM)

- ✓ A concurrent plan is a back-up plan that addresses permanent placement of a child if they cannot return home.
- ✓ This meeting brings family members together with service providers to discuss and develop the concurrent plan.
- ✓ Held when a Family Group Conference is not an option for the family.
- ✓ The meeting is focused on the needs of the child; parental involvement with DSS is not discussed.
- ✓ CPMs are held after a child has been in placement for approximately 4-5 months.

