



American Humane's National Center on Family Group Decision Making 2010 Webinar Series

Do you want to:

- *Hone your skills?*
- *Talk with other coordinators, facilitators or workers who are implementing family group decision making (FGDM) or other family engagement approaches?*
- *Have the opportunity to form a peer network?*
- *Take the time to learn and reflect more on the nuances of engaging families?*



AMERICAN HUMANE

 Family Group Decision Making

American Humane is offering a Live Meeting webinar series to complement our introductory and intensive trainings, technical assistance and coaching, and annual conference. We recognize that some coordinators, workers, facilitators and other service providers are geographically isolated, work independently in their communities or have limited resources to attend skills-based trainings. The 2010 webinar topics are based on evaluative feedback from participants in our 2007-2009 series.

This series is designed to:

- Promote stimulating dialogue that helps community leaders advance the practice, policy and implementation of FGDM and other family engagement approaches
- Create a culture of support and learning for coordinators, facilitators and other service providers
- Build strategic solutions (based on the experiences of many) to roadblocks encountered with implementation
- Leverage expertise within the FGDM and family engagement networks.

About FGDM and Other Family Engagement Approaches

FGDM and other family engagement approaches offer a strong, inclusive approach to working with family groups involved with different public systems. It is being used in more than 35 states and 22 countries to serve children, youth and families involved in multiple systems to resolve such issues as child abuse and neglect, delinquency, domestic violence, truancy and economic hardship. In partnership with representatives of public systems, family groups composed of extended family and kin are engaged and empowered to make decisions and develop plans that protect and nurture their children. *For more specific information about FGDM, please visit www.fgdm.org.*

Continuing Education Units

These webinars have been approved for CEUs by the Washington Chapter, National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for Licensed Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Licensed Mental Health Counselors. The provider number is 1975-228. You can receive 1.5 CEUs for each webinar that you participate in. Continuing education certificates will be provided free of charge to any participant requesting them. The means for requesting them will be included with the online evaluation that you will receive following each webinar.



Topics and Schedule

Solution-Focused Preparation

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010, 2 p.m. EST (1 p.m. CST, noon MST, 11 a.m. PST)

Sue Lohrbach, Community Services Supervisor, Olmsted County Child and Family Services

This webinar workshop will discuss the skill set common to solution-focused practice and make links to use in the preparation and facilitation of family meetings. Engagement with family members and service providers in child welfare and youth justice often takes place in the context of significant concerns and the default can be to gather and share information that is primarily focused on eliciting more detail around those concerns. The skills associated with solution-focused brief therapies lend themselves well to a more holistic questioning approach that allows for movement toward defined goals. Examples of skills that can be applied include scaling questions, exception questions, amplification and versions of “miracle” or visioning questions. The discussion will also focus on conversational ways to set up these kinds of questions to get more and better information for all involved.

Non-Resident Father Engagement and the Child Welfare System — Bringing Back the Dads

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010, 2 p.m. EST (1 p.m. CST, noon MST, 11 a.m. PST)

Karen Jenkins, Director of Public Child Welfare Initiatives and Paul Frankel, Project Manager, National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System, American Humane

This webinar will focus on using FGDM to engage absent fathers in the lives of children who are involved in the child welfare system. Past federal child and family service reviews and the federal *What About the Dads* report indicate that fathers are often less engaged than mothers, and are frequently disconnected from their children. Participants will learn what literature and research have shown regarding how fathers interact with child welfare systems, how father involvement may benefit children's overall well-being and how engaging fathers through FGDM can better connect them and paternal kin to their system-involved children. Participants will also learn practices that have enhanced the engagement process between child welfare practitioners and non-resident fathers.

Is It Safe? Domestic Violence and FGDM

Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 2 p.m. EDT (1 p.m. CDT, noon MDT, 11 a.m. PDT)

Sharon Inglis, Director, Circles Training and Consultancy

When it comes to domestic violence, the idea of having a family group conference with both parties involved may be deemed controversial and unsafe. But by considering the needs and concerns of both parties, in addition to those of all the other conference participants, it becomes possible to safely involve in FGDM processes those who have been harmed and those who have caused the harm. This webinar will explore issues of power in domestic violence; preparing coordinators regarding the creation of safety measures for all participants before, during and after the conference or meeting; considering how to safely involve victims and offenders; and readying community stakeholders to advance FGDM as a way to stop family violence.

Using FGDM to Reduce Disproportionality in Child Welfare

Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 2 p.m. EDT (1 p.m. CDT, noon MDT, 11 a.m. PDT)

Donna Parrish, Project Director of the Colorado Disparities Resource Center, American Humane; and Sheila Craig, State Disproportionality Manager and Stacy Lake, Family Focus Division Administrator, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

The overrepresentation of children of color in the child welfare system is a significant and widespread concern and many jurisdictions are searching for solutions to assist in remedying this problem. The use of FGDM provides positive benefits and improved outcomes for the children and families who participate. In this teleconference, the Colorado Disparities Resource Center and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services will provide knowledge, information and tools for using FGDM as a viable strategy in improving outcomes for children and families of color in the child welfare system.

Addressing the Challenges of Substance Abuse in FGDM

Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 2 p.m. EDT (1 p.m. CDT, noon MDT, 11 a.m. PDT)

Michelle Howard, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, American Humane

Coordinating family group conferences when substance abuse is an issue can be a challenging endeavor. There are multiple issues and stakeholders to coordinate and prepare in order to ensure a family-driven process that subscribes to the principles of FGDM. Participants in this teleconference will increase their understanding of substance abuse issues and its impact on FGDM processes, learn strategies to employ in situations where substance abuse hinders success in the FGDM process and increase their awareness of situations that may not support moving forward with FGDM. Participants will also gain knowledge on the development of family plans that support cultural and recovery needs of family members.



Using FGDM to Properly Engage With and Assess Immigrant Children and Families — Special Considerations

Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 2 p.m. EDT (1 p.m. CDT, noon MDT, 11 a.m. PDT)

Lara Bruce, Child Welfare Knowledge and Program Specialist, American Humane and Sonia Velazquez, Vice President, Children's Division, American Humane

Immigrants are a diverse group that includes foreign-born adults, youth and children who, along with second-generation immigrant children, constitute the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population. When an immigrant family comes to the attention of the public child welfare system, both the family and the child welfare professionals face unique challenges. It becomes especially complex to untangle the range of factors contributing to both the child's risk and the family's capacity to protect and nurture. This session specifically targets professionals who serve immigrant families in the child welfare system. The webinar will equip participants with a roster of existing resources at national and state levels and provide an example of family engagement practice across borders. This session, framed within the complex and publicly debated immigration scene, will keep the focus on workers' abilities to fully engage with families. A special emphasis will also be placed on the use of FGDM and other family engagement approaches that enable workers to fully engage with a family from the onset of the assessment process.

Dual Jurisdiction Youth and the RGC Process

Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010, 2 p.m. EDT (1 p.m. CDT, noon MDT, 11 a.m. PDT)

Lisa Merkel-Holguin, Director, National Center on FGDM, American Humane

Poor and minority youth are disproportionately represented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Restorative group conferencing (RGC) addresses the issues of dependency, delinquency and disproportionate minority representation through collaboration between systems, victims and community members, and through engaging families. This webinar will showcase the experiences of communities implementing RGC to address the needs of youth, their families, victims and the broader community.

The Intersections Between Family Engagement Approaches and Differential Response

Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010, 2 p.m. EDT (1 p.m. CDT, noon MDT, 11 a.m. PDT)

Amy Rohm, Child Welfare Program Specialist, American Humane, and others TBD

Differential response provides child protection agencies with multiple ways to respond to child abuse and neglect reports. In the non-investigation or family assessment pathway, the focus is more on safety through engagement and collaboration with families and less on fact finding and substantiating reports. Implementing differential response, including different types of family meetings, as a front-end system reform can open the doors for creative engagement with families. As a way to engage families and share power, several communities are having family meetings to discuss safety, services and supports with the caseworkers with whom they are working. As part of this webinar, we will explore the subjective nature of convening families through different types of family meetings as a way to make decisions and garner supports for families. Representatives from communities implementing differential response and using family meetings will share their experiences.

Facilitation: The Family Group Conference Perspective

Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010, 2 p.m. EDT (1 p.m. CDT, noon MDT, 11 a.m. PDT)

Anita Horner, Manager, Practice Advancements in Child Welfare, American Humane

What is the role of facilitation in the family group conference? What does minimized facilitation look like? Facilitation can be a loaded word for families and service providers who are participating in the family group conferencing process. This session will focus on the concept of facilitation in a family-driven process, and will encourage group discussion regarding the possible ways facilitation can impact and support family group conferences.

Children: The Heartbeat of the Circle

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010, 2 p.m. EST (1 p.m. CST, noon MST, 11 a.m. PST)

Jeanne Ferguson, Family Assessment Response Manager, American Humane and Marilee Sherry, Family Group Decision Making Coordinator, Children's Aid Society of Brant

The participation of children of all ages in FGDM meetings is controversial, mostly due to concerns about kids being exposed to the possible contentiousness of their adult family members. Likewise, including children can be complicated and must be orchestrated around their age, abilities, fears and hopes. This session will address why children should be accommodated to join in their family discussion, and how to best accomplish that goal. Participants will be encouraged to share successful strategies for child inclusion in FGDM, and questions and concerns about the participation of children will be addressed.

How to Participate

- The fee for each 1½-hour webinar is \$30 per call-in line. If you register for four or more webinars, the fee is \$25 each.
- Participants pay their own phone charges. Dialing in by speakerphone will allow multiple people at the same location to participate but if you call in from separate lines, then you must submit separate registrations. The number of phone lines is limited and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Once you have registered, you will be sent a confirmation notice that includes the phone number to call and a PIN to access the webinar.
- Registrations must be received at least two business days before the date of the webinar.

National Center on Family Group Decision Making 2010 Webinar Series Registration Form

Name & Title of Primary Contact: _____

Estimated Number of Participants Attending the Webinar: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province/Country: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Business Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment Method

- If paying by credit card, please fax your registration to American Humane (attn: Candy Larue): 303-862-3674
- If paying by check or purchase order, fax your registration as above, and mail the original form, along with payment, to:
American Humane
Attn: FGDM Webinar Series
Dept. Number 1108
Denver, CO 80256-1108
- Credit card, or check made payable to:
American Humane (Federal tax ID: 84-0432950)

Do you need an invoice? Yes No PURCHASE ORDER #: _____

CREDIT CARD: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing address for invoice or credit card: _____

Billing name for invoice or as it appears on the card: _____

Signature: _____

Check the webinar(s) in which you wish to participate:

- Solution-Focused Preparation* — Jan. 26
- Non-Resident Father Engagement and the Child Welfare System —Bringing Back the Dads* — Feb. 18
- Is It Safe? Domestic Violence and FGDM* — March 16
- Using FGDM to Reduce Disproportionality in Child Welfare* — April 20
- Addressing the Challenges of Substance Abuse in FGDM* — May 18
- Using FGDM to Properly Engage With and Assess Immigrant Children and Families — Special Considerations* – July 20
- Dual Jurisdiction Youth and the RGC Process* — Aug. 17
- The Intersections Between Family Engagement Approaches and Differential Response* — Sept. 21
- Facilitation: The Family Group Conference Perspective* — Oct. 21
- Children: The Heartbeat of the Circle* — Nov. 16

Total number of webinars selected (if registering for fewer than 3) ___ x \$30 = \$ _____

(if registering for 4 or more sessions) ___ x \$25 = \$ _____

Questions?

Questions regarding registration should be directed to Candy Larue at candyl@americanhumane.org or 303-925-9440.

Questions regarding webinar session content should be directed to Anita Horner at anitah@americanhumane.org or (303) 925-9449.

Cancellation Policy

If you need to cancel your registration for a webinar, you must notify us in writing. Send cancellations to Candy Larue at candyl@americanhumane.org. You must cancel at least 48 hours prior to the start of the webinar. You may apply the amount to a future webinar. Refunds will not be issued.