

# 17<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE ON FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING AND OTHER FAMILY ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES

Reaching New Heights With Families



**JUNE 10 - 13, 2014**



**Vail Marriott Mountain Resort, Vail, CO**

**THE KEMPE CENTER**  
FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT  
OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE | DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

**Kempe Center**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Renowned experts. Remarkable compassion. Real hope.



Welcome to the 17th Conference on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches! The Kempe Center is honored to host this event in our home state this year. We hope you have time to get out and explore Vail and the surrounding region.

Active and constant family/kin inclusion in planning and decision making through FGDM and other family engagement approaches are key to ensuring that those who love their children/youth and know them best are directly involved in building plans for their safety, care, and well-being. Through innovative training, coaching, consultation, and technical assistance in FGDM and family engagement practice development and implementation, The Kempe Center strives to continue the growth and enhancement of this work nationally and internationally.

I want to extend my gratitude to this year's conference planning committee, presenters, and panelists for sharing their ideas, expertise, and time to make this year's conference a success. We could not do this without them. We hope you enjoy sharing, learning, and networking in the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains. We welcome your feedback, so be sure to share your ideas or comments with staff or on your evaluations to help us plan future events.

Regards,  
Des

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Desmond K. Runyan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Desmond K. Runyan, MD, DrPH

Executive Director, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect





## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Pre-Conference Skills Institutes Registration.....	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Skills Institutes.....	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(Lunch Provided 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	
Conference Registration.....	2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Introductory Session.....	4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Registration.....	7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Breakfast Provided.....	8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Opening Keynote and General Session.....	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Workshops.....	10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch on Your Own.....	11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Workshops.....	1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Workshops.....	3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

### Thursday, June 12, 2014

Registration.....	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Three-Hour Workshops.....	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Lunch and General Session.....	11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Workshops.....	1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Workshops.....	3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### Friday, June 13, 2014

Registration.....	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Workshops.....	8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Brunch and General Session.....	10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Workshops.....	11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.



## Conference Structure

This 2014 conference, *Reaching New Heights With Families*, will focus on ascending to genuine partnership with families. Nationally and internationally, work in FGDM and family engagement has continued to grow and evolve. New trails have been blazed in research and practice, at times there's been a need for swift action and flexibility to navigate switchbacks, and collaborations have been formed to traverse rough waters. This conference will explore what genuine partnership with families looks like in action, as well as things to consider to determine if we are on the right path to reach new heights.

This year's conference sessions will highlight this theme of reaching new heights with families through FGDM and family engagement by focusing on five areas:

- 1 Track 1. Blazing the Trail Up the Mountain: Implementation Leadership**
- 2 Track 2. Biking the Trails: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**
- 3 Track 3. Riding the Rapids: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**
- 4 Track 4. Seeing the Forest AND the Trees: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**
- 5 Track 5. Descending the Ski Slopes to Reach New Heights in Knowledge: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

## Certificates of Attendance and Continuing Education Units

Certificates of attendance will be distributed on the final day of the conference at the registration area. This conference's workshops have been approved for up to 18 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 #1975-333. The number of CEUs obtained is based on the number of seminars attended. If you are planning to attend the Skills Institutes, they are approved for up to an additional 6 CEUs. Only one certificate per person will be awarded, reflecting the total number of continuing education credits acquired. Continuing education certificates will be provided at the registration desk for a fee of \$20.



## TUESDAY, June 10, 2014

### 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Pre-Conference Skills Institutes Registration

This time is reserved for those registered for pre-conference skills institutes only. General conference registration will begin at 2:00 p.m.

**Location: Lower Level Registration Area**

### 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Pre-Conference Skills Institutes (additional fee required to attend)

### 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch for Skills Institutes Participants

**Location: Grand Ballroom**

#### **Preparing the Trails: Involving Older Youth in Child and Family Teams**

*Kara Allen-Eckard, MSW, and Chaney Stokes, Center for Family and Community Engagement, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 1: Implementation Leadership**

The inclusion of older youth in decision making about their education, transitions, and goals is an essential yet often times elusive process. While we are often successful at “getting youth to the table,” we are not as successful at getting youth to be actively involved in the planning process at their meeting. This workshop explores adolescent brain development and trauma as a way to better understand how to work with and prepare youth for participation in planning. Materials will include input from youth focus groups and skills building focusing on development of protective factors.

#### **Through the Looking Glass: Reflecting on Culturally Responsive Practice From the Inside Out**

*Michelle Howard, MS, LPC, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Aurora, CO*

**Location: Game Creek - Track 4: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**

A lot of lip service is given to being culturally responsive with families. For some it may be more than lip service, while with others it's clearly just that. But how do we know if our actions are more than lip service, if our values, world views, and biases aren't unduly influencing how we engage with families? Are we really open and sensitive to issues of power, oppression, and marginalization? This skills institute will offer participants an opportunity to reflect on their level of cultural responsiveness and suggest skills and ideas that keep culture relevant in thought and action.

#### **The Job Chooses the Person . . . or Does It? A Conversation About Hiring, Training, and Supervising FGDM Coordinators/Facilitators**

*Marilee Sherry, MSW, Brant Family and Children's Services, Brantford, ON, CAN*

**Location: Sun Up - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

During this interactive skills institute, we will focus on hiring, training, and supervising FGDM coordinators/facilitators by drawing on each other's knowledge and experience. Sometimes FGDM takes root at the grassroots level. How are new coordinators/facilitators chosen when the “founders” leave? Other times, FGDM takes root at a municipal/county, state/provincial, or federal level. How are FGDM coordinators/facilitators chosen to help implement the service? Examples from the FGDM service in Brantford, Ontario (Canada), will be shared. We will focus on the following areas regarding the FGDM coordinator/facilitator: hiring, training, ongoing supervision and support, performance evaluation, and ongoing training.



### Family Decision Making to Plan for Safety in Domestic Violence

*Sharon Inglis, Circles Training and Consultancy, Winchester, UK*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

What happens when domestic violence is a major factor within the family? Is it safe to hold family group conferences? Should perpetrators be invited? Would women be victimized in such a meeting? Is it appropriate for children to attend? What evidence is there that this decision-making model can be safe? This workshop is aimed at staff with knowledge of FGC and with an interest in how domestic violence affects women and children. Using a range of methods, including direct input, case study, video, role play, coaching, and reflection of practice, participants will consider how to:

- Work in partnership with survivors, families, and service providers to ensure that safety is paramount before, during, and after the FGC;
- Deal with resistance or reluctance from participants;
- Ensure that children remain at the center of the process, whatever their ages and development;
- Assist in the creation of an environment that is safe and respectful to all attendees; and
- Focus on the values and principles that underpin this decision-making model.

### Engaging With Families Proactively and Reactively: Different Family Engagement Approaches Tried and Tested!

*Estelle Macdonald, Collingwood Primary School, Hull, UK, and Jo Faulkner, Hull Centre for Restorative Practice, Hull, UK*

**Location: Blue Sky - Track 4: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**

This workshop will explore different models of engaging with families both proactively and reactively. It will explore professionals' values and beliefs about families and how that impacts practice. Through interactive sessions, participants will explore different models of effective engagement with families, including family group conferencing, restorative work, solution focused therapy, and the Family Learning Signature model piloted in Hull.

## 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Conference Registration

**Location: Lower Level Registration Area**

## 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Introductory Session

### Introductory Session on Multiple Family Engagement Approaches

*Lisa Merkel-Holguin and Anita Horner, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Aurora, CO*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D**

This presentation will outline the principles and philosophies embodied within FGDM and the processes to coordinate family meetings. The primary family involvement models used in the United States will be described and compared. Individuals with little exposure to or knowledge of FGDM or other family engagement approaches are encouraged to attend.



## WEDNESDAY, June 11, 2014

### 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Registration

Location: Lower Level Registration Area

### 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Provided

Location: Grand Ballroom

### 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Opening Keynote and General Session

Location: Grand Ballroom



#### LITTLE STEPS, BIG FEAT: Lessons in Resilience From One Woman's Walk Around the World

*Polly Letofsky, Denver, CO*

Polly Letofsky traveled across 4 continents and over 14,000 miles—by foot—to become the first woman to walk around the world. As an awareness campaign for breast cancer, strangers welcomed her into their homes. But it was never an easy road. Polly struggled with earthquakes, muggings, languages, and even religious riots. The ultimate challenge came in the middle of her 5-year journey when September 11 flung us all into a crossroads in world history. Be inspired to renew your commitment to perseverance, vision, and overcoming challenges through Polly's spirited keynote.

### 10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Workshops

#### **"We Are Already Doing a Lot of This Work Without a Name": Diffusion of FGC in Guatemala**

*Joan Pennell, MSW, PhD, Center for Family and Community Engagement, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC; Kelley Bunkers, BA, MA, Baltimore, MD; Sully de Uclés, BA, Buckner International, Guatemala City, GT; Jini L. Roby, JD, MSW, MS, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT; and Karen Smith Rotabi, PhD, MSW, MPH, United Arab Emirates University, AE*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 1: Implementation Leadership**

Guatemala has experienced very high rates of children placed outside their homes through unethical intercountry adoptions and institutional care. This workshop examines why and how an international team, with the support of the Guatemalan Secretariat of Social Welfare and UNICEF, offered an introductory training on FGC, followed by focus groups assessing the model's suitability in Guatemala. The participants from government, non-governmental organizations, and universities identified the compatibility of FGC with Mayan traditions and ways to fit the model to their communities. Diffusion of innovation in this context means retaining core FGC practices while adapting the model to local cultures.

#### **Discovering the Key Players**

*Inshirah Hassabu, BSW, Jennie Campbell, MSW, RSW, and Nyron Sookraj, MSW, RSW, Family Group Conferencing Project of Toronto, Toronto, CAN*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

This interactive workshop will explore the concept and role of key player(s) early during the preparation stage, as well as how the coordinator could recognize and prepare them. Key player(s) qualities will be discussed through reference to real case studies. In addition, the workshop will share strategies for how the FGC coordinator could support the key player in carrying his or her role in a balanced manner, moving the process forward without overshadowing other participants. The workshop will provide a forum, equally for presenters and participants, to exchange knowledge and share experiences about ways to support other family voices at the conference while meeting best practice guidelines. Bring your past and current cases for sharing and discussion.



## Clearing the Brush on the Path to Reunification: Using the Reunification Conference Model to Bring Clarity and Direction to a Case Plan and Enable Parents to Progress Toward Bringing Their Children Home

*Melissa Proctor, MSW, ASW, and Jeff Frelier, MSW, Casey Family Programs, San Diego, CA, and Loraine Ortega, birth parent*

**Location: Sun Up - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

Casey Family Programs and San Diego County designed a new family engagement strategy, called reunification conferences (RCs), to help families whose cases are “stuck” and seeing little movement in the reunification process. The model, which insists on clarity and transparency, and where parents’ voices are heard and needs are recognized, leads to progress in 80% of cases. The presentation will include a parent sharing her story of how an RC impacted her case, a video demonstrating the stages of an RC, a description of the development and implementation of the model, and the materials needed to implement the model yourself.

## An Evaluation of a Family Group Conferencing Program in a Public Child Welfare Agency: Results and Implications

*Cynthia Flynn, PhD, The Center for Child and Family Studies, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, and Pat Patrick, MSW, LISW, South Carolina Department of Social Services, Columbia, SC*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), in collaboration with Casey Family Programs, implemented Families First, a family group conferencing model that allows families to plan for their children’s care and protection. Families First staff contracted with staff from various organizations to facilitate these conferences. The Center for Child and Family Studies at the University of South Carolina conducted the external evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the model for achieving improved safety and permanence outcomes for children in foster care. This presentation will share results of this evaluation, including outcomes and fidelity to the model.

## Engaging the Whole Family When Schools Cannot See the Wood for the Trees

*Estelle Macdonald, Collingwood Primary School, Hull, UK, and Jo Faulkner, Hull Centre for Restorative Practice, Hull, UK*

**Location: Blue Sky - Track 4: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**

This workshop will explore the relationships between schools and the hard-to-reach children and families in Hull, UK. This unique, innovative project is delivering significant positive outcomes for those hardest to engage. The project has successfully aligned key children’s service partners and schools and is providing a positive experience for the families within schools in Hull. The initiative uses a continuum of restorative approaches and FGDM to engage all involved within the children’s education to support them and make them as successful as possible. This has produced impressive results that have been advantageous both within family life and school.

## Maintaining Focus Through the White Water of Change

*Richard Vukmanic, MSW, Joshua Berra, MSW, Courtney McCann, MSW, and Kirsten Johnson, MSW, Dauphin County Children & Youth, Harrisburg, PA*

**Location: Game Creek - Track 1: Implementation Leadership**

Dauphin County began implementation of FGDM in 2001. Over time, the county embraced the idea of an engagement continuum. Focusing on family-centered, strengths-based planning, Children and Youth Services has safely reduced the number of children in placement by 46% and those in congregate care by 62%. Utilizing this framework, administrators, supervisors, and caseworkers have been challenged to constantly reevaluate and improve practice. Earlier this year, the agency embarked upon a complete organizational restructuring in an effort to improve service delivery, ensure for teaming, and increase intra-agency collaboration. This discussion group will compare the previous structure with the new while considering the various engagement strategies. Participants will be asked to offer their perspectives on the relationship between staff engagement and family engagement.





## 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Workshops

### **Staying on Course: Supporting Fidelity in FTDM/FGDM**

*Melanie Sage, PhD, MSW, LICSW, and Winonah Monette, MSW, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 1: Implementation Leadership**

In order to assess whether family meetings work, we must first know whether we have a clear understanding of the core practices we believe contribute to successful outcomes. This workshop offers tools and strategies for supporting fidelity to any chosen model. Our successful approaches include an online manual with a coordinator-contributed FAQ, fidelity checklists built into participant evaluation forms, and training and feedback conference calls. Facilitators will demonstrate technology-assisted fidelity tools and will share checklist examples. Additionally, we will briefly share outcomes of our three-year FGDM Family Connection grant.

### **Empowerment, Evidence, and Culture Change in Quaint Places: Report on Vermont's Multi-Year Effort to Embrace Family Engagement in Child Welfare and Youth Justice**

*Gale Burford, MSW, PhD, and Sarah Gallagher, MSW, Department of Social Work, Child Welfare Training Partnership, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

A combined multiple methods, multiple indicators, participatory approach was used to evaluate Vermont's statewide practice model implementation and organizational change effort. Interviews, focus groups, administrative and survey data, satisfaction measures, and a small number of practice fidelity checks were used to help inform training, guide state and local implementation efforts, and to provide ongoing monitoring of program level indicators of results. Highlighted findings include the vital roles played by leaders (including supervisors) and the role of training in achieving culture and practice change; important differences in the ways parents, other family members, teens, and professionals view family meetings; and the enduring challenges to sustaining rights-based empowerment practice with families, children, and young people within local offices and the wider systems of care.

### **The Ground We Stand On:**

#### **What Traditional Hawaiian Values Teach Us About Family Engagement Work**

*Wilma Friesema, MA, MFT, EPIC 'Ohana, Inc., Honolulu, HI*

**Location: Sun Up - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

FGDM, originating in New Zealand, was born out of traditional Maori practices that emphasized restoration of relationship harmony over punishment. Similarly, traditional Hawaiian culture is attuned to relational balance within families and communities. A broad range of teachings reinforce strong family ties and the interconnectedness of people. In this workshop, we will share the Hawaiian values that enhance family engagement efforts, values that play a key role in making our FGDM, 'Ohana Conferencing, successful. Parallels to Western practices will be highlighted, so an integration of the Hawaiian cultural teachings can be easily translated into practice in other communities.

### **The "OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN" in Trauma-Informed Work: Social Worker Stress Building Agency Support Through FGC Principles/Practice**

*William Poindexter, CSW, and Claudia Kearney, Family Centered Practice Project, Center for Family and Community Engagement, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

There is a growing recognition in the field of child welfare of the impact of trauma on children. The "other side of the coin" in this realization is that front line workers are in a real sense "first responders" and experience stress in providing services for these children. The issue for agencies is how to address this stress in times of shrinking budgets and increased workloads. This presentation explores how family group conference practice principles can be utilized to build agency support for workers experiencing secondary traumatic stress from work situations. One North Carolina county's experience in implementation will be highlighted.

### **Walking the Trail Side-by-Side: Using the Partnership Co-Training Model**

*Kara Allen-Eckard, MSW, and Marianne Latz, MSW, Center for Family and Community Engagement, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC*

**Location: Blue Sky - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

What happens when we model family-centered values in our training, that is, when the process of developing and delivering family-centered training reflects the values it espouses? At the Center for Family and Community Engagement, we started exploring this question in 2009. We implemented a training program and evaluation that explores how training participants, their family-centered meetings, and their relationships with families are affected by attending training workshops conducted using the partnership co-training model. The model pairs family and community members with service providers. This workshop will explore the philosophy, process, and impact of this model through a mix of lecture, discussion, and activities.



### SafeCare® Colorado: An In-Home Voluntary Service for At-Risk Families

*Katherine L. Casillas, PhD, Edward F. Garrido, PhD, and Bridget T. Jankovsky, MA, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Aurora, CO*

**Location: Game Creek - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

SafeCare® Colorado offers proactive in-home, voluntary services that support at-risk families in understanding the health, development, and safety needs of young children. SafeCare® Colorado is part of a group of cornerstone prevention programs formed or expanded under Governor Hickenlooper's child welfare plan, "Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy 2.0." This presentation will discuss the program and its statewide rollout, including implementation lessons learned from the pilot Cohort I sites, the importance of community collaboration to achieve long-term sustainability of prevention programs serving high-risk populations, and plans for Cohort II.

## 3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Workshops

### Believe It or Not: The Interplay Between Child Welfare Agency Staff Attitudes and Knowledge About FGDM and Implementation

*Heather Allan, MSW, John Fluke, PhD, and Lisa Merkel-Holguin, MSW, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Aurora, CO; Jason Williams, PhD, and Erin Maher, PhD, Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

This session will describe findings derived from survey data administered to staff at three child welfare agencies involved with the No Place Like Home project, funded by a 2011 Family Connection grant from the Children's Bureau. The survey sought to capture process information related to the context in which family group decision making meetings are utilized in each of the three jurisdictions, including organizational culture, staff perceptions of FGDM usefulness and effectiveness, and other potential mediating variables that could contribute to the utilization of FGDM across the agencies. Individual and cross-site findings will be discussed with implications for the uptake of FGDM and potential impact on fidelity, using preliminary findings from fidelity survey data administered through the NPLH project.

### A Statistical Analysis of the Effectiveness of the FGC/FGDM Plan: Are FGC/FGDM Plans Effective in the Long Run?

*Marilee Sherry, MSW, and Gissele Taraba, MSC, Brant Family and Children's Services, Brantford, ON, CAN*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

The purpose of this workshop is to present a statistical analysis of FGC/FGDM plans occurring between 2009–2011 (in Brant County, Ontario, Canada) in order to assess the long-term effectiveness of plan implementation. The first part of the presentation will focus on the FGC/FGDM model used in Brant County, the challenges in attempting to complete a statistical analysis on the data, pitfalls encountered when trying to minimize bias, and limitations of this type of statistical analysis for generalizability. The latter portion of the presentation will focus on the interpretation of the results, learning opportunities, and next steps.

### Strengthening the Family's Voice Through Follow-Up

*Rebekah Kirgis, LGSW, MSW, and Jessica Naatz, LSW, Family Service Rochester, Rochester, MN*

**Location: Sun Up - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

This breakout session is for those who have experience with family group conferencing and are looking for the next level in family engagement. It is based on our expanding practice in Olmsted County, Minnesota. As a group, we will explore the value of the follow-up family group conference from personal as well as professional perspectives. We will ask participants to explore how they bring their values to their work, and how this guides their practices. This discussion group will ask individuals to share experiences and discuss continued work with families, as well as challenges. We invite people to discuss how the addition of follow-up family group conferences can benefit community practices. By sharing our experiences, training, and knowledge, we hope to lead an invigorating conversation about the benefits of follow-up family group conferencing.



### Evaluating the Effectiveness of Different Family Team Conference Models: Results From Florida

*Robin Perry, PhD, Institute for Child and Family Services Research, Tallahassee, FL; Jane Yoo, PhD, Clarus Research, Pasadena, CA; Toni Spoliansky, BA, and Pebbles Edelman, LMHC, Partnership for Strong Families, Gainesville, FL*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

This discussion group will explore process and outcome findings from a federally funded evaluation of two experimental models of family team conferencing (FTC) with families receiving child protective services. These FTC models were designed to align with the components of family group decision making (FGDM). The first experimental model (Pathway 2) included trained facilitators to conduct FTCs and to authorize services quickly. The second model (Pathway 3) included all the components of the first model as well as time for families to develop a service plan on their own. The study compared the effectiveness of two experimental FTC models against a standard service model (Pathway 1) facilitated by a case worker rather than a trained facilitator with no family alone time.

### Kasserian Ingera: Honoring the Well-Being of Children Through Empowered Communities

*Michelle Howard, MS, LPC, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Aurora, CO*

**Location: Blue Sky - Track 4: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**

Family group decision making is a process that invokes a sense of community support and responsibility for its children and families. Since its introduction into the United States, this process has been primarily housed within “systems.” This workshop/discussion group will explore the benefits and challenges of installing FGDM in churches or faith-based institutions where many families of color may be struggling to have a voice in a Goliath-type system. How might the transformative values and principles of FGDM foster a vested sense of community support, responsibility, and family leadership that curtails the disproportional and disparate impacts on families of color?

### Paddling Upstream and Gliding Downstream: Understanding What Has Worked and What Has Not in the Implementation of a Randomized Controlled Trial Research Project Within a Large Child Welfare System

*Danielle Zuniga, MA, YMCA of San Diego County, San Diego, CA; Becki DeBont, LCSW, San Diego County Child Welfare Services, San Diego, CA; Melissa Proctor, MSW, ASC, Casey Family Programs, San Diego, CA; and Cristina Magaña, MA, Harder+Company Community Research, San Diego, CA*

**Location: Game Creek - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

The San Diego YMCA Families United Family Group Conferencing Project (YMCA FGC) is a three-year federally funded project aimed at demonstrating the effectiveness of implementing and utilizing the FGC model with families who have an open case with the local Child Welfare Services (CWS) agency. In this discussion, we will describe the challenges and successes of implementing a randomized controlled trial design project in a large, diverse, and decentralized CWS system. These findings will be informed by data from a qualitative study with social workers and the input of an advisory group composed of key project partners.



## Thursday, June 12, 2014

### 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Registration

Location: Lower Level Registration Area

### 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Three-Hour Workshops

#### **Multidimensional Model of Implementation: A Tool for Systems Change**

*Carrie Furrer, PhD, Susie Barrios, LCSW, and Angela Rodgers, MS, Portland State University Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services, Portland, OR*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

Over the past decade, implementation science has brought a broad understanding of the key ingredients or drivers of implementation (e.g., leadership, infrastructure development, workforce capacity). In a complex system such as child welfare, it is also important to develop an understanding of how the drivers work at various levels of the system (e.g., state, local, service provider, family). The goal of this session is to present a three-dimensional structure for conceptualizing, measuring, and promoting implementation in the context of a combined family finding and family group conference practice as part of a Family Connection demonstration project in Oregon (FCO). In an interactive assessment process, participants will apply this model to their own projects.

#### **The Psychological Impact of Kinship Care on Families**

*William M. Nunnally, BS, and John E. Van Horn, BA, Heartland for Children, Bartow, FL*

**Location: Game Creek - Track 4: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**

Relative caregiver placements break down at a higher rate than any other type of placement after licensed care. This event explores the causes of these breakdowns and provides methods to identify and support kinship placements through the use of family decision making processes for families caring for children in the dependency system.

#### **Enhancing Family Engagement by Engaging the Caseworker**

*Christina Pratt, MSW, and Nicole Brown, MSW, Arapahoe County Department of Human Services, Aurora, CO*

**Location: Sun Up - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

Have you ever been facilitating a family meeting and felt that you were the only one comfortably engaging the family? Many caseworkers are uncomfortable in transferring the skills they use with families individually and maintaining that relationship in a group meeting. If a caseworker is fearful of confronting an issue with a parent in the group setting, the group could walk away with a plan that doesn't address the safety concerns. In this interactive session, participants will be led through a process of learning how to facilitate training for caseworkers and supervisors in identifying barriers and solutions to engaging families.

#### **State Responsibility: Reconnect Children, Families, and Communities—A Moral Imperative**

*Sharon Inglis, Circles Training and Consultancy, Winchester, UK*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

We live in times of austerity, individualism, and selfishness, OR we live in times of opportunity, interdependence, and responsibility. One city in the North of England in the UK has dared to challenge its traditional notion of itself to become a truly child friendly city. Why? Creating a child friendly city requires investment in the future of children, families, and communities. Invest today and tomorrow they will repay you tenfold. Morally, economically, and humanely you will reap the reward for generations. Children's Services in Leeds has transformed its relationship with children, families, citizens, and its communities through family group conferencing and other restorative processes without compromising its safeguarding responsibilities. This workshop will explore how those relationships have been transformed and examine the significantly improved outcomes for children.



## Exploring Implementation Similarities and Differences in Two Sites Integrating Family Finding With Differing Family Involvement Strategies

**Bob Friend**, MSW, LCSW, *National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness at Seneca Family of Agencies, Oakland, CA*; **Amy Kirsztajn**, MSW, *Seneca Family of Agencies, San Francisco, CA*; **Elizabeth Harris**, PhD, *San Francisco Health and Human Services, San Francisco, CA*; **Kelli DeCook**, MSW, LGSW, *Family Service Rochester, Rochester, MN*; **Heather Allan**, MSW, *The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Aurora, CO*; and **Karin Malm**, MS, *Family Studies, Child Trends, Bethesda, MD*

**Location: Blue Sky - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

In 2012, five new discretionary grant projects aimed at combining family finding and family involvement strategies were funded by the Children's Bureau. This discussion group will examine the efforts of two of those projects in determining their needs, installing the desired practice components, and braiding new and existing strategies into practice models. Early results and fidelity measures will be shared with the audience, and the implications of these results will be examined. Facilitated discussion will follow, focusing on implementation strategies that promote family-centered practice that establishes the importance of family involvement and participation in decisions affecting the family.

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE IN 2015 THAT WILL HIGHLIGHT FGDM, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, AND OTHER INNOVATIONS.

### Focus on Follow-Up

**Anita Horner**, *The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Aurora, CO*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

Why is follow-up vital to the successful implementation of the plan? What does follow-up really entail? How does a follow-up conference differ from an initial conference? How can effective follow-up occur while continuing to support a family-driven process? This session will focus on defining and more thoroughly understanding the function and vital role of the follow-up component of the FGDM process; how it directly impacts the successful implementation of the plan after a conference is held; and how to support and implement effective follow-up efforts, while maintaining a family-driven process that is reflective of FGDM values and philosophy.



## 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch for Conference Participants

**Location: Grand Ballroom**

## 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. General Session

### **The View From Here: Families' Vantage Points**

**Location: Grand Ballroom**

Join us for lunch, and learn from the best teachers and consultants in this work: the family members we serve! Panelists will share their valuable wisdom, experiences, and insights based on their participation in the family meeting process.

## 1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Workshops

### **Family, Myth, and Miracle**

*Sharon Inglis, Circles Training and Consultancy, Winchester, UK, and Paul Sivak, MSW, California State University, Long Beach, CA*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

This will be an open dialogue focused on family, collaboration, and colonization. Facilitators and participants will struggle with questions and our notions of family, how these notions are shaped by our own experience, and the struggle for clarity in it all. There will be no presentation; we will endeavor to discuss these ideas as co-inquirers in this seminar. Our intention is to leave with more questions than we start out with!

### **How Do Family-Led (FGC/FGDM) Meetings and Family-Involved Meetings (SOS, TDM, FTM) Work Together to Support Anti-Oppressive Child Welfare Practice?**

*Marilee Sherry, MSW, and Iona Sky, MSW, Brant Family and Children's Services, Brantford, ON, CAN*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

Many child welfare agencies in North America offer various kinds of agency-led case conferences that involve family members and also offer family group conference meetings that are designed to be family-led meetings. In Ontario, Canada, child welfare agencies are also engaged in a dialogue about providing child welfare services in an anti-oppressive manner. How do these three streams work together to create and support safety for children, families, and communities? How do we dialogue with each other, particularly when the places of friction often seem more obvious to us than the places of collaboration and agreement? How do we practice child welfare in an anti-oppressive manner?

### **We've Gotten This Far, So Where Do We Go From Here?**

*Ellen Letts, Yolanda Young, Kathleen Tucker, MSSW, and Betsy Pontz, LCSW, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Austin, TX*

**Location: Sun Up - Track 5: Research and Evaluation, Policy, and Advocacy**

Over the past ten years, Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) has implemented and maintained the use of family group decision making in all stages of service. The FGDM philosophy, values, and beliefs are infused throughout policy, case practice, and program management. So, where do we go from here? How does Texas CPS continue to improve and expand FGDM over time? Join state and regional FGDM leaders as we explore these questions and how we have used opportunities, such as the No Place Like Home Family Connection grant, to further improve and expand FGDM practice in Texas. This workshop will provide an overview of Texas FGDM, and, through participation in the NPLH grant, a thorough look at the lessons learned and FGDM practice improvements being made at regional and statewide levels.



### **Doing What It Takes: Engaging and Supporting Families Within a Place-Based Initiative**

*Ann M. Doyle, MA, MBA, Devereux Florida, Tampa, FL; Kimberly Miller, BA, and Edward Howell, MAPA, Devereux Kids, Tampa, FL*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 4: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**

Devereux Kids has worked in Sulphur Springs, a high poverty, high crime neighborhood in Tampa, FL, since 2006. In 2012, Devereux was awarded a contract to build upon its strengths-based prevention model to provide support services to Sulphur Springs families using the family team conferencing model and protective factor framework for families not yet identified within the child welfare system, engaging residents in community building, and enhancing resources through collaboration. This facilitated workshop will present the policy, research, and principles that inform the service model and discuss its impact on children and families.

### **Keeping the “Family” in Family Engagement**

*Currin Haines-Yoder, MSW, Kelly Colbey, BSW, and Rick Vukmanic, MSW, Dauphin County Children & Youth, Harrisburg, PA*

**Location: Blue Sky - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

This workshop will be an interactive session looking at how family finding can be implemented throughout the life of a case to enhance not only family participation in FGDM but also in the everyday lives of our youth. Dauphin County Children & Youth has recognized the need for family in every step of our case process and has worked diligently to integrate it at the front end, in our in-home as well as our out-of-home services. Come and find out how the team at Children & Youth has tried to meet this need not just for the youth in our county, but also for their families and our caseworkers.

## **3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Workshops**

### **The Influences of Family Engagement and In-Home Services**

*Lisa Fleming, BS, Cara Beers, BS, and LuAnn Van Hunnik, BS, South Dakota Department of Social Services, Rapid City, SD*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

The State of South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) Rapid City office became a participant in the No Place Like Home grant to evaluate the use of FGDM in safety planning for in-home cases to prevent children from entering care. However, very few referrals for in-home cases were made. This discussion group allows an opportunity for agencies to examine what their barriers are to increasing in-home cases. This discussion will focus on whether other states have been successful in the use of FGDM for safety planning early on in the case and to share lessons learned.

### **Nurturing the Resiliency of Urban African American Families: Rethinking the Family Group Decision Making Model as Community-Centered Work**

*Eugene Wilson, Program Director, and Eloma Simpson-Barnes, Homes for Black Children, Detroit, MI*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D - Track 4: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**

The workshop will focus on the preliminary results of Homes for Black Children’s (an urban private non-profit child placement agency serving children of all races and ethnicities) federally funded initiative to reduce the number of African American children who enter or return to the child welfare system. The initiative utilizes four culturally sensitive core strategies to carry out its objectives. The project is a collaboration between HBC, the Detroit Public School System, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Just When You Think You Have Reached the Peak . . . There’s Yet Another Hill to Climb**

*Deb DeLuca-Forzley, BSW, and Julie Smith, BS, Larimer County Department of Human Services, Ft. Collins, CO*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

What happens when the “best” plans to support the family and ensure safety for children over time just don’t quite work out? What happens when the family comes up with a plan for sustainability and safety, but, when enacted, it is not successful? Getting to the details of the plan is not always easy and often gets the least attention when managing a family meeting, and yet we know this is often the most important part of the family meeting. Come hear ideas and techniques to get to the detail as well as sharing what you know works!



### **Creatively Using Signs of Safety Tools in the FGDM Process**

*Jody Stadler, MA, and Michelle Lesley, MSW, MPH, Hennepin County-MN, Minneapolis, MN*

**Location: Sun Up - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

The Signs of Safety process and the FGDM process could be seen as two different and exclusive methods for engaging families. We have utilized Signs of Safety tools in our family engagement meetings to empower families as the experts on their own family and to help strengthen the possibility of a more collaborative relationship between the social worker and the family. We would like the opportunity to discuss with our FGDM colleagues how they have incorporated other family engagement strategies, like Signs of Safety tools, into their facilitated meetings.

### **Building a Community-Based Child Welfare System Through the Engagement Principles of Family Group Decision Making**

*William J. Cisek, Esquire, Wilson, Thompson and Cisek LLC, Franklin, PA, and Honorable Oliver J. Lobaugh, President Judge, 28th Judicial District Venango County, Franklin, PA*

**Location: Blue Sky - Track 1: Implementation Leadership**

This 90-minute workshop will profile how a court, agency, and community can utilize family group decision making engagement principles in both the court system and the community to build a community-based child welfare system. This workshop will explain how leadership stemming from the collaboration of the court and the community through forming a local children's roundtable changed the traditional adversarial child welfare system to one of engagement through the principles of family group decision making. The core theme of the local children's roundtable is the engagement principles of family group decision making.

The Kempe Center invites you to the 9th Annual  
**Conference on Differential Response in Child Welfare**

The Westin Seattle —Seattle, Washington

*November 12-14, 2014*





## Friday, June 13, 2014

## 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration

Location: Lower Level Registration Area

## 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Workshops

### Completing the Circle: Concurrent Planning Using Family Finding, Blended Perspective Meetings, and Family Group Decision Making Processes as Best Practice

*Chasity Murphy, BSW, Gena Bond, BSW, It Takes A Village, Inc., Towanda, PA; and Amy Benner, MSW, Bradford County Children and Youth Services, Towanda, PA*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

Participants will gain knowledge and hands-on experience in using family finding, blended perspective meetings, and family group decision making conferences and how they stack together for success with families. With this three-pronged approach, the responsibility of planning and the safety of the child(ren) is shifted to the family. Bradford County CYS has seen a drastic decrease in the number of children in out-of-home placement as well as an increase in family connections. We will discuss real life case studies of the importance and outcomes involving children and their family connections. Participants will engage in activities such as Mobility Mapping, Connect-O-Gram, and a mock blended perspective meeting.

### Riding the Rapids of Collaboration: FGDM and Child Welfare

*Penny Beehler, BA, Kids Central, Inc., Ocala, FL; Malveria Carter, MBA, and Maryetta Clarkson, MCJ, Devereux Kids, Bushnell, FL; and Jean K. Elder, PhD, J. K. Elder & Associates, Ann Arbor, MI*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

This workshop will inform participants about the Family Group Decision Making: Engaging, Encouraging and Empowering grant used in Florida's fifth judicial circuit in collaboration with child welfare, Devereux Kids, and J. K. Elder & Associates to reduce the number of children entering the formal child dependency system, achieve measured success in the reduction of recidivism, increase the rate of success closures at the diversion level, and increase the use of the protective factors through pre- and post-test gains.

### Charting the Course: How Structured Facilitation Can Support the Family's Navigation and Decision Making Through the Court Process

*Elizabeth Gillaspie and Lori McKeon, Concord Mediation Center, Omaha, NE*

**Location: Sun Up - Track 4: The Spread of FGDM and Family Engagement in Other Arenas, and Involving and Including the Overlooked or Underrepresented**

No matter what stage of the court process a family is in, it can benefit greatly from not only a family group conference, but also from pre-hearing facilitated conferences. These conferences are held prior to court, anywhere from an hour prior to 90 days prior, in hopes of giving families useful information in a safe environment with the help of a neutral facilitator. Families become armed with knowledge and are able to make decisions that make sense for their situations and for their families.

### Engaging High Conflict Families in Family Group Conferencing

*Tracey Lipp, BSW, MSW, RSW, and Louise Vandenbosch, BSW, MSW, RSW, Independent Family Group Conference Coordinator, Ontario, CAN, South West Region*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

A significant percentage of family group conference referrals being made in the past few years include an element of high conflict behavior associated with a custody dispute. Engaging these families in a family group conference process provides a unique opportunity to fuse the values and principles inherent in family group conferencing with strategies to reduce conflict and prepare family group members for making decisions about the children. This workshop will discuss methods for working with families experiencing conflict within the context of a family group conference, as well as provide more understanding of high conflict behavior in reference to the family planning process.



## A Journey: Discovering and Creating a Family and Community-Centered Practice Model With Family Decision Making as a Guiding Light

*Suzanne Legare Blecher, MSW, Child Welfare Training Partnership, Burlington, VT; John Zalenski, PhD, Department for Children and Families/Family Services Division, Rutland, VT; and Diane Robie, MS, Eckerd Child and Family Support Services, Rutland, VT*

### Location: Blue Sky - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies

Rutland, Vermont, DCF Family Services Division, Eckerd Family Services, and the University of Vermont, Child Welfare Training Partnership have worked together to find a path into this practice. Family safety planning meetings, FGC, restorative FGC, and youth futures meetings all have become coordinated and aligned practice approaches to engage families, strengthen families, and shift decisions and decision-making processes for improved outcomes from professionals and providers to families and supportive social networks. Enacted practice principles, professional development objectives, community involvement strategies, and collaboration have helped to shape a change process that is reshaping child welfare practice in the county.

## 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Brunch and General Session

### The Art of Coordination

#### Location: Grand Ballroom

Join us for brunch and a panel of family group decision making coordinators for discussion about the many facets and nuances of coordination. The panelists' wide range of experiences and perspectives will make this a rich and stimulating session.

**Melissa Proctor**, has been coordinating family group conferences (FGCs) for Casey Family Programs, a private nonprofit foundation, in its San Diego office for over seven years. Casey's primary use of FGC is in asking families to develop plans with goals of moving children out of the child welfare system and, following family finding efforts, uniting youth with family not currently known to them. Some of the factors that make the use of family group conferencing at Casey unique are working in a jurisdiction that does not use this model and the FGCs that have been held in other countries (Mexico and Guatemala).

**Marilee Sherry**, MSW, RSW, has been the coordinator and manager for family group decision making at Brant Family and Children's Services, Brantford, Ontario, Canada, for the past nine years. She is also an FGC/FGDM trainer and mentor for new coordinators in Ontario and has provided training for coordinators in New Brunswick and the United States. Marilee has her MSW from Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo, Ontario) and has been employed with the Brant FACS since 1998. Prior to becoming the FGDM coordinator, she spent five years as a front-line child protection worker and manager, delivering child welfare services in community-based settings.

**Pete Small Bear**, enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is employed with the Tribe's Indian Child Welfare Act Program as a social worker and is a consultant for the National Resource Center for Tribes, providing training and technical assistance to different tribal child welfare programs. Pete co-developed and implemented a culturally-based family engagement model that integrates traditional and customary Lakota philosophy and practices to better serve families. He has over twenty years of experience in various capacities of child welfare. Pete completed graduate work and received his MSW from University of Washington School of Social Work.

**Yolanda Young**, family group decision making specialist (FGDM) for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), has supervised FGDM coordinators in Arlington, Texas, for the past seven years. Prior to her current role, Yolanda coordinated and facilitated family group conferences as part of the Tarrant County FGDM implementation team. Currently, Yolanda supervises a team of FGDM coordinators (known as family conference specialists) who are participating in a study to evaluate family group conferences within one Texas DFPS program.

## 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Workshops

### Family Power: Working "With" Families to Help Them Realize Their Power

*Elizabeth Smull, MS, CADC, IIRP Graduate School, Bethlehem, PA*

#### Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon A & B - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement

Restorative practices is an emerging social science that hypothesizes that people are happier, more productive, and increasingly willing to make positive changes when people do things with them, rather than to or for them. This hypothesis is consistent with the values and goals of family group decision making (FGDM), which include family engagement, collaboration, and empowerment, all implemented in a respectful manner. In this workshop, we will focus on a continuum of practices—from informal to formal—that are used while working with families. In so doing, we will facilitate a dialogue about restorative ways to engage, collaborate with, and empower families.



### Challenges to Making FGC More Accessible in Child Protection

*Nyron Sookraj, MSW, RSW, Family Group Conferencing Project of Toronto; Doret Phillips, MSW, RSW, Independent Clinician, and Gordon Pon, PhD, Ryerson University, School of Social Work, Toronto, CAN*

**Location: Grand Ballroom, Salon C & D - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

FGC was legislated in Ontario as a tool for alternative dispute resolution. In its evolution it is being used much more broadly as a planning tool in the work with families and children. The FGC process empowers families by promoting a collaborative and anti-oppressive process which many experience as very positive (Merkel-Holguin, Nixon, & Burford, 2003; Schmid & Pollack, 2004; Waites, MacGowan, Pennell, Carlton-LaNey, & Weil, 2004). Despite the legislative support of FGC and the positive feedback from participating families and social workers, a limited number of referrals to FGC are being made by some child welfare agencies in Ontario. We will examine some of the challenges that are preventing child welfare agencies from making more referrals to FGC and suggest some possible solutions. We will draw on the literature, work experiences, and Irving and Moffatt's (2002) postmodern positionality of not knowing to advance recommendations.

### The Natural Fit: Kinship Care and Family Group Decision Making

*Caitlin Price, LMSW, and Ahmad Kamara, MEd, A Second Chance, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA*

**Location: Sun Down - Track 3: Collaboration and Implementation Strategies**

A Second Chance, Inc. is an organization deeply committed to the practice of kinship care with nearly two decades of experience. The relevance of kinship care is a documented trend in child welfare today. This workshop will focus specifically on the unique attributes of kinship caregivers and the critical role that FGDM plays within the practice.

### Engagement and Support of Youth and Families in the Child Welfare System: A Review of Three Practice Models

*Elizabeth J. Greeno, PhD, LCSW-C, Berenice Rushovich, MSW, and Kantahyanee Murray, PhD, University of Maryland School of Social Work, Baltimore, MD; and Joshua Brusca, LGSW, Baltimore County Department of Social Services, Baltimore, MD*

**Location: Blue Sky - Track 2: Practice Skills and Knowledge Advancement**

One mid-Atlantic state implemented three programs to enhance engagement and support of families and youth involved with child welfare services. These included services to help older youth in foster care establish connections with family members (Family Finding), to improve involvement of family members at critical junctures in the decision-making and service provision process (Family Involvement Meetings), and to support kinship caregivers in providing for children in their care (Kinship Navigator). The purpose of this presentation is to 1) describe the three programs, 2) assess staff perceptions of practice changes, and 3) understand youth and families' perceptions of the programs.

## 2014 FGDM AND OTHER FAMILY ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES WEBINAR SERIES

### Competencies for Strengths-Based Family Workers

Thursday, August 14, 2014 | 2pm EDT, 1pm CDT, 12pm MDT, 11am PDT, 8am HST

### Leading the Way: Supervisors Promoting Critical Thinking in FGDM Practice

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 | 2pm EDT, 1pm CDT, 12pm MDT, 11am PDT, 8am HST

### Family Group Decision Making: Engaging, Encouraging, and Empowering Families to Succeed

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 | 2pm EDT, 1pm CDT, 12pm MDT, 11am PDT, 8am HST

### Believe It or Not: The Interplay Between Child Welfare Agency Staff Attitudes and Knowledge About FGDM and Implementation

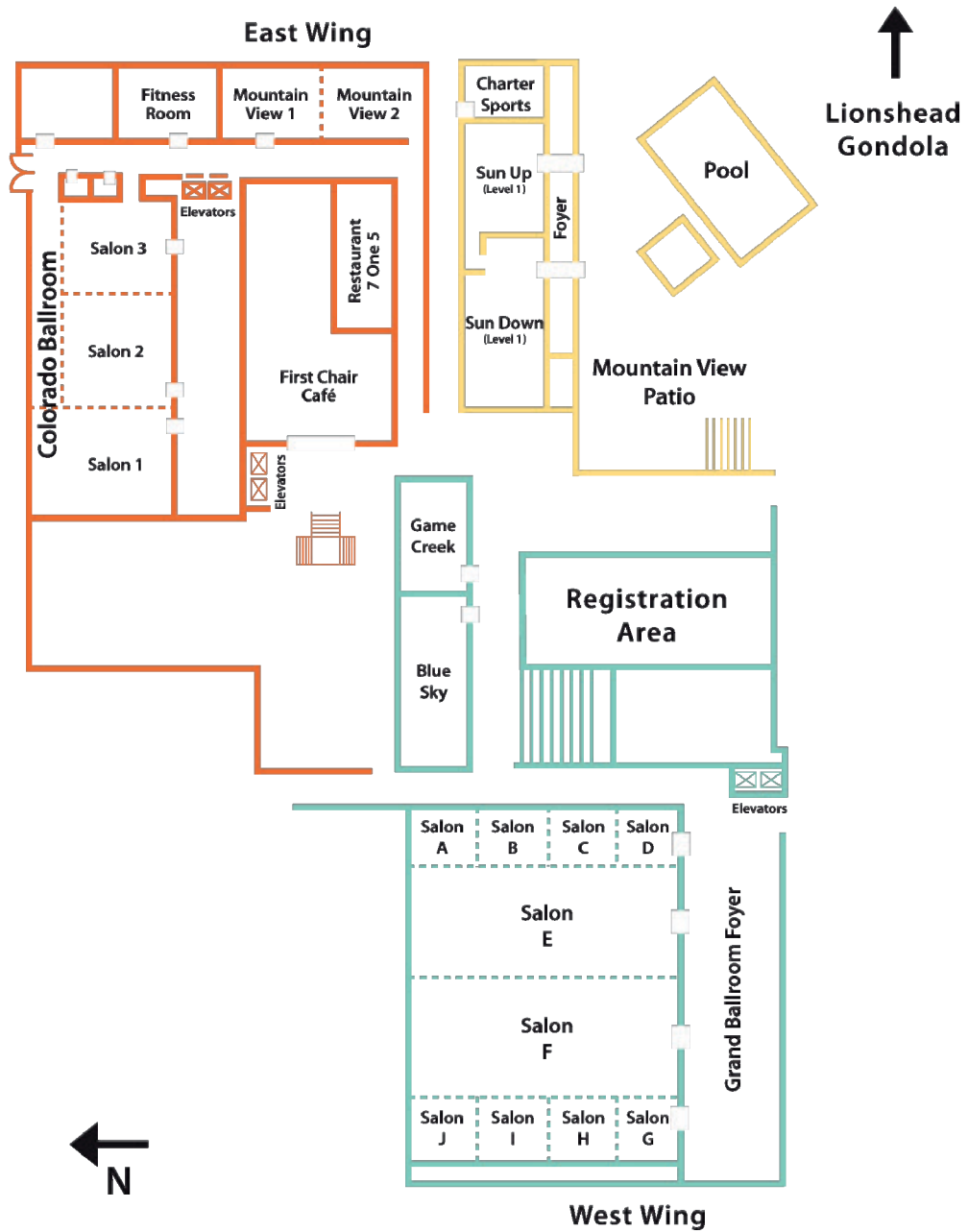
Thursday, November 13, 2014 | 2pm EST, 1pm CST, 12pm MST, 11am PST, 9am HST

### How to register for the webinars

Online Registration: Visit [www.fgdm.org](http://www.fgdm.org). Scroll down and click on the webinar link.



17th Conference on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches  
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