

# Unique Features of FGDM

(As implemented in Pennsylvania)

- Emphasis is on the strengths.
- Strengths are the tools to solve concerns.
- Communicating in the language of concerns.
- Addressing problems in a different way that minimizes arguing and fighting
- Family as the Primary Decision Maker:
  - Family has power and accountability.
  - Family members are the only ones present during decision making.
  - Family Private Time helps insure that the plan is coming from the family.
- An Extensive Family Gathering.
  - Family defines who is family.
    - Family decides who attends.
    - Family reaches out to all that care.
    - Identifies great resources.
  - Family gathering not an agency meeting.
  - Site chosen by the family.

## Unique Features of FGDM (continued)

- FGDM is transformational because:
  - It is not a program.
  - It requires a change in thinking and behavior, especially in agency staff.
  - It challenges dominant practice.
  - It requires building partnerships.
  - It is a practice / way of thinking.
- FGDM is a process.
  - FGDM is an extensive process that involves vast preparation.
  - Process begins when the referral source offers FGDM to the family.
  - “Would you like to do things differently?”

