

207: Introduction to Family Group Decision Making (FGDM):

Part 2

Appendix A

Case Scenario #1

A referral source addresses a bottom line concern that the child has to continue with early intervention services. The speech therapist is currently working on sign language and the family is against this. They want the therapist to be working on speech. The paternal side of the family feels that this requirement is a waste of time and could actually hinder the child's progress in the long run. The maternal side feels that any form of language is better than nothing and wants to support the therapist. Some of the resources do not want to take sides, but want to be educated on the subject before advocating one way or the other. The majority of the family members invited are interested in having a guest speaker that can answer their questions. Along with the speech therapist there is also an occupational therapist, an early intervention case manager and a mobile therapist that will be attending this family's conference.

Section IV: Step 5 – Widening the Circle

- Roles:
 - ✓ Paternal grandfather: Adamantly opposed to inviting the speech therapist to the meeting and wants that service discontinued
 - ✓ Mother: Wants the speech therapist at the meeting. Becomes angry with husband for not supporting her against his father.

Section VII: Step 3 – The Delicate Balance of Coordinating

- Roles:
 - ✓ Paternal grandfather shares his concern that learning sign language is “going to prevent my grand kids from ever talking”.
 - ✓ Maternal grandmother shares that she prefers that “other grandfather” not even attend, so that he “does not distract us from what we have to do”.
 - ✓ Mom is ready to give up on the whole process.
 - ✓ Other family members want to have a guest speaker at the conference to talk about the benefits of learning sign language, but grandfather and dad are opposed.

Section VIII: Step 5 – Pre-Conference

- Roles:
 - ✓ Speech Therapist: Believes that she knows what's best for the child - defensive
 - ✓ Case Worker: Child must continue learning sign language
 - ✓ Early Intervention Case Manager: Any language ability is better than none and this will not impede, but can actually help with language development

Section IX: Step 10 – Concern Under the Concern

- Grandfather states that sign language is a waste of time!
- Mom begins to cry and yell at grandfather about being a jerk!
- Dad becomes passive.