

## **Key Principles and Practices of Family Group Conferencing**

(Pennell, Hardison & Yerkes, 1999)

1. Build broad based support & cultural competence
  - Wide range of community & public organizations
  - Partners retain roles & responsibilities
2. Enable coordinators work with families to organize conferences
  - Coordinators respect families & communities
  - Primary role of coordinator is conference organizing
  - Culture and practice consultation
  - More family members than professionals
3. Have the conference belongs to family group
  - Holding conference in a place that fits the family culture
  - Reasons that families & professionals can understand for holding conference
4. Foster understanding of the family & creativity in planning
  - Inviting different sides of the family
  - Broadly defining what is “family”
5. Help participants take part safely & effectively
  - Preparing family group & service providers
  - Building in supports & protections
  - Arranging transportation, childcare as needed
  - By asking information providers to share concerns, knowledge & resources
  - but not to dictate the solutions
6. Tap into family strengths in making a plan
  - Ensuring that the family group has private time to come up with its plan
7. Promote carrying out the plan & fulfilling the mission
  - Timely approval of plans regarding safety & resourcing
  - Integrating supports & resources of the family group organizations and public agencies
  - Building in monitoring & evaluation of plans and follow up meetings
  - Implementing & revising plans
8. Fulfill the purpose of the plan
  - Supporting efforts of the family group & service providers
9. Change policies, procedures & resources to sustain partnerships among family groups, community organizations & public agencies
  - Using program evaluation as a means of change
  - Developing and using integrative & culturally competent approaches