

Increasing the Family's Voice and Active Engagement in Positive Change

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The Federal CFSSR (Child and Family Services Review) on Family Involvement

Item 14: How effective is the agency in preserving connections for children (continuity of family relationships)?

Item 18: How effective is the agency in involving parents and children in the case planning process?

Item 14: Nebraska 2008 CFSSR Report Findings

❖ Designated as "Area Needing Improvement"

❖ Specific finding: "the agency did not make efforts to preserve the child's important connections"

Item 18: Nebraska 2008 CFSSR Report Findings

- ❖ Designated as "Area Needing Improvement"
- ❖ Specific Findings:
 - ❖ Involved in Case Planning
 - ❖ Mom: 65%
 - ❖ Dad: 35%
 - ❖ Child: 60%
 - ❖ In only 39% of cases, the agency made diligent efforts to include the family in the case planning process
 - ❖ There is a fundamental lack of trust between families and DHHS that impedes the agency's ability to involve the family in case planning
 - ❖ Pre-hearing conferences and family team meetings involve parents in resolving issues

Family Involvement Continuum

Family Voice in Decision Making *System Voice in Decision Making*

Families, along with their support network, craft initial plans that are subsequently shared with the professionals who work collaboratively with the family to ensure it is attainable and meets the highest standards for achieving the goals of safety, permanency, and well-being.	Families are part of the decision making team. In these instances, families partner with professionals to create consensual decisions acceptable to all parties.	Families have a genuine voice at the meetings. Their ideas, needs, perspectives, and other inputs are sought at the meetings, but the decision making rests with professionals.	Families are present at meetings where decisions will be made about their children.	Families are not included in meetings or other forums where decisions are made about their children.
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Slide 5 American Humane Association, 2009

Family Group Conference Data

- General Findings:
- Completed in 2006, 65 FGCs reviewed
 - On average, 7.6 family members attended and 4.7 professionals attended
 - Parents and family members found the process fair, felt their voice was heard and felt respected
 - A placement plan was developed 84% of the time, and 94% of the plans recommended long-term placement with the parent or relatives

Family Member Perceptions of FGC- Average Ratings
 (1=agree, 2=somewhat agree, 3= neither agree nor disagree, 4=somewhat disagree, and 5=disagree. Lower numbers indicate more positive attitudes.)

	Parent with Allegations	Other Family Members
The information the FGC coordinator provided was complete.	1.2	1.2
The FGC coordinator answered my questions about the process.	1.2	1.2
The FGC coordinator treated me with respect.	1.1	1.0
The FGC coordinator was helpful throughout the process.	1.2	1.2
Information provided by other service providers (e.g. counselors, therapists) was complete.	1.5	1.5
To the extent I desired, I had an opportunity to express my views – Introduction/Information Stage.	1.4	1.2
To the extent I desired, I had an opportunity to express my views – Private Family Time.	1.5	1.4
To the extent I desired, I had an opportunity to express my views – Decision Making Stage	1.5	1.3
I felt pressure to resolve the issue quickly.	3.4	3.8
The issues important to me were identified and discussed.	1.6	1.4
I had the necessary information to decide on a plan.	1.5	1.5
Resolving a family problem by going through an FGC was a helpful process.	1.5	1.3
The FGC process was efficient.	1.5	1.5
The FGC process followed the explanation the coordinator provided.	1.3	1.2
I learned about the needs of the child(ren) that I did not know about before the FGC.	2.4	2.2

Family Member and Professional Perceptions of FGC- Average Ratings
 (1=agree, 2=somewhat agree, 3= neither agree nor disagree, 4=somewhat disagree, and 5=disagree. Lower numbers indicate more positive attitudes. FGC rating/FGC rating)

	Parent with Allegations	Other Family Members	Child Protection Worker	Attorney	Other Professionals
The FGC coordinator clearly explained the FGC process.	1.2/1.2	1.1/1.1	1.1/1.1	1.5/1	1.1/1
The FGC process was fair.	1.4/1.6	1.3/1.3	1.1/1.2	1.4/1	1.2/1.2
I would recommend the FGC process to a friend, (or in a future, similar case).	1.5/1.7	1.3/1.4	1.0/1.2	1.5/1.3	1.2/1.2
Resolving a family problem by going through an FGC is better than going to court. (I would rather see problems resolved through FGC rather than court).	1.3/1.5	1.2/1.4	1.5/1.9	1.8/1.5	1.5/1.2
Overall, I was satisfied with the FGC process.	1.3/1.4	1.2/1.6	1.1/1.2	1.8/1	1.3/1.1
The plan developed adequately addressed the <i>safety needs</i> of the child.	1.3/1.7	1.3/1.6	1.2/1.5	1.0/2.5	1.4/1.3
The plan developed adequately addressed the <i>permanency needs</i> of the child.	1.6/1.6	1.4/1.9	1.3/1.6	1.7/4.5	1.6/1.1
The plan developed adequately addressed the <i>rehabilitation needs</i> of the parent(s).	1.5/2.2	1.5/2.1	1.5/2.1	2.0/4.5	2.0/2.7

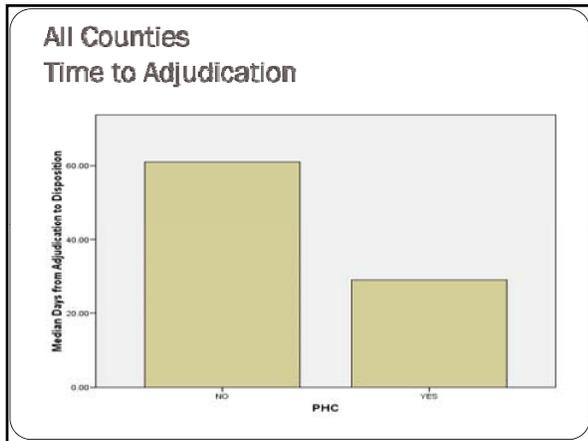
Pre-Hearing Conference Data

General Finding:
 - Completed in 2007
 - Cases that had Pre-Hearing Conferences had faster times to adjudication hearings and less time between adjudication and disposition hearings

All Counties Time to Adjudication

- According to the mean (average) and median (midpoint) it appears that cases that utilized PHCs adjudicated about a month faster than cases that did not utilize PHCs

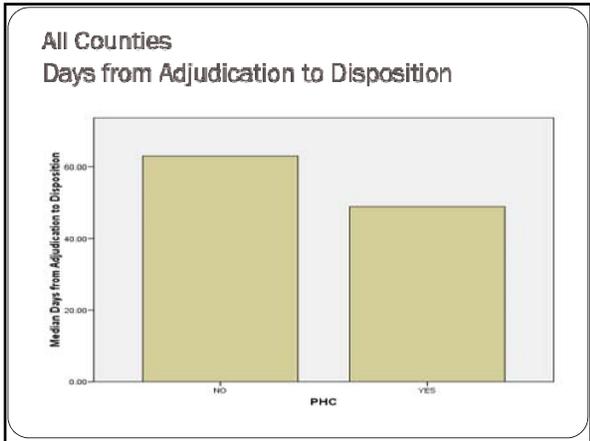
PHC		N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Std. Deviation
NO	Days to Adjudication	77	0	384	77.05	61	64.08
	Closed before Adj	25					
	Not yet Adjudicated	2					
YES	Days to Adjudication	77	1	188	47.07	29	42.82
	Closed before Adj	15					
	Not yet Adjudicated	4					



All Counties Time from Adjudication to Disposition

- According to the mean and median, it appears that cases that utilized PHCs had shorter time frames between adjudication and disposition. The time between adjudication and disposition appears to be about a week shorter, making the total time from petition filing to disposition about 5 weeks faster for cases that utilized PHCs than cases that did not.

PHC		N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Std. Deviation
NO	Adj. to Disposition	73	0	200	65.97	63	43.05
	Closed before Disp.	27					
	Not reached Disp.	4					
YES	Adj. to Disposition	76	0	200	59.28	49	38.38
	Closed before Disp.	15					
	Not reached Disp.	5					



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