



Key Outcome Evaluation Findings

Family Connections Oregon (FCO) was a demonstration project funded by the Children’s Bureau with both service delivery and systems change components. Service delivery consisted of a co-located FCO Coordinator that provided a package of services (intensive family finding and engagement, family group conferencing [FGC], and follow-up) within the first 60 days of a child’s out-of-home placement. Systems change sought to install leadership, workforce, and infrastructure supports for sustainable family meeting practice in Oregon.

Service Delivery Outcomes

Key Finding	Examples
Challenging to provide complete service to all families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 in 3 cases had enhanced family search and initial contact 1 in 2 cases participated in a family group conference
Time spent on each case varied widely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29: Median total service hours per case when family had FGC 55: Maximum number of service hours per case reported
Families and caseworkers generally satisfied with service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on strengths improved family & caseworker attitudes Value of family voice at meetings Improved information sharing and communication
No clear impact on child well-being and family support compared to control children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both FCO and Control children’s well-being improved equally No change in family protective factors or perceptions of support
Trends (not statistically significant) in child welfare outcomes compared to control children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCO children spent fewer days in paid foster care than control children FCO children less likely to return to foster care placement after trial reunification than control children

Evaluation Limitations: Small sample sizes made it difficult to find statistically significant results when analyzing quantitative data, and to generalize findings. Reasons for small sample sizes for the FCO evaluation were:

- Fewer children met eligibility criteria than expected (1 site)
- Coordinators able to handle fewer cases than expected
- Difficulty getting permission to contact families randomly assigned to control group
- Short program duration (2 years) and limited follow-up timeframe (6 months)

Systems Change Outcomes

Key Accomplishments

Continuum of Five Meetings Model presented to DHS leadership; basis for policy option package for 2016 legislative session

Significant influence on new Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration project planning (Leveraging Intensive Family Engagement, or LIFE)

Ongoing state-level parent advisory board with sustainable funding

Elements of FCO Model included in new meeting facilitator training provided by Child Welfare Partnership at PSU

Ongoing family meeting practice course offered at the School of Social Work at PSU

Questions?

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