

Family Connections Oregon: Core Components of Combined Model

Component	Rationale
FCO intervention	<p>Family Finding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands family network & supportive resources • Ensures cultural responsiveness and specificity • Widely accepted approach with older youth in care • Testing with early intervention cases shows promise • More comprehensive than traditional relative searches <hr/> <p>Family Group Conferencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets requirements of State of Oregon statute • Promotes family voice and empowers family to make decisions • Strengths-oriented and culturally-relevant • Increased family engagement and follow-through • Families often choose informal support over services • Evidence of reduction in racial disproportionality • Evidence of increased relative placements
Single Family Connections Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The same person initially contacts family, then plans and facilitates meeting • Increased knowledge of and engagement with family • Combined role improves continuity of relationship and coordination • Coordinator is familiar with family dynamics prior to meeting • As facilitator, coordinator has a holistic sense of family strengths, culture, and needs • One person interacts and collaborates with DHS caseworker; less risk of information loss • Coordinator must have DHS experience or comparable skills demonstrating an ability to understand the complexities of casework, policies, and the demands and priorities of caseworkers • Lowers risk of “role drift” due to DHS workforce needs • Seen as neutral by family members
Co-location in branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates coordination and information-sharing • Promotes familiarity and trust through informal contact • Eases service provider access to case files and databases • Sharing space encourages case referrals • May offer more options for sustaining the practice after the grant



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Front-end service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands family support and resources early in the case • Potentially prevents early placement changes or disruption • Developing family resources encourages relative placement, supports reunification efforts, and likely prevents re-entry • Promotes both legal and emotional permanency
Trauma-informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves child well-being • Assessment-driven • Increases individualization of services • Promotes awareness of parent/family trauma experiences • Engage families without triggering a trauma response • Possibility of increased stability in placement • Helps family plan for child and parent needs • Promotes resilience, coping skills, & family protective factors
Family voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowers family members to make decisions that meet safety needs of child • Increases ownership of plan and outcomes • Draws on family knowledge and expertise of ‘what will work’ • Family voice at the policy level provides important input and advocacy for effective implementation and sustainability
Culturally and linguistically responsive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces disproportionality in the child welfare system • Empowers families • Increases engagement and possibility of success for families

Sources:

Cromer, D. (2007). Through no fault of their own: Reasserting a child's right to family connectedness in the child welfare system. *Family Law Quarterly*, 41, 181-195.

Malm, K., & Allen, T. (2011). *Family Finding: Does Implementation Differ When Serving Different Child Welfare Populations?* Retrieved from http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2011_10_17_RB_FamilyFinding.pdf.

Key stakeholder interviews conducted by PSU Family Connections Oregon Team – January/February 2013.

Sheets, J., Wittenstrom, K., Fong, R., James, J., Tecci, M., Baumann, D.J., et al., (2009). Evidence-based practice in family group decision-making for Anglo, African American and Hispanic families, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 31, 1187–1191.

The 9 Essential Elements of Trauma-Informed Child Welfare Practice http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/CWT3_SHO_EEs.pdf

The 12 Core Concepts: Concepts for Understanding Traumatic Stress Responses in Children and Families

<http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers/what-is-cts/12-core-concepts>

Involving Families in Decision Making in Child Welfare: A Review of the Literature on Family Meetings

Conducted by the Child Welfare Partnership, Portland State University April 2010

<http://www.pdx.edu/ccf/sites/www.pdx.edu.ccf/files/Involving%20Familiesin%20DecisionMaking-4-12-10.pdf>

Involving Families in Decision Making in Child Welfare: A Review of the Literature on Family Meetings - Executive Summary

Conducted by the Child Welfare Partnership, Portland State University April 2010

<http://www.pdx.edu/ccf/sites/www.pdx.edu.ccf/files/InvolvingFamiliesExecSum.pdf>

Birth Parents with Trauma Histories and the Child Welfare System, Resources at:

<http://nctsn.org/resources/topics/child-welfare-system>

http://nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/birth_parents_trauma_history_fact_sheet_final.pdf