

Family Decision Meetings

Background Notes

Oregon has been a national leader in the use of Family Decision Meetings (FDMs). There is even a rule in Oregon law which states that an Oregon Family Decision Meeting (OFDM) must be considered after 30 days of a child being in an out of home placement, **Requirements for a Family Decision-making Meeting**, [413-040-0008](#).

The purpose of the Oregon Family Decision Meeting is to establish with the family, extended family and community partners a permanency plan for a child, a concurrent plan for the child and to develop an action agreement with the family which addresses the safety, attachment and permanency needs of the child. Oregon Family Decision Meetings typically lay the groundwork for future Family Decision Meetings. Family Decision Meetings are used to review case plans, and to discuss the ongoing safety, permanency and well-being needs of the child.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Talk with a co-worker or your Supervisor to find out how Oregon Family Decision Meetings are arranged in your office. Does your office have a contract with an outside facilitator or does someone in the branch facilitate the meetings? What is the referral process?
- Arrange with your Supervisor or a co-worker to observe an **Oregon Family Decision Meeting**. Pay attention to the facilitator's role and the caseworker's role.
- Arrange with your Supervisor or a co-worker to observe a **Family Decision Meeting**. What kinds of differences, if any, do you notice about the two meetings?

Reference:

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/division_40.pdf

Discoveries:

- *What were the positive outcomes you notice in the OFDM?*
- *What is the difference in the caseworker's role in each of the two meetings?*
- *Consider which of your cases needs either an FDM or an OFDM?*