

## FGC in Russia

FGC in Russia is implemented within the frames of the project and is not legislated. Thus the national standards have not been developed yet. Specialists that were trained on this technology implement FGC in 7 regions of Russia. Methodological guidance "Family Group Conferences: theory and practice" (author S.V. Konopleva) was published in Russia. Pioneer experience of FGC implementation in Russia is introduced in this methodological guidance; adjusted terms on FGC method are introduced, content is defined as well as technology and peculiarities of work of all participants including independent coordinator who is specially trained to organize family group conferences. Practical approbation of the method in North-West of Russia is described in the methodological guidance; recommendations for further implementation of the method in Russia are presented.

The target group of the methodological guidance is specialists that were trained on FGC method: teachers, psychologists, social workers, students.

### Content of methodological guidance:

1. History of family group conferences.
2. FGC: General characteristics of the method and roles of the process participants. Preparation of FGC:
  - Personality of independent coordinator
  - Preparatory work with a family
  - Preparatory work with a child
  - Cooperation with professionals
  - Organizing of FGC.
3. Stages of FGC implementation:
  - ✓ Information sharing
  - ✓ Private time of a family
  - ✓ Presentation and acceptance of the plan
4. Conclusion of independent coordinator activity
5. Practical approbation and spreading the results of FGC method implementation in North-West of Russia.

Within the frames of the project professionals are trained on FGC method at the seminar for the period of 3 days. Then they approbate the method in practice. After implementation of FGC in a family an independent coordinator obligatory presents the reporting documents that include:

1. Application from a family for FGC implementation.
2. Description of the situation by a referent and an independent coordinator.
3. Data chart of the conference.
4. Plan of preliminary meetings with all participants of the process filled in by the independent coordinator.
5. List of the conference participants.
6. Interview of the participants.
7. Plan, approved by family groups (who, what, when will be implemented).
8. Evaluation list of FGC made by program participants and an independent coordinator.

A copy of a family plan is made and distributed among each FGC participant.

Independent coordinator contacts a head family member that is chosen by a family for communication with an independent coordinator within the whole period while a family fulfills

a plan. Usually there is a telephone talk or a personal meeting at least 1 time in 2 weeks when an independent coordinator supports a family in making changes in the plan. After fulfilling of a plan by a family a family if needed (by agreement with a family) is followed up by a social center or educational institution at the place of its residence. An independent coordinator contacts a family once in 3 months to find out if everything is OK in a family.

Children aged 10 years old are offered to participate in FGC. Specialists at schools and social centers distribute booklets on FGC, make informational stands, and make presentation of FGC at the school meetings with children informing children about opportunity for them to take part in FGC. In some institutions for children there are competitions of children's drawings on FGC. If children live in state boarding institutions and rehabilitation centers rooms for implementing FGC are often decorated by care givers with the child's photos and drawings. It contributes to activating positive feelings of family groups and raising a child's self-appreciation.

Specialists and family groups are carefully prepared for the stage of information sharing. An independent coordinator follows up FGC criteria and principles fulfillment. Professionals respect the following rules that support them to comply with the principles:

1. Independent coordinator is responsible for the meeting of family groups and specialists.
2. Family groups are hosts of the meeting, time and resources for making a decision is provided to them.
3. Family members are entitled for their private time.
4. Family has a right to its own plan and professionals accept it if it is safe for a child.
5. Independent coordinator and professionals support family groups providing them necessary services and resources for fulfillment of the approved plan.

All specialists that implement FGC method in their work with families respect FGC values accepted worldwide and build their work in compliance with them.

(List of FGC values was presented to us by Rob van Pagee):

- Each person has a right to maintain his/her kinship and cultural connections throughout his/her life;
- Individuals belong to systems that nurture them and carry out responsibility for them:
  - Family;
  - Community
- Children and their parents are the context of care, protection and well-being resolutions;
- Family groups know their history and they use this information along with that provided by professionals, to construct through plans;
- Strengths and resources of a family are the core elements in solving problems;
- A family is the only and full host of the process;

(Special attention is paid to this value when professionals are invited)

- Family groups are entitled to the respect of the state;
- The state has a responsibility to recognize, support and build the family groups' capacity to protect and care for their members.

Non-governmental educational institution "Children Placement Support Center" implements the project "Family Group Conferences" in Russia and cooperate with organizations that have wide experience in work with substituted families, experience in working out and promotion of social technologies on social orphan hood prevention:

- ✓ Ministry of Labor and Social Development of Murmansk region;
- ✓ Ministry of Education and Science of Murmansk region;

- ✓ Murmansk State Humanitarian University;
- ✓ Ministry of Health Care and Social Issues of Norway;
- ✓ Regional Office on Children, Youth and Families Issues of Northern Norway (Bufetat).

Partnership cooperation is established with 8 regions in Russia.

In 2012 the project “Family Group Conferences” was included in the program “Competency training of specialists on provision support to families and children” financed by the Federal Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation within the frames of provision grants from the federal state budget.

The project “Family Group Conferences” is also included in the Regional Program of Actions in the Interests of Children of the Murmansk Region for the years 2012-2017 (№ 570-PP dated 14.11.2012).

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