



Family Group Conferences in Sweden 2012

Background

Family Group Conferences came to Sweden in the mid-1990s. Two projects were run by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities, the first between 1995 and 1997 and the second one between 1998 and 2000.

Present situation

There is no legal mandate for using Family Group Conferences in Sweden, but the values underpinning the method are consistent with legislation.

There has been no national funding for developing Family Group Conferences after 2000 and no state funded national organization that takes responsibility for promoting or supporting FGCs. Instead municipalities using Family Group Conferences have formed an informal network and representatives meet on a regular basis to share experiences and discuss quality standards. Predominantly two municipalities take responsibility for promoting and supporting FGCs in Sweden; Höör and Botkyrka.

In Höör Family Group Conferences are used very frequently. The three socialworkers responsible for investigating children at risk have between two and four FGCs a month.

Somewhere between 5 and 10 out of the total of 290 municipalities in Sweden use Family Group Conferences on an “on and off” basis.

Coordinators

| Box 56
| 243 21 Höör
VXL | 0413 – 28 000

E-post: socialnamnden@hoor.se | www.hoor.se

Most municipalities in Sweden employ coordinators for one assignment a time. The coordinators are mostly lay people and common to all of them are that they are accustomed to working with people, without necessarily having caring professions. Botkyrka have full time employed coordinators.

Scandinavian network

In a Scandinavian network representatives from Sweden, Norway and Denmark discuss joint quality standards for FGC, as well as a joint programme for coordinator training. It is of great importance for us in Sweden that Norway has a strong national support system for Family Group Conferences, both on a state level and in the five regions. Their work is an inspiration for us and helps us in our ambition to develop FGCs in Sweden, to set and maintain quality standards.

Höör November 2nd 2012

Ewa Näslund

Municipality of Höör