Exit this survey

Family Finding Engagement Survey

Child Welfare Director Survey

Welcome to the Family Finding and Engagement Survey.

Information on Person Completing Survey

Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Email

County:

We appreciate your taking the time to complete this statewide survey on Family Finding and Engagement (FFE). Below are the core elements of FFE, as defined by the Child Welfare Council's permanency committee.

The core elements are divided into the following stages: (1) setting the stage; (2) discovery; (3) review of discovery; (4) engagement; (5) exploration and planning; (6) decision making; and (7) sustaining connections. While there is a natural sequence to this work, it typically involves multitasking at differing stages with each individual contact, so as the process evolves one may be in many stages of work at any particular time, or have to retrace stages. Each connection may have its own speed and rhythm.

In order to ascertain whether your county practices these core elements of FFE, we are asking 2 questions relating to each stage. Please review the stages described below and answer the 2 questions for each stage.

I - Setting the Stage

1. Social worker and social worker supervisor agree on definition, philosophy and clinical issues re: permanency, and clarity about the urgent need for family connections

2. Meeting with child to discuss and get input for team development—who does child want on team to create permanence, and who are power brokers that need to be on the team, who will be primary person to work on search and engagement

3. Have child identify what they want to achieve from search and engagement activities

4. Ensure all permissions and communication protocols are in place

5. Reaching out to potential members, ensuring the team is inclusive of family, and orienting the team to its purpose

6. Setting a time to meet

After reviewing this stage, is your county engaged in this practice?

No

- ○ Yes, some of these
- ○ Yes, most of these
- ○ Yes, all of these

Next

Family Finding Engagement Survey

Exit this survey

Child Welfare Director Survey

What percentage of your county's caseload do you practice this stage of FFE?

Prev Next

Child Welfare Director

II - Discovery

1. Do initial assessment (or confirm/update what you already have) as to contacts child has—develop a tree, connected map

2. Ask who child wants to meet or find or renew

3. If needed, mine file, internet (free or paid) search

4. Contact those identified

5. Document findings

6. Bring information back to child and team

After reviewing this stage, is your county engaged in this practice?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes, some of these
- ○ Yes, most of these
- ○ Yes, all of these

Prev Next

Family Finding Engagement Survey

Exit this survey

Child Welfare Director Survey

What percentage of your county's caseload do you practice this stage of FFE?

Prev Next

Child Welfare Directors Survey

III - Review of Discovery (one model includes this with discovery)

1. Review information with team, understand what each connection can bring to the child

2. Invite new contacts to attend as child determines

3. Identify how new members can contribute

After reviewing this stage, is your county engaged in this practice?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes, some of these
- ○ Yes, most of these
- ○ Yes, all of these

Prev Next

Family Finding Engagement Survey

Exit this survey

Child Welfare Directors Survey

What percentage of your county's caseload do you practice this stage of FFE?

Prev Next

Child Welfare Directors Survey

IV- Engagement

1. Discuss and prepare child (develop strategy for each contact including contingency plans if adult doesn't show or safety action may be needed, support child may need following visit) for meetings with found contacts (ensure needed background checks are completed)

2. Discuss and prepare family/adult for meetings with child

3. Create meetings, visits (One model separates this step)

4. Identify what resources the family has and what supports are needed to sustain relationships

5. Focus on developing relationships, not placement or a specific outcome such as adoption

6. Schedule in comfortable locations with family and the child

7. Debrief with all parties

After reviewing this stage, is your county engaged in this practice?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes, some of these
- ○ Yes, most of these
- ○ Yes, all of these

Prev Next

Child Welfare Director Survey

What percentage of your county's caseload do you practice this stage of FFE?

Prev Next

Child Welfare Director Survey

V - Exploration and Planning

1. Bring results of meetings back to team and discuss

2. Introduce new members and prepare all for participation

3. Evaluate any potential new contacts identified or renew discovery as needed

4. Help team explore options and assign tasks, set timelines and review

5. Identify options for further contact, support needed etc.

After reviewing this stage, is your county engaged in this practice?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes, some of these
- ○ Yes, most of these
- ○ Yes, all of these

Prev Next

Child Welfare Director Survey

What percentage of your county's caseload do you practice this stage of FFE?

Prev Next

Child Welfare Director Survey

VI - Decision making

1. Further evaluates progress from adults and child, identifies possibilities for permanence

2. Develops plans A, B & C (at least)

3. Explore legal issues if needed specific to reunification, adoption, guardianship etc.

4. Identify initial support plan for further contact and deepening of relationships

5. Professionals step back more to allow family to lead decision-making

After reviewing this stage, is your county engaged in this practice?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes, some of these
- ○ Yes, most of these
- ○ Yes, all of these

Prev Next

Family Finding Engagement Survey

Exit this survey

Child Welfare Director Survey

What percentage of your county's caseload do you practice this stage of FFE?

Prev Next

Child Welfare Director Survey

VII - Sustaining Connections

1. Evaluate support plan success, revise etc.

2. Review legal status and less formal commitments, equip family with information they need to resolve legal, financial and support issues

3. Keep discussing possibilities of permanence as needed

4. Assist team of non-professionals to forge commitments to sustain support if foster care dependent status is ending

5. Identify post-termination services for the family that will be in place after the case is dismissed

After reviewing this stage, is your county engaged in this practice?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes, some of these
- ○ Yes, most of these
- ○ Yes, all of these

Prev Next

Family Finding Engagement Survey

Exit this survey

Child Welfare Director Survey

What percentage of your county's caseload do you practice this stage of FFE?

Prev Next

Child Welfare Director Survey

You are almost done with this survey. Below are 9 questions to better understand how FFE is operationalized in your county.

When does your county practice FFE?

- ☐ Before the petition is filed;
- ☐ After the petition is filed and before the jurisdiction hearing;
- ☐ After the jurisdiction hearing and before the disposition hearing;
- ☐ After the disposition hearing and before termination of reunification services;
- ☐ Between the hearing terminating reunification services and the selection and implementation hearing;
- ☐ After the selection and implementation hearing.

Who in your county does the work of FFE?

- ☐ county social workers
- ☐ county probation officers;
- ☐ court appointed counsel;
- ☐ pro bono attorneys/paralegals;
- ☐ CASAs
- ☐ Other (please list all organization names and a contact for each)

What model or models are used to engage families?

- ☐ Family Team Conferences (also called Child and Family Team Meetings): These meetings are structured facilitated meetings of family members, friends, members of the family's faith community, and professionals who join together to develop individualized plans to strengthen family capacity, to assure safety, stability and permanency, and to build natural supports that will sustain a family over time. Additional information visit the Child Welfare Group
- ☐ Family Group Conferencing: This is a process for involving families, immediate and extended, in the planning and decisions that are needed to meet the needs of children involved with the Child Welfare System and focuses on family strengths (Morris & Tunnard, 1996). These meetings involve an independent coordinator who prepares (typically 25 hours of preparation over 3 to 4 weeks) and facilitates the meetings. The emphasis of these meetings are to identify family strengths and includes a meeting of family members involved in a private family home, without professionals or support people.
- ☐ Family Unity Model: These meetings also involve an independent coordinator. However, there is less advanced preparation for this meeting and it is not held in a private setting, meaning support people and professionals may attend. The caseworker participates, and is the one to monitor and implement the plan discussed at the meeting. The most significant difference between a Family Group Decision Making meeting and the Family Unity Meeting is that during the Family Unity Meeting there is not specific time set aside for family members to meet alone (professionals are always present). For more information see Quinnett, E. & Harrison R. (1999). An Overview of the Family Unity Meeting Model. A report prepared for the CWLA Mid-Atlantic/ New England Regions Training Conference.

☐ Family Group Decision Making and Family Decision Making Meeting: These meetings combine elements from both Family Group Conferencing and the Family Unity Model by explicitly discussing strengths and concerns and providing private family time during the meeting. Additional information visit the American Humane Society and the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning. Additional information visit the American Humane Society and the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning. Additional information visit the American Humane Society and the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning.

☐ Family to Family- Family Team Meetings: These meetings are usually held within days of the removal of the child and use a skilled and trained facilitator to engage the family and family support persons to create a plan for the child's safety and permanency. The emphasis of the meeting is to develop and maintain a positive relationship between the birth parents and foster parents.

☐ Family to Family- Team Decision Making: These meetings involve the family to help determine alternatives to removal and assist in making the best possible placement decision for the child. TDM meetings are led by a skilled, immediately accessible, internal facilitator, who is not a case-carrying social worker or line supervisor. The goal is to involve birth families and community members, along with resource families, services providers and agency staff, in all placement decisions, to ensure a network or support for the child and adults who care for them. Additional information visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation

☐ Other (please describe)

What types of support for connections are provided prior to and during the reconnection phase?

What types of post-termination services are provided to the family after the case is dismissed?

What steps is your county taking to institutionalize and continue funding the practice of FFE?

Obstacles

Fiscal: What resources would be needed to implement FFE for all the children in your county's child welfare system, and what has been tried to obtain them?

Political: What do you see are the political challenges to implementing FFE in your county, and what has been tried to overcome them?

Operational: What are the operational challenges to implementing FFE in your county, and what has been tried to overcome them?

Prev Next