



National Institute for Permanent
Family Connectedness



National Institute for Permanent Family Contentedness

Permanency Blast

April 2015

Greetings,

In this edition of our permanency blast, we explore the underpinnings and purpose of Family Finding models, and broadly identify the key ingredients and concepts to clarify what we mean when we use the term “Family Finding”; share a recent publication by Child Trends which summarizes Family Finding research to date, disseminate a recent article co-written by the Kempe Center and NIPFC on the model integration of Family Finding with Family Group Decision Making in Olmsted County, Minnesota; forward new developments of legislation designed to attend to meeting CA’s compliance with the Preventing Sexual Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014; and finally announce the **International Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement** in MN from 10/27-30

What is "Family Finding?"

Often as we traverse the country to assist sites to learn, implement, integrate and hopefully sustain Family Finding into their practice models, we encounter vast differences in the interpretation of the terms “Family Finding”, “Family Finding and Engagement” and “Family Search and Engagement”. These interpretations can range from the sole activity of constructing an internet search to the full deployment and implementation of a 6 to 8 step model that identifies tools, activities and targets to utilize and achieve in order to involve

“family” members in the key decisions about the lives of their kin (“family” being inclusive of birth/adoptive family, and chosen family). The interpretations can also be limited to the application of these models to a select number of children who have languished in the system and are not on a path to permanency, or to address every initial encounter with the child welfare system as an opportunity to bring as many “family” members to the table to address safety concerns and potentially avoid entry into the system, while building a safety network.

From our perspective, we would like to clarify the purpose and intentions of the models of Family Finding, Family Search and Engagement, and Family Finding and Engagement, and as such, what is meant when those terms are utilized. [Click here to continue>>](#)

Child Trends: Family Finding Evaluations; A Summary of Recent Findings

Published in January 2015, this brief, authored by Sharon Vandivere and Karin Malm, summarizes the recent family finding research literature and integrates the learning derived from the Family Finding Forum held at the Child Trends office in 2014. [Click here to see the brief>>](#)

NIPFC & Olmsted County: Integrating Family Finding and Family Group Decision Meetings

This brief explains the real-time integration of two well-defined models - Family Finding and Family Group Decision Meetings (FGDM) - into the array of child and youth services in Olmsted County, Minnesota. This piece is co-authored by Lisa Merkel-Holguin and Heather Allan of the Kempe Center, along with NIPFC Director Bob Friend, with contributions from Michele Valletta of Olmsted County Child and Family Services, and Kelli DeCook of Family Service Rochester. [Click here to see the brief>>](#)

Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement

NIPFC is proud to be an official sponsor of the **International Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement** Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 27-30, 2015. The full conference brochure and registration will be available in May, 2015 at www.fgdm.org

For almost two decades, the current Kempe Center faculty have been at the forefront of supporting communities with the implementation of FGDM and differential response, two strategies that innovate child welfare systems. We have also conducted research and served as a dissemination center. In addition, we have hosted annual conferences on both innovations. Beginning in 2015, these annual conferences will be combined into one event: International Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement.

Who Should Attend?

Administrators, program managers, supervisors, workers, practitioners, family meeting coordinators/facilitators, family members, judges, legal professionals, foster parents, community members, service providers, teachers, community leaders in a religious or spiritual institution, policy makers, researchers/evaluators, advocates, and those connected to public and private child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, juvenile and family courts, education, law enforcement, medical services, aging and adult services, hospice services, faith-based services

Anticipated:

- 50 workshops, representing family engagement practices in 30+ States, Canada, England and other countries
- 400 participants from around the world
- Networking opportunities

For more information, please contact:

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AB 519—a proposed bill to bring CA in compliance with Preventing Sex Trafficking and Supporting Families Act of 2014 (PL133-833)

Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D) of California has proposed AB519, sponsored by [Families NOW](#) to bring California into compliance with portions of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PL133-183) by eliminating the option for a child under the age of 16 to have a permanency plan to remain in foster care long term, and requires intensive and ongoing efforts to place foster children into a permanent family prior to deeming them unlikely to be adopted or having no one willing to take legal guardianship. To read an overview of **AB519**, [click here](#). To read a fact sheet summarizing the legislation, [click here](#). Thanks to Gail Johnson-Vaughan of Families NOW for sponsoring this legislation!

Best,

NIPFC Team

To join the mailing list for Kevin Campbell's sister Family Finding Newsletter, [click here>>](#)

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