Family Connection Grant Project
Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: Partnership for Strong Families
Grantee City and State: Gainesville, FL
Grant Project Title: *Family Engagement through Family Team Conferencing*
Family Connection Program Area: Family Group Decision-Making

Summary of Grant Project

Through this demonstration project Partnership for Strong Families will be working with various community and provider agencies (e.g., domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health organizations) to implement and evaluate two experimental models of Family Team Conferencing (FTC). The first model will include key components of promising and evidence informed practices for family engagement in case planning and decision-making. The model will involve immediate engagement with families, and will provide FTCs throughout the life of a case. It will also utilize non-case carrying facilitators who are trained to conduct FTCs and to authorize services quickly for children and families. The second model will include the components of the first model as well as specific time for families to develop a case plan on their own.

The evaluation will include a control group that will receive a basic form of FTC that is currently being implemented in North Central Florida. The project will focus on 13 counties in North Central Florida and will include a random sample of approximately 1200 families who are receiving case management services through In-home supervision (formerly Voluntary Protective Services) or Shelter cases. Mixed methods will be used to evaluate this project; some of the tools and strategies employed are: Structured Decision Making, Risk Reassessment and Reunification Assessments, Goal Attainment Scale; Protective Factors Survey; Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire, focus groups, and interviews with staff, providers, and families. The evaluation will be rigorous, extensive, and will measure process (e.g., model fidelity and family empowerment) and outcomes, focusing primarily on child safety as well as child and family permanency and well being. The evaluation will be designed to provide timely and ongoing feedback about the FTC models being tested to various stakeholders, including program staff, administrators, service providers and families leading to the development and implementation of an evidence supported FTC model.

For more information, contact:
Travis Garland, Project Director
(352) 262-2198
travis.garland@pfsf.org