

**Family Group Conferencing Network Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> August, 2006**  
**Anglicare, 12 Batman St, West Melbourne**

**Attendees:**

**Melbourne City Mission:** Mandy Baxter

**DHS:** Dominique Swift

**Consultants:** Paul Ban

**Anglicare:** Michelle Mealor

**Apologies:**

Marg Brittain, Debbie Moore, Lesley Harding, Marg Kearsley,  
Margaret Armstrong, Nigel Polak

**Frump Program**

Mandy spoke about the FRUMP Program that she is managing, which is aimed at young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years. This program is being funded by DHS/Office of Housing as part of the Youth Homeless Strategy, and is receiving \$300,000 per year until 2007. The focus of the program is on the inclusion of family where possible and encourages interdependence by recognising the meaning of 'family' and exploring individual options.

**Family Group Conferencing Training**

Michelle informed the meeting that Anglicare has organised Family Group Conferencing Making Training, as has been discussed in previous meetings.

Andrea Dwyer, a former Anglicare employee and an experienced FGC Convener/Coordinator will be running this training over 2 sessions- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of September, from Anglicare Yarra Ranges, 47 Castella St, Lilydale.

This training is open to all interested participants but there will be a maximum of 15 participants. If demand for this training is significant, Andrea may be able to offer further training in the future. Flyers and registration forms circulated.

Discussion re the possibility of using experienced conveners to be mentors to participants of this training, to consolidate the course content.

Dominique was unsure about whether she would be able to take on a mentor role, given privacy issues as a DHS employee.

Paul felt that role playing situations within training, according to agency focus would be the best way to provide potential conveners with a 'hands on' perspective. Paul sees role plays as a valuable experiential teaching/learning tool, as participants are able to stop, evaluate and discuss throughout the interaction.

Dominique spoke about the difficulties that remain, in integrating FGC into DHS culture, referring specifically to the north and west regions. It appears that with the new legislation, there will be 3 mandatory points for consultation when FGC will need to be considered as a part of case planning. These points are:

- When initial placements in OOHC are made
- When developing a stability plan for children and youth
- At permanent care case plans

### **FGC Training for Melbourne Citymission Staff**

Paul has offered the staff of Melbourne Citymission a training day, possibly sometime in October, where he plans to present a general introduction to FGC for those staff who need to know about the program, as well as role plays for those who want to convene.

### **Central Contact Person for Network Group**

Paul is willing to continue to chair the FGC Network Meetings, and suggested that the group needs a network coordinator. Marg Brittain was suggested as a candidate for this role- Michelle to call Marg to explore her willingness to be the central contact person for this group.

### **Identity of FGC Network Group**

Further brief discussion re the identity of the group. What are our goals? What do we want to get out of meetings? etc. This discussion needs to be re-agendaed for our next meeting, when hopefully people will have recovered from their winter ills, and attendance will be greater.

Next Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2.00-4.00 p.m,  
The Boardroom  
Melbourne Citymission  
19 King St, Melbourne