

Family Group Decision Making



Adelphoi 

www.adelphoi.org

What is Family Group Decision Making?

FGDM empowers families to work together for the purpose of providing a safe, secure environment, free from abuse and neglect for the child/children.

Purpose:

- To establish a process for families to join with relatives and friends to develop a plan for ensuring that children are cared for and protected from future harm in ways which fit their culture and situation.
- To extend the responsibility for child safety, well-being and permanence to families, communities and natural support systems.

Outcomes:

- A one-time Family Conference meeting is held where the family develops their own unique plan. The Family will embrace and call on others they identify as key in helping them develop a plan for their future.
- The family will have a written plan with goals and objectives that will center on utilizing family strengths to guide them in working toward recovery, and self-sufficiency.

For years dominant practice has held the belief that families have problems and professionals are hired to fix them. It has focused on looking for problems and giving advice about handling those problems. It gives little credence to the idea that families have strengths and are experts on themselves.



Core Beliefs of FGDM

Families have strengths and can change

Strengths are what ultimately resolve concerns

All families have the greatest investment in seeing their children safe and successful

All families have the ability to come together and solve family concerns

Family Members should be the primary decision makers for their family

Families should choose which relatives, friends and providers will attend their conference

Family Members know their family's best

All families have some resources they can count on to help them in times of need

Empowering people is preferable to controlling them

Empowering families will lead to families controlling their lives

Families are the experts

Children are best raised in families

Families should be respected

Mistakes are opportunities for growth

Referrals and Admissions

Once the referral is received, the FGDM supervisor will assign the case to an FGDM coordinator to make initial contact with the family. The coordinator will make every effort to contact the family within 48 hours to set up an initial meeting. At the initial meeting, the FGDM coordinator will explain the FGDM process, explain that the service is voluntary, and get the family's agreement to participate in the process. After the family agrees to participate in the FGDM process, a facilitator will be assigned to the case. The FGDM facilitator will be the person to conduct the family conference at the conclusion of the process.



Why does FGDM Work?

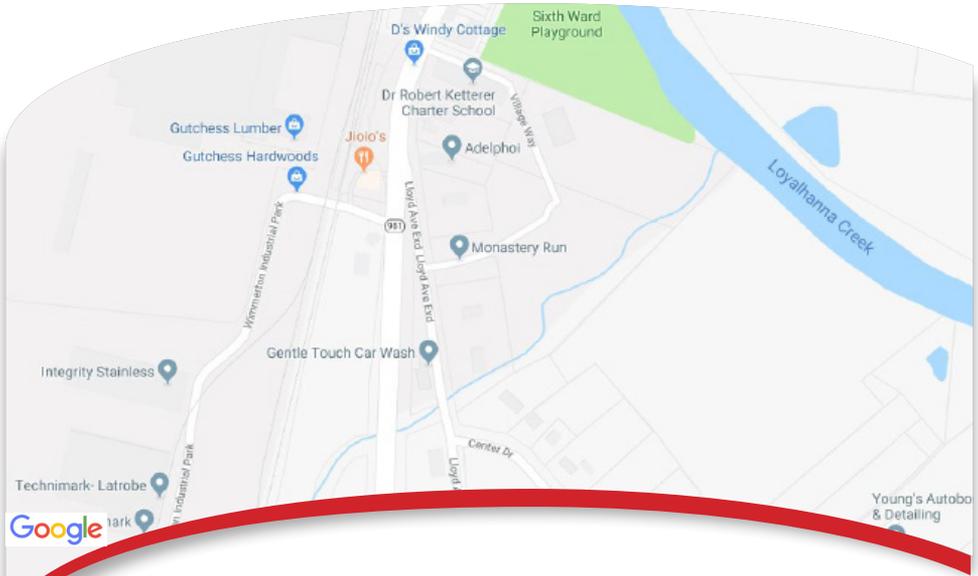
FGDM values people and relationships.

FGDM removes the worker from the role of problem finder and advice giver.

FGDM communicates in a language of "concerns", which invites listening, compassion, and responsibility.

FGDM strengthens families by harnessing their commitment, wisdom, and responsibility to protect children and insure their well-being





About Adelphoi

Adelphoi is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a continuum of quality services to children, youth, and families. Headquartered in Latrobe, PA, Adelphoi has programs in 30 counties, serving nearly 1,000 youth and families on a daily basis and over 2,500 children annually. Adelphoi's vast continuum of care includes group homes, a Charter School, foster and adoption services, education programs, mental health services, after-school programs, in-home services, shelter care, multisystemic therapy, and secure care.

Adelphoi has over 700 employees and assists persons and communities in need from over 60 counties throughout the Commonwealth, as well as from Ohio and Delaware. Adelphoi's mission is to serve communities of need through exemplary and affordable human service programs for children, youth, and families.

For more information, please contact:

Christa Bush
Office: 724-804-7000