

Family group conferences and Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

Authors	Title	Journal/Publisher/ Organisation	Date	Avail free	Summary/Abstract	Country
McCrae J & Fusco R	A racial comparison of Family Group Decision Making in the USA	Child and Family Social Work 2010, 15, pp 41–55	2010	http://www.scie-soccareonline.org.uk/a-racial-comparison-of-family-group-decision-making-in-the-usa/r/a1CG000000GhezMAC	This study looked at different characteristics of use of FGDM in American families from different races exploring differences in referral rates, composition of meetings and overall outcomes.	US
O'Shaughness R, Collins C, and Fatimilehin I	Building Bridges in Liverpool: Exploring the Use of Family Group Conferences for Black and Minority Ethnic Children and their Families	Br J Soc Work (2010) 40 (7): 2034-2049. doi: 10.1093/bjsw/bcp102	2010	http://bjsw.oxfordjournals.org/content/40/7/2034.abstract	This paper describes the implementation and evaluation of a FGC project by Building Bridges, a service commissioned to address the psychological and mental health needs of BME children and their families in Liverpool (UK). The evaluation uses both quantitative and qualitative information to explore the use of the FGC model within diverse communities and contexts. The authors conclude that although the model is effective and culturally appropriate, there may be challenges in terms of the range and depth of needs that can be met through the FGC intervention model. Suggestions	

					are made for maximising the cultural application of the model and recommendations are made for further research to explore the views of BME children and their families.
Barn R, Das C & Sawyerr A	Family group conferences and black and minority ethnic families: An evaluation study of two community-based organisations in London.	London: Family Rights Group.	2009	http://www.frg.org.uk/images/FGC_research/fgc-bme.pdf	This report presents the summary findings of an evaluation of a project between the Family Rights Group and two community-based organizations working with black and minority ethnic groups in London. The project sought to examine why black and minority ethnic families were disproportionately less likely to have a family group conferences and how this could best be addressed. A research team from Royal Holloway, University of London was commissioned to evaluate the merits and difficulties of using community-based organisations to run family group conferences among different minority communities and to consider wider good practice across the country. Overall, the findings suggest that embedding family group conferencing in social services could be very beneficial for minority families, but the availability of sufficient financial and human resources for implementing and coordinating family group conferences cannot be underestimated.

Haresnape S	The use of family group conferences by black minority ethnic communities.	London: Family Rights Group.	2009	http://www.frg.org.uk/images/FGC_research/fgc-bme.pdf	This is a literature review of the dynamics of family group conferencing with black and minority ethnic communities, paying particular attention to the interaction between services and different ethnic groups and highlighting potential barriers to effective engagement. The appendices of the review also give structured guidelines on how to implement a successful family group conferencing model when dealing with minority communities.	England
BAFFOUR Tiffany D.	Ethnic and gender differences in offending patterns: examining family group conferencing interventions among at-risk adolescents	Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 23(5-6), December 2006, pp.557-578	2006	http://www.springer.com/psychology/personality+%26+social+psychology/journal/10560	This study looked at the importance of ethnicity and gender in influencing the relationship between Family Group Conferencing and (FGC) recidivism. Offenders, randomly sampled to participate in a control or experimental group, were sampled via mail, telephone, and in-person interviews. Data from court records were utilized to obtain recidivism rates over an 18-month period. Analysis indicated a statistically significant difference between the re-arrest rates of FGC participants and	USA

					non-participants. Female offenders were more likely to avoid arrest than their male counterparts. This study found that ethnicity was not a statistically significant indicator of re-arrest. The FGC has efficacy for juvenile offenders as (1) a cost-effective method to intervene with offenders in their own communities (2) provides alternatives to formal adjudication for vulnerable populations - females and people of color	
O'Shaughnessy R, Collins C & Fatimilehin I	Building bridges in Liverpool: Exploring the use of family group conferences for black and minority ethnic children and their families.	British Journal of Social Work, 39(1), 1-16.	2009	No	This article draws on research gathered during a 2001 British evaluation of the use of family group conferencing in meeting the psychological and mental health needs of black and minority ethnic children and their families. The authors argue that few studies, national or international, have focused specifically on this group's views and experiences, even though the family group conferencing model emerged as an ethnically and culturally sensitive intervention. Using evidence from two cases in which family group conferencing was used with minority families, the researchers conclude that family group conferencing is an effective and beneficial tool in	England

					<p>preventing family breakdown and meeting the needs of children and families, but that using family group conferencing is not a straightforward process. Its main strengths are that it is culturally respectful and promotes the voice of the family over the voice of the professional. However, for the model to reach its full potential, the article states, organizations need to ensure that sufficient preparations be made. These preparations include taking into account minority families' first operating language and consulting with participants, as groups, on the main issues they would like to see addressed. The article concludes that family group conferencing is a positive model for working with minority families but for further research is needed to fully understand the benefits of its application, including comparisons with other mechanisms and how different families from different communities would react to family group conferencing.</p>	
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<p>Sheets J, Wittenstrom K, Fong R, James J, Tecci M, Baumann D J & Rodriguez C</p>	<p>Evidence-based practice in family group decision-making for Anglo, African American and Hispanic families.</p>	<p>Children and Youth Services Review, 31(11), 1187-1191.</p>	<p>2009</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>This study frames family group conferencing as theoretically compatible with evidence-based practice and approaches that emphasise cultural competence in its focus on having parents as informed participants in the provision of services. Using survey data collected from parents, relatives and children's caregivers along with case demographic and outcome data from the state's case management system, the study compares family group conferencing with standard practice using reported satisfaction, measures of child well-being and data on exit from care. Parents and other family members who attend a family group conference reported higher satisfaction than those who attended permanency plan team meetings where the authors report that family members are generally outnumbered by staff members and other professionals. Relatives in particular reported feeling more empowered with family group conferencing. Given the finding that children placed in relatives' homes were reported being more adjusted if their family had attended a family group conference, the authors speculate that both having a family conference and being</p>	<p>US</p>
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					placed in a relative's home contributed to their adjustment. Outcome findings of faster exits from care and increased exits to reunification were associated with all families who had a family group conference, but these findings were especially pronounced for Hispanic and African American children, whose exits from care have traditionally been slower than for White children.	
Flynn R & Ashley C	Providing family group conferences to families from black and minority ethnic groups: the essential context	In Ashley C & Nixon P (Ed.) Family Group Conferences – Where Next? Policies & Practices for the Future, Family Rights Group, UK	2007	No	The chapter explores the English context and describes some of the barriers to take up public and voluntary services faced by black and minority ethnic communities. It highlights key messages from research that can influence practice in working with marginalised communities.	England
Page J and Whitting G	Engaging Effectively with Black and Minority Ethnic Parents in Children's and Parental Services	Department for Children, Schools and Families (aka Department for Education)	2007	http://webarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR013.pdf		UK

Cameron M	Alternate dispute resolution: Aboriginal models and practices: Literature review.	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: Ministry of Children and Family Development	2006	No	<p>This paper provides a brief overview of aboriginal alternative dispute models and how they differ from western alternative dispute models. The paper gives a synopsis of 12 examples of aboriginal alternative dispute models used in jurisdictions within Canada, the United States and Australia. The paper outlines some common planning and procedural elements, and underlying values between the examples given. The author goes on to discuss the tension between western and aboriginal thinking, where the former assumes universality and the latter acknowledges difference. The author argues that indigenous models of conflict resolution are moving into a more accepted phase, where they are no longer tokenistic and superficial. The author concludes by advocating for models of practice which the community has agreed to engage with, based on the model's ability to meet the community's cultural needs.</p>	Australia, Canada, US
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<p>Connolly M, Crichton-Hill Y & Ward T</p>	<p>Culture and Child Protection</p>	<p>London, Jessica Kingsley Publishing</p>	<p>2006</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A book that examines how culture influences our practice within a child protection forum. The authors provide examples of how to best address these issues without an over reliance on rigid approaches.</p>	
<p>Waites C, Macgowan MJ, Pennell J, Carlton-LaNey I, Weil M.</p>	<p>Increasing the Cultural Responsiveness of Family Group Conferencing</p>	<p>Social Work</p>	<p>2004</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>"Child welfare struggles to manage child abuse and neglect and to seek permanency for children, while being culturally responsive to the communities it serves. Family group conferencing, piloted in New Zealand and now used in the United States and other countries, is a strengths-based model that brings together families and their support systems to develop and carry out a plan that protects, nurtures, and safeguards children and other family members. This article describes the model and a culturally competent method for assessing and adapting the model for the African American, Cherokee, and Latino/Hispanic communities in North Carolina." - Publisher's description</p>	<p>NZ</p>

Marsh P and Crow G	FGCs and child protection in a multicultural community - 1998.	Protecting Children 18(1&2) 2003: 131-132.	2003	No	Describes the aims, methods and findings of a large-scale empirical research study based in a multicultural London community, conducted to examine the use of set referral criteria for FGCs (FGC) and staff response, the use of FGC after an initial child protection conference, the applicability of the process and outcomes in a multicultural and multi-language population, and the resources demanded from social services departments.	England
Schmid J, Mandell D and Sullivan N	Family group conferencing in a multicultural urban environment	Child Welfare League of Canada journal	2003	no	Examines culturally sensitive FGC practice in Toronto.	Canada
LAVERNE F. HILL	Family Group Conferencing: An alternative approach to the placement of Alaska native children under the Children Child Welfare Act.					