



Call Us For Help

If you know a child that is struggling with mental health or behavioral issues, call us at 814-866-4500.

OUR MISSION

We strengthen families and transform lives.

Family Group Decision Making Mission

Erie County Family Group Decision Making works to preserve families and promote family unity by inviting families and others to come together as the best people to plan and make decisions for family members.

FGDM is a process. It does not replace case management, counseling, or mental health treatment services that a family may be receiving.

For more information, visit

www.FSNWPA.org



Office Locations

Erie County Office

5100 Peach Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509

Downtown Erie Office

240 West 11th Street, Fourth Floor
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

Crawford County Office

18360 Technology Drive, Suite 200
Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

Mercer County Office

7 West State Street, Suite 208
Sharon, Pennsylvania 16146

CONTACT US

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FSNWPA.org

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FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING



Erie County

814.866.4500



Strengthening Families · Transforming Lives

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FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING

at Family Services of NW PA

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is a decision-making process that draws on the strength of the family unit to develop a plan to address concerns of child safety, well-being, and overall development.

Getting Started:

FGDM gets involved when a situation occurs that threatens family unity.

An FGDM Coordinator helps the family select people they want to be involved in their conference. This can include:

- Extended family
- Trusted friends
- Community members
- Clergy
- Teachers and school counselors
- Service providers
- Anyone else the family chooses

The FGDM Conference:

A Family Group Decision Making Conference is a facilitated meeting that typically involves immediate and extended family, close friends, other supports and service providers.

Preparing for the Conference:

The FGDM Coordinator will:

- Explain the process
- Help to identify the people to involve
- Invite the individuals to the conference
- Arrange a neutral site for the conference

Why does FGDM Work?

- Family members make the decisions.
- Creates more stable living situations.
- FGDM strengthens relationships between families and service providers.
- FGDM creates a better future for children, families, and the community.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who should be involved?

Anyone the family wants!

Why have a family conference?

- Parental difficulty in providing for the needs of a child.
- Concerns with child behaviors including truancy.
- Any situation that threatens the ability of a family to remain together.

Is there a cost for FGDM?

No, there is no cost.

Where will the FGDM conference be held?

The FGDM Coordinator will arrange for a community site selected by the family.

How long does the conference last?

Each family is unique. A typical conference lasts between 2-3 hours.

What happens at the Conference?

- Information Sharing
- Family Private Time
- Plan Preservation and Acceptance
- The family plan is put into action