

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE PILOT PROJECTS IN ITALY

Maci Francesca, Università Cattolica di Milla

❖ WHY ?

❖ WHERE ?

❖ WHO?

❖ WHAT?

❖ HOW?

Why Italian social workers are interested in FGC model?

CRISIS

- ◆ In theoretical, methodological and practice framework
 - ◆ Economic crisis

◆ The equation

Families = problems / professionals = solutions

does not work more

- ◆ In the last two years the State scapped 70% of funds. Therefore social services can not provide interventions/standard provisions as in the past.
- ◆ It is necessary to find new strategies focused on families strength and relations.

❖ Where?

➤ Lombardia

➤ Piemonte

➤ Emilia Romagna

➤ Marche



❖ Who?

- Lombardia: the district of Varese and its municipalities and a public institution called “Comuni insieme”
- Piemonte: Third sector Organisation
- Emilia Romagna: Child protection Council Service
- Marche: Third sector organisation

❖ What kind of projects

- Lombardia: *child protection, based school, foster care FGC*
- Piemonte: *child protection FGC*
- Emilia Romagna: *child protection FGC*

- Marche: *based school (nursery) FGC*

❖ How ?

- Funds from private bank foundation, own resources
- ◆ First step: training (coordinator and social workers)
- ◆ Second step: implementation
- ◆ Third step: evaluation

WHO	WHERE	WHAT	HOW
DISTRICT OF VARESE	VARESE LOMBARDIA	CHILD PROTECTION	PRIVATE BANK FOUND
COMUNI INSIEME	BOLLATE LOMBARDIA	BASED SCHOOL FOSTER CARE	PRIVATE BANK FOUND
VALDOCCO	TORINO PIEMONTE	CHILD PROTECTION	OWN FOUND
IL GRILLO PARLANTE	PETRIANO DEL GALLO MARHCE	BASED SCHOOL NURSERY	OWN FOUND
CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE	EMILIA ROMAGNA	CHILD PROTECTION	OWN FOUND

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE BASED SCHOOL

- Experimental design
- Target: students of secondary school (11 and 12 years old)
- 19 schools involved
- 450 students referred for a FGC
- 150 students will have a FGC
- Project started in 2013 and it will finish in 2014

- What do we expect:
 - An improvement in attendance and behaviour
 - An improvement in participation in school life
 - An improvement in the collaboration between families and school relationships

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE IN FOSTER CARE

- FGC = family led decision making meetings that include family and significant others in the formulation of a plan to help address the needs of a child
- Good way to involve biological family in foster care project and to guarantee collaboration between all actors involved
- What do we expect
 - Less conflict between biological and foster family
 - Less emotional struggle for the child
 - Less work for professionals
 - More foster care projects

“It is a good way to solve the problems that there are in my family” (Lucas)

“It is complex and long process but it is really interesting” (Silvana)

For families:

- Increase of self efficacy sense
- Increase of capacity to take their own decisions
- Change in family dynamics
- It is not easy for families to participate as they are not use to these kind of democratic models

For social workers:

- it is not easy to stay in a family setting nor to facilitate the implementation of family plan in the FGC framework
- They are afraid to lose the control of the whole situation
- It is difficult to adapt the organisation structure of the social service to the FGC principles