Genograms, Assessments and Planning:

Close the “GAP” with this Practice
Objectives

• Basics of constructing a genogram
• Review how to identify the “focus household” members
• Illustrate other uses for a genogram within child welfare
4 Basic Rules

1. The male parent is always at the left of the family and the female parent is always at the right of the family.

2. In the case of ambiguity, assume a male-female relationship, rather than male-male or female-female relationship.

3. A spouse must always be closer to his/her first partner, then the second partner (if any), third partner, and so on...

4. The oldest child is always at the left his family, the youngest child is always at the right his family.
Parents

- Dad
- Mom
- Child1
- Child2
- Child3
Grandparents

- Grandfather
- Grandmother
- Child 1
- Child 2
- Child 3 (Husband of Child 3)
- Wife of Child 1
- 1st Granddaughter
- 1st Grandson
Couple Relationship
Father with Multiple Relationships

Husband

Oldest Brother

Divorced

Middle Sister

First Wife

Youngest Sister

Separated

Half Sister

Second Wife

Living Together

Third Partner
Mother with Multiple Relationships

- Divorced
- Separated
- Living Together

- First Husband
- Wife

- Oldest Brother
- Middle Sister
- Youngest Sister

- Second Husband

- Half Sister

- First Husband

- Oldest Brother
- Middle Sister
- Youngest Sister

- Third Partner
Creating a Genogram

1. Mike’s Family
   • First Mrs. Brady died in 1969
   • 3 boys – Greg (16), Peter (12) and Bobby (10)

2. Carol’s Family
   • Mr. Martin was Carol’s first husband and they are divorced.
   • Marsha (15), Jan (11) and Cindy (9)

3. Mike and Carol married 1972
Genogram for the Brady Family
Focus
Household
Focus House

• CFOP 170-1, Child Welfare Practice Model
  • Chapter 2 – Core Safety Concepts
    • Paragraph 2-3 – Focus of Family Assessment
The family functioning assessment is the process by which information is gathered, analyzed and assessed to determine child safety in the household where the alleged maltreatment occurred.
Definitions

“Significant Caregiver Responsibility” means that specific adult household members have taken on responsibility for major caregiving responsibilities or it is reasonable to view the person as being in a parental role. Things to consider in determining who has significant responsibility include the following:

• Household member has routine, day to day care and responsibility for protecting the child.
• A paramour residing in or frequenting the home has become a parent figure.
Definitions

• “Paramour” means a person who is in a social relationship that involves physical or emotional intimacy with a child’s parent or caregiver. The intimate partner may or may not be cohabitating with the caregiver.
Spot Light vs Honorable Mention
Scenario 1

- Marcia Brady-Logan and Wally Logan have been married for 9 years. They have two children 4 year-old Ann Logan and 7 year-old Molly Logan.
- Grandma, Carol Brady, lives with her daughter Marcia and Wally. She occasionally baby-sits, helps with transportation as well as with grocery shopping and meal preparations.
- Marcia and Wally work full-time.
- Alleged physical abuse took place in home of Marcia and Wally.
Scenario 2

- Marcia Brady-Logan and Wally Logan were married for 9 years, but have been divorced for 1 year. They have two children: 5-year-old Ann Logan, and 8-year-old, Molly Logan.
- Marcia is currently in a relationship with Davy Jones, her high school prom date. Molly and Ann have a close relationship with Davy since they have spent every weekend together since Marcia and Davy started dating.
- Alleged domestic violence took place between Marcia and Davy. The incident started at the home of Davy. When Marcia left Davy’s home, Davy followed Marcia in his own car. Davy hit Marcia’s car. Both children were in the car with Marcia.
Scenario 2 Genogram
Other uses for a genogram within Child Welfare

- Pre-Commencement Planning
- Initial Consultation
- Interview with Children/Families
- Permanency Round Tables/Permanency Planning
- Family Team Conferencing
- Independent Living
- Adoption
Questions
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Resources

• http://www.genopro.com/
2-3. **Focus of Family Assessment (FFA-Investigation, FFA-Ongoing, Progress Update).**

   a. **Purpose.** The family functioning assessment is the process by which information is gathered, analyzed and assessed to determine child safety in the household where the alleged maltreatment occurred. The essential mission of the department is to identify and protect children who need safety management and to support the enhancement of caregiver protective capacities of the caregiver(s) responsible (treatment/change). The family assessment process provides a current analysis by the child welfare professional responsible at different points in time, beginning with the Family Functioning Assessment-Investigations. After a case involving an unsafe child is transferred to ongoing case management, the family assessment is documented in the Family Functioning Assessment-Ongoing Services (FFA-Ongoing) and Progress Updates. The role of the child welfare professional is to evaluate and describe in the FFA-Investigation, FFA-Ongoing and Progress Updates how the household functions, including a clear understanding as to who provides any care, parenting, quality time, and/or discipline for the children. Every type of assessment serves the purpose of identifying family conditions, how the children are vulnerable to those conditions, and whether the parent/legal guardian and other significant caregiver(s) in the household are able to care for and protect the children (caregiver protective capacities).

   b. **Definitions.**

      (1) “Household” means a common residence shared by two or more individuals whether related or not. (Rule 65C-30.001, Florida Administrative Code [F.A.C.])

      (2) “Household Member” means any person who resides in a household, including the caregiver and other family members residing in the home. Household members are any additional relatives or persons residing in the home, including but not limited to visitors expected to stay an indefinite length of time or college students expected to return to the home. (Rule 65C-30.001, F.A.C.)

      (3) “Legal Guardian” means that the child has a custodian appointed by court who has assumed the role of the parent.

      (4) “Paramour” means a person who is in a social relationship that involves physical or emotional intimacy with a child’s parent or caregiver. The intimate partner may or may not be cohabiting with the caregiver.

      (5) “Parent” means a woman who gives birth to a child and a man whose consent to the adoption of the child would be required under s. 63.062(1), F.S. If a child has been legally adopted, the term “parent” means the adoptive mother or father of the child. The term does not include an individual whose parental relationship to the child has been legally terminated [defined in s. 39.01(49), F.S., Definitions]
Household member has routine, day to day care and responsibility for protecting the child such that:

1. The child views such caregiver(s) as one of the primary persons with the authority for their care; and,

2. The caregiver is expected to remain a part of the family unit.

(a) A paramour residing in or frequenting the home has become a parent figure based on one or more of the following:

1. Child welfare professional’s observations of interactions between child and paramour.

2. Child’s statements about the paramour.

3. Statements from other family members or friends who are familiar with family functioning.

4. The child has a bond with the paramour, even though the household member or paramour may or may not provide any financial support to the family.

5. The paramour frequents the home so often that even though he/she denies any care or supervision responsibilities, the person is an authority figure to the child.

c. **Focus Household.**

(1) The family functioning assessment will be developed with a focus on the household in which the alleged child victim’s parent, legal guardian, paramour (residing or frequenting the home) and/or other adult household member with significant caregiver responsibility is the alleged person responsible for the maltreatment.

(a) The child victim may reside in the household on a full or part-time basis.

(b) If the child’s parents or legal guardians have established separate households through divorce or separation, only the household where the maltreating parent resides is assessed for danger threats and family functioning. If during the course of any investigation the investigator learns that the child victim’s parent/legal guardian knew about the danger threat occurring in the home where the maltreatment occurred and was unable or unwilling to take actions to protect the child, a FFA-Investigation on the separate household must be developed.

(c) When the person responsible for the maltreatment is a court-appointed guardian or custodian and the child’s biological parent is expressing a desire for the child to be placed back in their care, the following will occur:

1. The FFA-I will focus on the household of the guardian or custodian.
2. If the child was placed in the current home as a result of a child protection investigation, regardless of whether the biological parent entered into and/or completed a case plan, the child’s biological parent and household will be assessed in a separate FFA-Ongoing.

3. When there is no history of child welfare system involvement, the child’s biological parent when in a different household will be assessed using the Other Parent Home Assessment.

4. When Termination of Parental Rights has occurred and a biological parent wishes to regain custody, requirements as described in 65C-16, Adoptions must be followed.

   (d) One FFA-Investigation, FFA-O or Progress Update will be created when there is a minor child with a newborn or child(ren) in a home that is under an active investigation and there are no allegations of maltreatment against the minor parent. The minor child who is also a parent must be assessed as a significant caregiver using all of the information domains except adult functioning to describe and document the minor parent’s responsibilities, relationships and how he/she contributes to or is impacted by family conditions.

   (e) When a child must be removed from a maltreating parent, non-maltreating parents in a separate household will be assessed using Other Parent Home Assessment per requirements in CFOP 170-7, Chapter 5.

(2) Separate information domains will be developed for each parent/legal guardian and significant caregiver residing in the same household.

(3) When more than one family unit resides in the same household, the family unit wherein the alleged maltreatment occurred will be the focus of one FFA when:

   (a) The family units clearly function independently from each other as supported by sufficient information gathering and analysis.

   (b) The two family units may share some or all of the household expenses but do not have access to or combine family incomes.

   (c) The children in each family do not view the parent(s) in the other family unit as having any responsibility or authority over their care.

   (d) Some child care duties may be shared on occasion.

   (e) When only one of two family units residing together is the focus of the FFA, the non-focus family members will not be identified as participants.
(4) When two families reside together and share caregiving responsibilities, regardless of the household that is responsible for the maltreatment, a separate FFA-Investigation must be created for each family. When there are allegations of maltreatment against minor parent, a separate FFA-Investigation must be created for the minor parent and his/her child(ren) and the other parent/legal guardians in the home and their respective children.

   (a) One FFA-Investigation will include and describe the minor parent as a child victim.

   (b) One FFA-Investigation will include and describe the minor parent as an alleged perpetrator.

(5) Every type of family assessment must include descriptions of all family members and persons in the family household and resource network, whether or not they will be identified as participants in the case plan. The descriptions should be included in the most appropriate information domain for the parent or significant caregiver, whichever is most relevant, as to:

   (a) Other person’s relationship to the parent and reason for presence in the home, including family members of any family unit residing in same household.

   (b) Impact of other person’s presence as to child functioning, adult functioning, parenting and discipline/behavior management.

   (c) Assessment of other person’s background history information gathered and whether there are patterns of behavior which present safety concerns.