Module 2: “TIPS” for the Trainer

- Prior to presenting the “Framework for Practice” discussion, assess the participants’ knowledge of the components (i.e. systems theory, family-centered casework practice, etc.). If the group does not have a good understanding of the basic concepts, it is worthwhile to present a “mini-lecture” with basic information before presenting the framework. When participants have a good understanding of the concepts the presenter may want to modify the presentation to focus on new information so it does not feel like a review of what they already know.

- Trainers will want to know prior to the training the participants’ experience with Family Group Conferencing (FGC). In places where participants are already involved in FGC, trainers can focus discussion on the comparison between the local model of FGC and those presented in the webcasts. Have participants identify what is working well, what needs improvement, and possible solutions to problems. In mixed groups involve those with FGC experience as “experts” by having them share their knowledge with the others.

- When participants indicate resistance to FGC by presenting multiple barriers (i.e. time restraints, financial restraints, lack of administrative support, lack of skills, etc.), it is worthwhile to discuss the barriers and potential solutions to the problems cited. Brainstorm ways to address barriers and possible adaptations of the principles of FGC, listing solutions on a flip-chart to reduce resistance and keep participants engaged in the process. It is important to provide resource information such as the NYS OCFS FGC consultant for that county, other resources in the state, training that is being offered and the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice.