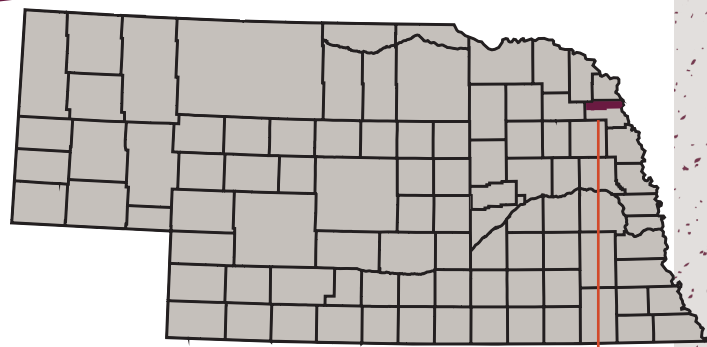


Evaluation Results from Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska



PROJECT PARTNERS

QIC-AG partnered with **Winnebago Child and Family Services**.

CONTINUUM PHASE

Focused Services

INTERVENTION

The Winnebago adapted **Family Group Decision Making (FGDM): Wažokį Wošga Gica Wo'upi**. This model ensures culturally viable decisions by involving the entire available family in a Family Group Conference or Stokį; which is when the family comes together to develop a family plan regarding the child's permanency goal.

STUDY DESIGN

Descriptive

Target population were **Winnebago children and youth in foster care** who: 1) could not reunify with their biological parents and had a non-permanency reunification plan, and 2) did not have a permanency placement identified OR did have an identified placement.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Will Winnebago tribal children and youth, ages 5-18 years, who cannot reunify with their biological parents, have a non-permanency reunification plan, and have yet to identify a permanency placement or a permanency placement has been identified, experience increased placement stability, improved child and family wellbeing, improved behavioral and health, decreased time to finalization/time in care, and increased permanency outcomes if they are provided Family Group Decision Making?

Findings

RECRUITMENT

- 👍 28 cases were referred
- 12 cases were determined to be ineligible
- 5 cases consent was not obtained
- 4 cases withdrew or were outside service area
- 💬 7 cases were included in the study
- 3 cases successfully scheduled a family conference
- 1 case successfully scheduled a follow-up conference

OUTCOMES

Given that the sample size includes only seven families, a quantitative analysis was not possible. But here is what the core staff had to say about working with the families who did participate:

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF PERMANENCY OPTIONS

I feel our families understand more and better comprehend what the courts are asking for or what the options are.

INCREASED PROTECTIVE FACTORS

The project increased protective factors by involving the larger extended family and support network in the child welfare case.

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF WINNEBAGO SPECIFIC PATHWAYS

I think this project shed a light on our community's trauma and conflicted relationships with 'systems.' We have a long way to go to really engage and empower our families. It is going to take time and patience to get there.

INCREASED CONNECTEDNESS

The children who have had conferences have felt cared about and included. For some of them, it was the first time they felt listened to.

PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION

After attending a Family Conference:

PARTICIPANTS AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED WITH:

98%

Family traditions were respected in the family plan

The child and family needs were clearly identified

PARTICIPANTS AGREED LESS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

58%

The right people were at the meeting

Family cultural needs were identified during meeting

LESSONS LEARNED

A significant accomplishment stemming from this project was the changes to strengthen and clarify the Tribal Code. This change in Tribal Code strengthened customary adoption and guardianship as permanency plan options for Winnebago families in Nebraska. Engaging in a "By the Tribe, for the Tribe" process by actively including Tribe Elders and community members in the project is highly recommended.



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