

HISTORY OF THE FAMILY JUSTICE PROGRAM

In 1999 Carrier Sekani Family Services conducted research to determine the magnitude of family disputes within the communities the organization serves.

It was determined that a community driven response was needed to deal with family disputes in a culturally appropriate manner that respects Carrier values and laws.

Based on Community consultation, a model of Carrier dispute resolution was developed.

Aims of the Program

- ◆ Reduce the number of children entering ministry care
- ◆ Reduce tensions between and within families
- ◆ Increase community satisfaction and confidence in the family justice system
- ◆ Increase integrated service delivery
- ◆ Increase community transparency, responsibility-taking, problem solving skills and accountability
- ◆ Increase the use of Carrier systems in resolving disputes
- ◆ Assist youth in care in addressing their future needs



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

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PREVENTION MEETINGS

FAMILY JUSTICE PROGRAM



Creating wellness together.



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

WHAT IS A PREVENTION MEETING?

A prevention meeting is used to address issues that may impact the safety of a families children, prior to involvement with the ministry. A prevention meeting assists family members in resolving conflicts and to improve relationships between family members.

Who can come to the meeting?

Once the facilitator has received the request they will contact the person who made the referral and discuss who should be invited to the meeting. Family members, children, and other people that are important to resolving the conflict and improving relationships will be invited; participation in the meeting is voluntary.

When and where is the meeting?

The facilitator will work with your family to set up a day, time, and venue that works for everyone.

Is there a fee for the Prevention Meeting?

No, all fees are paid for by the Province of British Columbia.



What happens at the meeting?

The facilitator guides the meeting by leading discussions. You make decisions as a family, and receive help to:

- ◆ sort through issues
- ◆ include your cultural ceremonies, prayers or other rituals that are meaningful to your family in the meetings (optional)
- ◆ have your voice and opinions heard
- ◆ make a formal plan that works for your children, builds on your strengths, and meets your family's needs.



What are the benefits?

The benefits are:

- ◆ resolve conflicts in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner
- ◆ make sure your voice is heard
- ◆ make decisions more quickly
- ◆ bring together people who care about you, and
- ◆ build stronger relationships by helping families work out their problems together

What happens after the meeting?

The facilitator writes up the plan. The plan is signed by all participants and a copy is given to each participant.

Several meetings are generally held over the course of a few months to monitor progress and make sure the family members are getting the support they need.

Who can make a referral?

- ◆ A youth
- ◆ Family members
- ◆ Chief and council
- ◆ Clan leaders (hereditary chiefs)
- ◆ Community Organizations
- ◆ Carrier Sekani Family Services Staff
- ◆ Caregiver
- ◆ The Ministry of Children and Family Development

Please contact a family justice facilitator if you have any questions or would like more information on Prevention Meetings.

Mission

The mission of the Family Justice Program is, 'To improve the health of the community by facilitating the participants' ability to speak on their own behalf in legal matters, while emphasizing healthy choices and responsibility towards family and community.'