



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

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CARRIER FAMILY DECISION MAKING

FAMILY JUSTICE PROGRAM



Creating wellness together.



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

FAMILY JUSTICE PROGRAM HISTORY & MISSION

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

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.'



WHAT IS THE CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY DECISION MAKING
PROCESS?

To empower families to play an expanded role in planning for their children by gathering extended family and support people to assist in creating a plan in the best interest of the child(ren), that is satisfactory to the parents and meets the goals of protection of the social worker. The Carrier based process combines bah’lats philosophy with Family Group Conferencing and mediation in handling disputes.

What is the purpose of the meeting?

The purpose is:

- ◆ To keep a child safe
- ◆ To ensure the meeting remains child centered
- ◆ To ensure the family’s wishes, needs, and roles are considered within the plan
- ◆ To take into account both the child and family’s culture

Who is included in a Family Decision Making Process meeting?

- ◆ The child
- ◆ Siblings
- ◆ Parents
- ◆ Grandparents
- ◆ Elders
- ◆ Hereditary Chiefs
- ◆ Clan Members
- ◆ Extended family
- ◆ Others of importance in the child’s life

Who Organizes the Meeting?

A Family Justice Facilitator (FJF) will organize and facilitate the meeting. The main duties of the FJF are:

- ◆ Creating a list of significant people in the child and family’s life
- ◆ Assisting the family in identifying who they would like to attend the meeting
- ◆ Contacting all participants to let them know what the Carrier Family Decision Making Process is
- ◆ Letting all participants know what their role will be at the meeting
- ◆ Ensuring all participants feel safe and that they will voice their concerns, thoughts, and idea
- ◆ To arrange a time, day and place that works for all participants

A Carrier Family Decision Making Meeting is meant to be an informal process where everyone can comfortably discuss what is best for the child.

The process is voluntary, confidential, respectful, future focused, child centered and family driven.

Family Justice Facilitators are neutral guides during the process.

Is there a fee for the Family Decision Making Meeting?

No, all fees, including travel arrangements when necessary, and covered. Lunch is also provided on the day of the meeting to all participants.

1. The Referral Process

Once a referral has been accepted the facilitator will contact the social worker for more in-depth information and the parents to determine if this is a service they would like to access. The service is voluntary, confidential and family driven.

2. Contacting Participants

A FJF will contact those who may be involved with the meeting by phone or in person to advise them of the referral and discuss the process and options available.

Potential support networks will be agreed upon. The process will be child centered to ensure that the child’s voice and thoughts are included. Those with whom the child is closely connected will be encouraged to participate. The participants will decide how open the process will be within their community.

3. The Meeting

All participants who take part in a Family Decision Making Meeting will be asked to sign an Oath of Confidentiality.

The FJF will introduce the participants, if necessary.

A review of the dispute and history of the participants will be summarized (situation leading to the referral).

All participants will have an opportunity to share their opinions while developing a plan of care.

4. Developing a Plan of Care

Once the participants feel there is enough information collected and gathered, a plan of care will be made.

The family may choose to meet without the FJF to discuss issues and make decisions. This will be done at the discretion of the FJF based on the family’s comfort and safety.

5. The Plan of Care

When a plan of care is developed the FJF will ensure that personal and plan of care details are complete and correct. The FJF will verbally review the plan with the family and confirm the terms and conditions of the plan with them.

6. Signing the Plan of Care

All participants involved will sign the plan of care. The plan of care may be taken to court for final approval, if applicable.

7. Follow Up, Monitoring & Evaluation

The plan of care agreed upon by the participants will show how the agreement will be implemented, monitored and evaluated. Follow-up usually occurs within 6-8 weeks.



Who can make a referral?

- ◆ A youth
- ◆ Family members who seek to resolve disputes by using the program
- ◆ Chief and council
- ◆ Clan leaders (hereditary chiefs)
- ◆ Community Organizations
- ◆ Carrier Sekani Family Services Staff
- ◆ Group Home Staff
- ◆ Caregiver
- ◆ The Ministry of Children & Family Development

Please contact a family justice facilitator if you have any questions or would like more information on Carrier Family Decision Making.