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Panel Presentation: The Centrality of Practice
Race and Child Welfare Conference
January 29, 2011

Background

- Recent History of the Issue
- Family to Family's Work on Improving Disparate Treatment
- Family to Family's Lessons

I. The Centrality of Practice in Confronting the Challenges of Child Welfare

- No Quick Fixes
- No Silver Bullets
- No Free Lunch
- Foster Care vs Family Preservation and Other False Choices

II. Change and Better Results Flow from Complex Interactions

- Example: Air Disasters/NTSB Compared to Investigations of Child Deaths
- Policy Level
- Management and Organizational Level
- Operational Level
- Frontline Practice
- All These in Sync=Better Results; One or Two Alone: Not So Much

III. How Practice Issues Are Affected by the Racial Discussion

- Case Example
- Impacts on Practice at the Managerial/Worker/Supervisor Level in Real-Life Child Welfare Organizations
- Culture of Rejection (Even Disgust) re: Public Child Welfare Systems
- Heart of Matter=Analytic Thinking; Careful Decision-Making; Self-Reflective Practice