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This book is about strengthening the social networks of clients in public mental health care with Family Group Conferencing. There is thorough experience with this decision-making model in youth care, but just little in adult care practices. The study that is highlighted in this book is an attempt to understand the process and outcomes of Family Group Conferencing in public mental health care.

A qualitative multiple case study was used in data collection and analysis. The study was responsive as its aim was to give voice to several stakeholder groups in order to create mutual understanding. Interviews were done with clients and their social networks, professionals, and conference coordinators. All together, in the 41 case studies, 312 participants reflected on the conference they took part in.

Slightly more than half of the analysed conferences can be considered successful as a plan was established and goals were achieved afterwards. The perceived resilience of clients and client systems was reinforced. As both quality and quantity of the social support increased according to the participants, it may be stated that the conferences had a positive impact on mobilising the help from informal resources.

Gideon de Jong holds a master degree in Educational Sciences (cum laude/with honours) and a bachelor degree in Nursing. During the past years he has combined his work as a scholar at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences and the University of Groningen with working as a psychiatric nurse at Stichting GGZ Drenthe.

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FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING IN PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH CARE



A Responsive Evaluation

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