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Appendix I

Case overview

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Case overview*

FGC case number,
background
information and
process of the
conference**

Main actors
(N=74)

Social network
(N=119)

Professionals
(N=77)

FGC coordinators
(N=42)

Member check
(N=144)****

Participants of the
conference
(N=473)*****

<p>1. Single mother with a son (15y). Her husband died one year prior to the conference. Culmination of problems: physical illness of the mother and consequently the lack of an adequate pedagogical climate, her son who frequently does not attend classes and therefore is involved with the school attendance officer and police. Different professionals do not know how to intervene and have given up on the family. A conference is organised to mobilise help from the social network and to break through downward spirals.</p> <p>Conference does yield a plan. Up to three months after the conference, the plan is implemented as where everyone agreed on. The contact between mother and son improves and the son attends classes again. There is once again structure in daily life. However, when the summer holiday starts, the daily structure is quickly lost and as an important person from the social network is not present, the positive results fade away.</p>	2	3	1	1	0*****	24
<p>2. Multiple problems in a family. Professionals threaten with placement of a son in residential care (13y). There are some concerned relatives.</p> <p>Conference does yield a plan, but implementation of the plan does not succeed so the placement is subsequently carried out.</p>	2	2	2	1	0*****	13

<p>3. Young couple who are both 18 years old. She is pregnant. Both parents of these youngsters are divorced and do have troubled contact with each other, but they are willing to help their children when the baby will be born.</p> <p>During its preparation the couple does cancel the conference as they got their own house and did not see the necessity of the conference any longer. However, during its preparation, all parties got closely together and agreed on improving and intensifying the contact with the young couple.</p>	2	2	2	1	1	10
<p>4. Couple in their forties. There are severe unhygienic living circumstances to be indicated. The household is a total mess. Finally, neighbours indicate to the municipality their inconvenience, especially when they reported vermin. A PMHC professional tries to motivate the couple changing their behaviour, but without any result. Finally, the professional decides that the house needs to be swept, even without agreement of the couple. This forced cleaning results in a lot of resistance and mistrust in the municipality. A conference is prepared to establish a sustainable plan. Not only to prevent a messy household, but also to break through the social isolation of the woman.</p> <p>Conference does yield a plan. Half a year after the conference, the house is still clean. The couple indicates that they feel empowered and self-reliant to structure their life. Discussing shameful feelings during the conference mainly had a positive impact.</p>	2	3	0	1	3	8
<p>5. A single man who is in his early sixties. He is severely addicted to alcohol, is living in socially isolated circumstances, and is not able to keep his house clean. His neighbours finally report to the municipality their inconvenience on unacceptable behaviour and vermin.</p>	1	3	1	1	4	5

The man is first admitted to addiction care to detox from alcohol. Prior to this he never had received professional care. During this admission a conference is prepared. Three former colleagues are willing to participate; the man does not want anyone of his family to be present.

Conference does yield a plan. Social isolation is broken through as contacts with his former colleagues who became his friends are intensified. He pays attention keeping his house clean. Contact with his neighbours has improved. He even restored contact with his daughter, who he had not seen for seven years, and met his grandchild for the first time in his life.

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| 6. | Problems within a residential district where several families are involved, such as aggression and threats. Situation gets out of hand. A FGC for groups is requested in order to prevent an eviction of one family. | 0 | 0 | I | I | 0***** | 15 |
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Conference does yield a plan, but is never successfully implemented. The situation remains unsafe. Finally, one trouble making family is being evicted.

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|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | A single man in his late forties, who is addicted to alcohol and unemployed, and has debts. There is a lack of self-care. Does not have contact with his family, some neighbours are still concerned. | I | 3 | I | I | 4 | 9 |
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Conference does yield a plan, but implementation fails and social support slightly erodes.

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|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 8. | A single woman in her early thirties with a young son (1y). There are multiple problems with upbringing, debts, hygiene, and unemployment. She lacks support from her social network. | I | 4 | 3 | I | 3 | 12 |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|

Conference gets out of hand because of a conflict between the woman and her sisters-in law. Does not yield a workable plan. Social support erodes after the conference.

<p>9. Conflict between two Islamic families after problems between two daughters who were formerly friends arose. The situation gets so out of hand that it actually becomes dangerous for both parties. A conference is prepared to prevent the situation from escalation. A coordinator with the same cultural background gets involved.</p>	0	0	4	0	0*****	19
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Conference does yield a plan. Coordinator pays attention to cultural traditions, which has a positive impact. The conflict gets solved. Both daughters improved their contact and became friends once again.

<p>10. Family with a daughter (18y) and son (16y). Both children are diagnosed with ADHD, and both have a history of petty crimes and truancy. There is strong informal support from two aunts and uncles.</p>	3	2	2	1	4	11
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Conference does get stalled in its preparatory stage as no consensus can be reached between the family, the social network, and professionals. Guardianship of the children is carried out afterwards.

<p>11. A young man (20y), who resides in a shelter for homeless youth. Before he lived with his father. His parents got divorced when he was three years old. His grandparents had a major role during his childhood. When his dad got a new relationship, their contact became worse. His father's new partner was too dominant and most attention was paid to her son who was diagnosed with autism. When his older brother decided to live on his own, he also decided to leave his father's house. Slightly he found himself back in social isolation. Prior to the conference he did not have a daily structure, he was addicted to computer games and did not follow education. A conference is indicated as a means to break through his isolation, to establish a daily structure and to</p>	1	5	1	1	2	14
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motivate him for attending school.

Conference does yield a plan. The private family time is intense, too many ideas are shared and the main actor is overwhelmed with it. The plan consequently is not implemented after the conference. It is difficult to motivate him, while his social network because of a lack of reciprocity quickly gives up on him. On the other hand, there are also positive outcomes to be identified, namely an improve in day and night rhythm and he takes part in a so-called rebound facility to put him back on the right track of school. But the major benefit of the conference is that he has contact again with his mother who he did not see for years.

12. A single man (38y) who after an alert of a neighbour to the housing association about deterioration and inconvenience came into the picture of the PMHC network. He has been unemployed for more than one year and is addicted to cannabis and computer games. He keeps his network (mainly friends) aloof. His parents died years ago. Other family members he does not want to burden with his living conditions or do not want them to know about these as he feels deeply ashamed. A conference is prepared as a means to break through social isolation and to get more structure in life.

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Conference does yield a plan and is implemented immediately afterwards. After a while the motivation to carry out the plan wanes. There are doubts on the positive outcomes, especially as his social network indicates a lack of reciprocity. However, his daily rhythm and living situation have improved. He uses less cannabis and does not play computer games in such an extension. Social support also has increased. What is missing is a daily activity, mainly a paid job.

<p>13. A single man (42y) who is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Several psychosocial problems can be appointed, such as a lack of self-care and neglect of the household. Does have two children. No contact with other family members. There are concerned neighbours.</p> <p>Conference does yield a plan, but the plan is not successfully implemented.</p>	1	2	1	1	5	<i>14</i>
<p>14. A young single woman who is addicted to alcohol. There are debts, a lack of self-care and social isolation to be identified. She is known for avoiding the care she actually needs.</p> <p>Conference does get stalled in its preparatory stage as the woman loses her motivation.</p>	0	0	2	1	0*****	<i>4</i>
<p>15. Conflict between neighbours in a street. Three parties, who formerly were friends, are already bullying each other for a while. The police and housing association have been alerted many times. It is difficult to disentangle the accusations, a solution is not within reach. There is fear for escalation. In the PMHC network it is decided to deploy a community conference.</p> <p>Conference does yield a plan which has been established by the residents themselves. The housing association reviewed the plan on safety issues and efficacy. The goal of improving living conditions for all has been reached. Professional interference has significantly decreased. Relationships did not improve to such an extension as prior to the conflict, but at least the residents are greeting each other again. The plan has proved to be sustainable as still after two years the situation is stable.</p>	6	2	2	2	6	<i>12</i>
<p>16. A neighbourhood wherein one family commits nuisance such as noise and aggressive behaviour, especially when they are under the influence of alcohol. The family is threatened with home eviction.</p>	0	3	3	1	5	<i>17</i>

Conference runs successfully until the trouble maker enters the meeting aggressively. A plan is not established. The family gets evicted afterwards.

17. A residential district wherein a group of fifty young people causes troubles, such as noise, aggression, vandalism and petty crimes. 6 5 6 2 5 36

Conference gets out of hand because of a conflict between the young people and representatives of the municipality. Judicial measurements are subsequently carried out.

18. A woman (32y) who is addicted to drugs. She has been a client of addiction care for many years. She has a life cycle that runs from one admission to the clinic to another admission. It is difficult to break through this cycle. Her addiction goes hand in hand with a lack of self-care and unhygienic living circumstances. She has a partner who is addicted as well and a daughter (10y) who has been living with foster parents for several years. To break through downward spirals, it is decided to organise a conference. 0 1 1 1 0**** 6

The conference does get stalled during its preparation. Although there was a first orienting meeting and some follow-up meetings, the FGC coordinator has difficulties reaching her, even after trying for months.

19. Conflict between two neighbours. One of them has a garage. Their gardens share a border. Especially the owner of the garage is victim of the bullying of his neighbour. The police has been involved for a long time, but a solution is never reached. Finally the case is discussed within the PMHC network. There it is decided to organise a community conference. 0 0 2 1 0**** 6

The conference is cancelled during its preparation as the owner of the garage does not proceed with

it. His father, however, wanted to continue. Sadly, his father unexpectedly died during the process. It is remarkable that a year after the conference should have taken place, the situation is stable and there have been no reports to the police. It is assumable that this has to do to the unexpected death of the father and the conversations between the FGC coordinator and all actors, so a certain awareness could have been raised. The involved police officer does not want to 'wake sleeping dogs', so a conference is not gonna be organised any longer.

20. A single woman in her sixties who is addicted to alcohol. She has a concerned social network, but it got worn down. Has a long history in addiction care. I 0 I I 0**** 6
- Conference does get stalled in its preparatory stage as the main actor loses her motivation.

21. A woman in her thirties who has two daughters. There are conflicts with her neighbours, such as bullying and noise. They are not able to come to a settlement. 3 I 3 I 2 10
- After ten minutes the conference gets out of hand. The woman leaves the meeting subsequently. No plan is established. Afterwards she gets evicted.

22. An older couple in their eighties who run their own firm. There are increasingly psychosocial problems to be identified, such as debts, neglect, lack of self-care. They do not want to give up their business. 2 6 I I 4 12
- Conference is divided in three meetings. A plan is never reached. The gap between that what the couple wants and that what is actually (and legally) possible is too wide.

<p>23. Multi-problem family. The mother (43y) is addicted to alcohol; therefore the parenting situation is unsafe. There is an imminent placement of their youngest son (12y). There are concerned neighbours.</p> <p>Conference gets out of hand as a neighbour who participates halfway of the conference starts ridiculing the established plan. The placement of the son is carried out afterwards.</p>	3	3	1	1	2	12
<p>24. A woman in her late forties who is threatened with an eviction. Problems arose when the boyfriend of her daughter took residence in her house and shortly afterwards his younger brother. They brought a lot of troubles with them, such as acting violently towards the woman and her daughter, and committing a lot of troubles in the neighbourhood. A multitude of professionals become involved. Even the mayor of town does intervene. However, all interventions seem to be too late.</p> <p>The conference never takes place, although the FGC coordinator has been involved for almost a year. The boyfriend of her daughter gets imprisoned which causes a lot of relief. The eviction is therefore prevented. The woman describes that her resilience has been strengthened partly because of the conversations she had with the FGC coordinator who helped her reflecting on her life. On the other hand, contact with her social network has been diluted. It is the assumption that a possible conference could have improved contact with her family and friends.</p>	1	1	2	1	2	8
<p>25. Conflicts between two neighbours in an apartment block. Other neighbours are seriously inconvenienced. The housing association cannot reach a settlement.</p> <p>Conference does get stalled in its preparatory stage as the safety cannot be guaranteed.</p>	2	4	3	1	4	12

26. A couple in their thirties. She is heavily addicted to alcohol. When she is under the influence she does get abused by her boyfriend. There are debts, neglect of the household and a lack of self-care to be identified. The housing association threatens with home eviction.

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Conference does yield a plan, but the plan is never fully implemented. Social support erodes after the conference. The eviction is subsequently carried out.

27. Conflict between neighbours on the right to make use of one of the neighbours' roads in order to reach the other neighbour's house. For fifteen years there had been no problems between both parties. Problems arose after a sewer had been constructed by one of the neighbours. The other neighbour never showed appreciation. Bullying gets out of hand and the police is almost daily alerted. A solution is not within reach. The case is discussed within the PMHC network. It is decided to organise a community conference.

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Conference does yield a plan. The turning point is when one of the neighbours starts crying, resulting in a certain level of empathy among the other neighbours. Involved members from the social network have an important role as 'shock absorbers'. The main goal to establish peace once again has been reached. One and a half year later the situation is still stable and there have been no reports to the police. Specific goals, such as improving the quality of contact, have not been reached, but probably this is not realistic any longer.

28. Conflict between two groups of young people, aged between 15 and 28 years. They formerly were one group, but when a conflict broke out between a former couple the group fell apart. Problems escalated

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when two girls were hit by a car. A community conference is prepared to prevent further escalation.

Conference does yield a plan. There is an alteration from the normal procedure, as several meetings between four fathers and involved professionals are organised. They all agree on how to get the youth back on the right track. All fathers are able to correct the young people and the situation stabilises. Two years after the conference the situation is still stable, also probably as one of the main trouble makers has moved to another town.

<p>29. Problems in a local neighbourhood where a man in his forties with schizophrenia resides. After being homeless for years he was given shelter in one the houses that became available. The social cohesion within this neighbourhood is strong as all neighbours take care of each other. They tolerate a lot of rather unacceptable behaviour of the man. But this behaviour at one certain moment gets out of hand and there is an incident where the man acts aggressively towards a neighbour. The neighbours alert his case manager of the ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) team. She decides to apply for an involuntary admission to a psychiatric ward. This however is not what the neighbours wanted. A PMHC professional motivates everybody to take part in a conference. The man himself does not want to be involved herein as it evokes too much fear and aggravates his psychotic behaviour. He is being represented by his sister.</p> <p>Conference does yield a plan. The plan provides the neighbours clear instructions how to correct unacceptable behaviour. Contact between the neighbours and the man's sister has been intensified. It is decided not to deploy coercive measures. A year after the conference took place the situation is still stable.</p>	4	I	6	I	9	10
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30. A man in his early fifties who formerly had been addicted to alcohol and drugs. He has both a case manager from the addiction care as one from mental health care. He lives in socially isolated circumstances. He does not dare to ask his social network for help, both as he does not want to burden them as he does not know how to ask for it. He will undergo surgery soon and he is afraid what will be done with his dogs when he is not around. Conference is being planned to come to a solution for this, but also to improve his social support.

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Conference does yield a plan. The FGC coordinator creates a safe platform whereon the client feels at ease to ask his neighbours for help. A clear plan is established on what will happen with his dogs when he is in the hospital. Although this does not seem to be a major achievement, the practical goals actually touched deeper ones as contact with his neighbours has been intensified and social support subsequently increased. The case manager of mental health care indicates a significant decrease in time she spends on him.

31. A man (55y) who has been in downward spirals of a lack of income and deterioration for a while. He feels ashamed for his living conditions. He has a concerned social network that in the past did do a lot for him, without any significant result. He lives in the garage of his house which he rents to someone else. A conference is prepared to break through downward spirals and to let the man realise he should change his life.

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Conference does yield a plan. His social network has the chance to confront the man with their concerns and his problematic behaviour. It is being emphasised that reciprocity should be mobilised, otherwise the network

would easily lose motivation once again. After the conference, the man somehow relapses in old patterns, but the network seems strong enough to handle this. After the formal conference, several follow-up meetings are organised by the social network to keep everyone on the right track. There is a clear aim to improve the man's living conditions, but also to motivate him for professional help.

32. A young mother in her early twenties. After several conflicts with her partner, the housing association decided to evict them. She receives help from a social welfare organisation in order to find a new house. She has a history of sexual abuse, homelessness, and increasing debts. She has difficult contact with her parents, but a good contact with her brothers and sisters (although she does not want them to get too close to her). A conference is organised to find sustainable accommodation, make plans for good motherhood, decrease financial debts, get into psychological treatment, and follow education. I 7 I I 4 10

She receives help from a social welfare organisation in order to find a new house. She has a history of sexual abuse, homelessness, and increasing debts. She has difficult contact with her parents, but a good contact with her brothers and sisters (although she does not want them to get too close to her). A conference is organised to find sustainable accommodation, make plans for good motherhood, decrease financial debts, get into psychological treatment, and follow education.

Conference does yield a plan. Her parents do not participate herein, but all her brothers and sisters take part, even her ex-boyfriend and his parents. A brother takes the lead during the conference. It is an emotional meeting. Her ex suddenly leaves the meeting, but his parents represents him to agree on a plan for the baby. The plan is implemented. The first months all went well, up to the moment a conflict arises between the woman and her ex. Also she does not want her brothers and sisters to be involved as she considers herself self-reliant. It is decided to organise another conference once again.

33. A young woman of 22 years old who had already been admitted to a psychiatric ward a couple of times, of which one time involuntary. She I 16 I I 11 21

has a concerned mother and a large group of friends (including friends of her mother). Her parents got divorced when she was 10. She was diagnosed with ADHD and PDD-NOS at a young age and recently she got the diagnosis schizophrenia. When stress is increasing, she starts drinking excessively. Especially Facebook does overwhelm her. She has the tendency to get caught up in a circle of deterioration and increasing chaotic behaviour. A conference is organised to structure her life in a proper way with the help of her social network and to make her less dependent on mental health care. But also to relieve the burden of care of her mother and her ex-girlfriend.

Conference does yield a plan. The first meeting was cancelled as the woman was at risk of psychosis. Finally the conference went ahead. Many people participates herein. It last for a long time. One of the friends of her mother takes the lead. A clear plan is established on how to prevent relapse. On the basis of the plan, the woman knows better who to contact when she feels stressed and insecure. Her mother and ex-girlfriend feel that they are less stressed. The situation is apparently stable, but there are still concerns what would happen if the woman will increasingly feel stressed once again. Frequent evaluation sessions seem necessary.

34. A man of 53 years old who is addicted to alcohol and lives in social isolation. A couple of years ago, he became unemployed as he was under the influence of alcohol while working. He has concerned brothers and sisters, but they live all 60 kilometres from where he lives. As his drive licence has been taken from him, it is difficult for him visiting his family. Professional care that has been involved for years has not been able to break through his declining living conditions. A conference is requested.
- Conference does yield a plan. All his brothers and sisters
- I I 2 I 5 7

participate herein. His oldest sister is the central person who is most concerned. The plan mainly consists of practical goals that have to be achieved, such as cleaning and renovating the house and put it on sale, decrease alcohol consumption, and structure finances. Up to three months after the conference, the plan is being implemented and all practical goals achieved, except from selling his house. However, as there is a lack of reciprocity, his brothers and sisters give up providing help. The man acts passive and starts drinking once again. As he feels ashamed he does not contact his family any longer. Finally he has been admitted to a psychiatric ward for detox.

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| <p>35. A man in his late twenties. There are downward spirals of cannabis use, deterioration, and increasing debts to be indicated. His father has already been out of the picture since his young adolescence. He, however, does have a concerned mother, two sisters and a brother. Further on, he does have few friends, and when there are friends they also live in the same small world of cannabis use. His mother has taken care of him a lot. She manages his budget, but she is afraid that he will be evicted from his apartment. When the conference is organised, there is no professional help involved. In the past, he was taken care of by addiction care. The conference is organised to realise social embedding, and help him finding a suitable job or study.</p> <p>Conference does yield a plan. His cannabis use is being discussed, although the man prior to the conference indicated that he did not want to discuss this issue as it always led to conflicts with his family. The conference, however, provides a platform whereon he feels at ease to make clear to his family that he uses cannabis as a coping manner so he does not get overwhelmed. Consequently, his family shows understanding. After</p> | <p>1 6 0 1 5 8</p> |
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the conference, the mother indicates that she feels less burdened with the situation of her son as her daughters are more concerned. They made good agreements on his financial management. One of his sisters helps him finding a job or study, while the contact with the other sister and his brother has been intensified. There is reciprocity in contact to be indicated, as the man is more interested in the wellbeing of his family.

36. A man (47y) who has been I 4 I I 4 6

addicted to alcohol for several years and who has languished for a long time. Up to a few years ago he was working in a bar, but was fired. From the 1990s, he has been in the picture of addiction care. The last year his situation got increasingly worse, even in such an extension that he was send to hospital. Awareness arose that he should change his situation. His case manager applies for a conference in order to mobilise support from his family, to break through his social isolation, and to find a daily activity. A younger brother and older sister will take part as well an uncle.

Conference does yield a plan. The preparation takes a long time, namely nine months, as the conference needed to be delayed. The coordinator could have motivated the participants coming to getter earlier. Especially the involvement of a former friend was fruitful, as this person was addicted himself and therefore able to explain how difficult it is to stop drinking alcohol. This creates more understanding among the social network. The family agrees on how to improve the financial situation and what to do when there is a relapse in drinking alcohol excessively. Shortly after the conference there are positive outcomes such as an increase in self-reliance and social support. Doubts, however, are on if these benefits will last in the long run.

37. A couple in their forties who has a twin of 6 years old. He is originally from a country in the Middle East, while she is Dutch. Multiple problems of both parents and children are entangled with each other, such as mental problems, mild cognitive disabilities, a lack of pedagogical capabilities, and a lack of social contacts. Besides, both parents have physical problems since they were caught up in a car accident three years ago. The children had been once placed out of their homes. A large number of professionals are involved, but all not able to create the progress that is needed. The parents feel ashamed for their living conditions. A conference is organised to create a safe pedagogical environment for the children, to increase social support and strengthen the capabilities of the parents.

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Conference does yield a plan. During the meeting the parents are confronted with painful questions which on the basis of their cognitive disabilities they are not able to answer. Several members of the social network are given a lot of tasks, which later on they are not amused with. Goals are written down in the plan how to take care of the children and activate the mother. Shortly after the conference the situation slightly improves, but as the parents remain passive and reciprocity is not mobilised, the social network give up providing help. The parents relapse in old patterns. An evaluation is never organised, while all participants agreed during the conference this was deemed necessary.

38. Two adult sons (28 and 26y) who are still living with their mother and stepfather. Both are unemployed and have huge debts. The youngest son has been reported by the police several times because of committing petty crimes, such as stealing and riding a car

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without being insured. All his friends are unemployed as well and do negatively influence each other. The oldest son did use a lot of drugs in the past, and even dealt drugs with two other friends. There is a lot of tension within the family, usually leading to conflicts. Their mother and stepfather do not trust both sons as even they had been stealing from their house. All informal conversations lead to conflicts and therefore do not yield a solution. Finally, it is enough for the mother (52y) and stepfather (62y). They ask for professional help on how to get their sons out of their house to start living on their own, and to come to a solution for the increasing debts. The social worker applies for a conference.

The conference does yield a plan. As it is organised in a neutral environment and as several extended family members participate who are not directly involved in the problematic situation, it has been prevented that sons could escape from the meeting which had been usually the case when problems were discussed at the kitchen table. Family members, such as a sister of the mother and the daughter of the stepfather, confront the sons with their unacceptable behaviour. The youngest son even starts crying. Both finally realise that they should change their behaviour. A plan is established. After the conference both sons quickly find a paid job and consequently can fulfil their debts. The oldest son starts living together with his girlfriend and will become father. Both mother and father indicate they totally feel relieved after the conference.

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| <p>39. A mother and stepfather with two sons of 20 and 13 years old. There is a lack of pedagogical capabilities. Also mental health problems are to be indicated. The oldest son is depressive and acts passively. He has quiet his study and remains in bed for a long time. The youngest</p> | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|

son acts difficult within the house, especially towards the stepfather, although he does not act problematic at school and receives good grades. Before the conference he had been sent involuntarily to a crisis department of a youth care institution. After this admission a conference is applied to stabilise the situation at home.

Conference does yield a plan. The conference is intense, and as the children feel they are offended, both start crying and leave the meeting. The oldest son does not return. They miss the support other family members or concerned bystanders could have given them. Afterwards there are also debts on the composition of the conference group as some participants acted very dominantly. Although the participants are not directly positive on the proceedings of the conference itself, they indicate that the situation now have turned for the better. Their capabilities and social support have been decreased. The informal network has come closer together as there is a better communication and mutual understanding.

40. Parents, both in their forties, who 0 0 1 1 6 5

have four children (daughter of 15, son of 11, daughter of 9, and son of 7y). The two oldest children are placed out of their home, the other two are living together with their grandparents (parents of the father). There have been conflicts for some time between the parents and grandparents on who should take care of the children. The conflict escalates and the safety of the children cannot longer be ensured. A conference is organised to restore contact.

It is decided that the conference should take part during two separate meetings: the first meeting to recover contact, the second to establish a plan. No other family members will be invited; it is a meeting between the parents and grandparents. One professional takes part within the

conference. Both the FGC coordinator as professional were positive on the outcomes of the first meeting and indicate that conditions for recovery have been created. They agree on organising the second meeting two weeks later. As conflicts arise again, the parents do not longer want to proceed with the second meeting. They are unreachable for professionals afterwards. The children are still living together with their grandparents, who are reluctant towards contacting the parents. The question in this case is whether it would not have been better to organise the second meeting 48 hours after the first meeting to prevent that the positive energy would get lost.

<p>41. A young girl of 13 years old who has both roots from the Netherlands as Suriname. She has been placed out of her home when she was a toddler as her mother on the basis of excessive drugs use did not take care of her. She had a good contact with her first foster parents, but because of insecurity within this family, it was decided she should live with another foster family. She was not able to find her place within this family and indicated that she wanted to live together with her biological family. Professionals never had thought in the past that she could actually being placed with one of her relatives, although she has a concerned family. A conference is organised so a permanent living place where she feels at ease could be found. A big number of family members, her foster parents, and even her biological mother would participate.</p> <p>Conference does yield a plan. Her older sister, who is 23 years old, wants to take care of her. Uncles who are present doubt if the sister is able to do so, but her aunts indicate that she would be capable enough to take care of the girl. The family agrees that the girl should be taken care of by her sister as soon</p>	2	3	2	I	3	18
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as possible. They also formulate an alternative plan when the first plan will not be implemented. The professionals who are present indicate the quality and strength of the plan. It takes, however, another two months before the sister is able to take care of the girl as she needed to wait for a new house. Eight months after the she found shelter by her sister, all participants indicate the positive outcomes. The capabilities of both the girl and her sister has been strengthened, their social support has increased, and above all the girl is happy living together with her sister.

- * 4I analysed cases (N=312 individual interviews), 4I group member checks (N=144 participants), and total number of participants in the processes of the 4I family group conferences (N=473)
- ** The individual case study reports can be requested at the author of this thesis. As the reports are ethically laden, applicants will be asked to sign a confidential agreement
- *** Respondents who were not present during the member check were asked to respond to interim findings by phone or e-mail
- **** We also counted the potential participants in the cases where the conference itself never took place
- ***** Although there were no respondents present during these member checks, the interim findings were discussed between the researchers and employees of the Dutch FGC organisation