

Guidelines for Group Discussion



maximum of 45 minutes.

Sit in groups of 4-5 participants (minimum 3, maximum 8).

- Participants must be non-related.
- Select one case scenario to discuss at each table.
- Devote 30 minutes to discuss a scenario to a

Everyone gets a chance to be heard using either round style or free style. In the beginning, it's important to respect those participants might be shy or reluctant to contribute. They may contribute when they trust that they will be given a chance to speak. The facilitator should pay attention to cues to open up the discussion space for people to speak, monitor the contribution of others by inviting them to speak, or gently act as a conversation traffic manager.

- The goal is to discuss the topics, not to find a solution.
- Questions that need clarification and information about community services may be offered by team members at the next meeting.

Discussion Rules



Each person can participate, including asking questions, or giving an opinion, information or idea.

Others may build on each the responses of others.

No criticism is allowed. No ideas are bad or wrong.

Suggestions



Keep group structure together for at least 6 weeks, since it takes about 6 weeks weeks to develop a new friend.

Small groups should have the same membership to build friendships and personal connections.

If new members join the program, start a new group of 4-8 rather than adding the new members to a established, bonded group.

If there seems to be an un-resolvable problem at the table, the team can remove the participant and shift them to another new group. Groups can become smaller and remain cohesive but not bigger.

Team member role is to assist in facilitating stagnant conversations and diffusing conflict.

However, it is not an opportunity to teach, lecture, do therapy or critique opinions, or exert power as a professional or agency staff.