PROTOCOL FOR FOCUS GROUP
WITH EXTENSION FIELD STAFF ON
BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

Objectives: There are two objectives for this focus group session. The first objective is to determine how the Building Strong Families (BSF) program and the coordination of the program can be adapted to fit more easily within existing programming efforts with families. The second objective is to provide a model of a focus group used for program improvement.

Participants: The field-based extension staff and local collaborators present at the meeting will participate in the focus group (about 7 people).

Mechanics of the Discussion: The participants and moderator will sit in a circle during the discussion. The moderator will record the answers to the key questions and the summary question on a flip chart.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction: Yesterday you were introduced to the BSF program. As you remember, we covered the Family Strengths module and a few activities in the Managing Stress module. Brenda and Lucy also gave a program overview and talked about implementing the BSF curriculum. In the discussion today, I would like for you to think about the families that you come in contact with in your current work. I would like to find out how the BSF program could be adapted to fit more easily within your existing activities.

Opening Question: Let’s start by having each of you tell me your name and how many years you’ve worked with at-risk families or individuals.

Introductory Question: What previous experience have you had with the BSF program?

Transition Question: Can you describe a group of families you already work with (or plan to work with) who would benefit from the BSF program?

Key Questions:

1) If you think about implementing the BSF program with families you already work with, what kinds of barriers (or obstacles) come to mind?
2) How could the BSF program be adapted to fit more easily within your existing activities?

Ending Question: [Moderator to summarize responses to the key questions and big ideas that have emerged] “Is this an adequate summary?”