

## FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

Family Team meetings are held when the supervisor and social worker feel that a neutral party would be helpful to facilitate dialogue between the family, the Department, providers and/or foster parents. Family Team meetings have been beneficial for:

- Creating open adoption agreements between foster parents and biological parents.
- Discussing reunification and/ or engagement efforts with a family when stalled.
- Meeting with families at a 90 day mark to ascertain progress and develop priority goals and steps.

## HOW DO I SCHEDULE A TEAM MEETING?

Requests for any type of teaming can be generated by the social worker and supervisor and requested through the Regional Teaming Coordinator: SWS Melanie Kmetz via email with a CC to SW Karen Smith, SW Tamara Randall.

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By: Melanie Kmetz, Social Worker Supervisor  
&  
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## PARTNERS IN CHANGE

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### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH TEAMING



*Families Can Best Solve Family Problems*

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Region 1  
Bridgeport ♦ Norwalk

Maria H. Brereton, MSW  
Regional Administrator

## TEAMING

The Department of Children and Families Child and Family Teaming model is a strength-based, family centered approach to partnering with families and their supports to protect children and enhance parental capacity.

This approach is built on the partnership and collaboration between families, the Department and community providers.

The Department offers varying types of teaming.



## TEAM DECISION MAKING

Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings are for children who are in a DCF placement. The meetings are designed to assist in placement disruptions, transition placements, assessing possible relative/kin placements, and moving children out of congregate care.

A TDM welcomes the child and the family to be a part of the decision making team. The TDM process supports families bringing their relatives, friends and other supports to the meeting to help with planning and problem solving. The purpose of the TDM meeting is to reach a decision by agreement. Sometimes, despite our best efforts, this does not happen. If an agreement cannot be reached, the case worker will make the final decision.

The goal of Teaming is to strengthen families and improve outcomes for children and youth. TDM empowers families.

- Families must be strong to protect children.
- TDM helps to insure safety by encouraging use of resources and strengths of families, friends, relatives, and communities.
- Looking for strengths brings about cooperation, positive energy and creativity.

## CONSIDERED REMOVAL-CHILD & FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

A Considered Removal Child and Family Team Meeting (CR-CFT) is a chance for family members and caregivers to talk about possible solutions for children who are at risk of being removed from the home due to safety concerns.

- The purpose of the meeting is to make a decision about mitigating safety factors that focuses on whether the child should be removed from the home and if so, where the child will go.
- We recognize the importance of keeping children safe while keeping family connections and relationships.
- A Considered Removal Child and Family Team meeting is required for **ALL** cases in which a child is being **CONSIDERED** for removal from his/her home. In case of imminent danger wherein a 96 HH has been invoked, a CR-CFT must be held within in 2 business days of the removal. In extenuating circumstances, the CR-CFT can be held prior to the 10 day hearing.
- All Bench OTC's require a CR-CFT.