

What is Team Decision Making?

Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings bring the community together to develop and support a safety action plan for children and their families.



TDM is a nationally recognized process that allows for the involvement and input from people who want to help children and their families. Critical to this process is the involvement of those family members, the youth, and others, in coming to a decision about what is in the best interest of the child regarding a change in placement, family reunification, or at risk of being removed from their current care provider.

What Happens at a Team Decision Making Meeting?

The Team Decision Making meeting is scheduled when *action* is needed to establish a safety plan for a child in regards to placement. A trained facilitator leads the group as they attempt to reach agreement on a safety action plan. It's important that everyone who is involved with the child participate in developing the plan.

Meetings begin with a brief history that led to the TDM meeting. Then there is discussion of the family and child strengths and challenges that serve as a means to developing a recommended placement and safety plan. The group then comes together to finalize the details of the plan. TDM meetings are typically 1 to 1½ hours in length.



GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE MEETING

- All participants should contribute to the process, with honesty & respect.
- Each participant will have the opportunity to speak and be heard.
- Participants need to express what they are willing to do and make commitments.
- The focus is on safety and the needs of the child.
- Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TEAM DECISION MAKING?

- More information is made available
- Broader participation leads to creative ideas and workable solutions
- People and places important to a child are acknowledged and respected
- Sharing of decision making and responsibilities
- Fewer placement changes
- Creating a safety plan to keep children at home.

TEAM DECISION MAKING IS A CRUCIAL TOOL...

- When protective custody is being considered due to concerns for a child's safety.
- When a change in placement is being considered.
- When the child is at risk of leaving their relative, foster family, or group home placement.
- Family members and others who love and care for the child are essential in making the best decision.



PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Team Decision Meetings, while not a formal legal process, value the family and the child's right to privacy. All participants, other than the family and child, will be expected to sign an agreement to not discuss the content of the meeting with others.

Note: Any information having to do with the concerns about the safety and welfare of children is reportable by law.

TDM MEETING

We hope you are able to attend and contribute. Should you be unable to attend, please contact the Social Worker below and see if there are other ways to contribute to the safety plan.

Child's Name: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Social Worker: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Placer County Health & Human Services
Children's System of Care
11716 Enterprise Drive
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-6700



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE

Team Decision Making

People coming together to make decisions for the safety and well being of children and their families.

