

**AT THE FAMILY TEAM MEETING, A FACILITATOR GUIDES THE PROCEEDINGS.**

### GOALS

Encourage interactions between and among family members and professionals that lead to creative, but practical and effective solutions for the children and families.

Hear from all team members, including family and support people about strengths and concerns related to the children's safety, permanence, and well being.

As a team, discuss, identify and discern the resources and supports needed to ensure the safety, permanence, and well being of the children.

Promptly engage supportive services the family may need to implement the plan for improving child safety, permanence, and well being.



A FTM usually takes about two hours on average. At the meeting, participants will develop and disseminate a plan.



**Child and family-centered practice will influence and enhance the way everyone in the system views and works with clients and with each other.**



**NORFOLK**  
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## Family Team Meetings



### FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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## Family Team Meetings Core Values



All families have strengths.

Families are the experts on themselves.

With appropriate support, families can make informed choices and good decisions about how to keep their children safe.

Children are more likely to achieve long-lasting, positive outcomes when their family is involved in decision-making.

Teamwork is the best way to make creative, high-quality decisions about complex, multidisciplinary issues.

Families deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

### FTM PARTICIPANTS

- The Family
- NDHS investigator and supervisor
- NDHS ongoing social worker and supervisor
- Community resource specialists for substance abuse, mental health education, housing, etc.
- Representatives from other provider organizations, based on early information about child/family needs – for example, mental health; home based services, etc.
- Foster parents
- Guardian ad Litem (GAL)

### A Family Team Meeting:

- Engages parents by including relatives, friends, and other supporters they define as important to them.
- Includes the social worker, community partners, and other professionals who will help and support the family.
- Provides a structured opportunity for open, creative discussion focused on child safety, stability, and well being.
- Is led by a trained facilitator.
- Recognizes the family as capable and competent decision makers.
- Provides families with options and supports them in making choices best suited to their individual needs and dynamics.
- Honors the collective ability of the group to develop cohesiveness, learn, guide, and heal.
- Relies on teamwork to stimulate ownership and responsibility for achievement of goals.

**Family Team Meetings are a proven method of engaging and empowering families, resulting in better outcomes for children and all other stakeholders.**



## FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS OFFER MANY BENEFITS

### Child

- Center of attention with clear focus on safety, permanence, and well being (“best interests”)
- Voice in decision making (when age appropriate)
- Prompt, individualized services and support
- Greater stability, reduced trauma
- Efficient, effective solutions with long-term, lasting outcomes

### Parents

- Engagement, involvement, empowerment
- Strong voice in decision making
- Choices
- Prompt, individualized services and support
- Respect, encouragement
- Efficient, effective solutions

### Extended family

- Inclusion in decision making
- Information, insight, opportunity
- Engagement, involvement, empowerment
- Respect, encouragement, support

### Social Workers

- Clear role/responsibilities
- Improved family engagement
- Increased resources
- Support through teamwork
- Meaningful outcomes, increased job satisfaction

### Service Providers

- Information, insight, opportunity
- Inclusion in decision making
- Clear role/responsibilities
- Improved family engagement
- Teamwork
- Meaningful outcomes, increased job satisfaction

### Legal partners

- Information and insight
- Clear role/responsibilities
- Better decisions flowing from more thorough and higher quality information
- Teamwork and support
- Meaningful outcomes, increased job satisfaction

