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F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

Issue 08-27

Date: 06/16/08

TDM PARTICIPANTS

Who can attend?

TDM is a team process used to create a collaborative effort between DCFS staff, family, youth, community members, caregivers and service providers in the decision making process regarding a child's removal, placement and reunification. TDM facilitates a network of support for children and the adults who care for them. The focus of the TDM meeting is to make the best possible placement decision for a child, and at the same time, provide for the child's safety and well-being. To this end staff are encouraged to invite those individuals the parents or guardians and the children identify who would be supportive to them during the TDM process as well as others the CSWs feel will assist the decision making process.

Participants at TDM Meetings may include the, but are not limited to, following:

- Birth Parent(s);
- Child or Youth;
- Caregiver;
- Relative and Non-Relative Extended Family Members and Support People;
- Community Partners;
 - Provider who are already working with the family;
 - Area Center Placement Coordinator, and Department of Mental Health when applicable;
 - School personnel, when applicable; and
 - Community Family Preservation Network (CFPN) representative, when applicable.
- Community Representative;
 - Individuals/agencies invested in the growth, well being and development of their community and the families that reside there;
 - A natural ally and potential advocate for birth parents; and
 - Individuals who represent the birth family's "community" whether because of a shared home neighborhood, or a shared community of faith, ethnicity or other natural connection; this supportive connection can continue throughout the family's involvement with the system and beyond.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.co.la.ca.us

Clerical Handbook: <http://lacdcfs.org/Policy/Hndbook%20Clerical/Default.htm>

Child Welfare Services Handbook: <http://lacdcfs.org/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/default.htm>

FYI's: <http://lacdcfs.org/Policy/FYI/TOCFYI.htm>

- Cal-Works Staff
- Parent Advocate
- Child Advocate/CASA
- Other DCFS staff as needed, such as:
 - Medical Placement Unit (MPU) representative
 - Public Health Nurse (PHN),
 - Family Preservation (FP) representative
 - Kinship Support
 - Child Abduction Specialist
 - Dependency Investigator
 - Other DCFS staff may attend, as appropriate

Attorneys **shall not be** invited at this time.

- It is DCFS policy that DCFS staff may not interact with client attorneys without County Counsel being present.

Security Needs

Security needs will require the CSW and the TDM Facilitator to discuss the situation prior to the TDM meeting. When the CSW is aware of a family's history of violent or threatening behavior, (s)he must provide the TDM Scheduler and TDM Facilitator with this information. The CSW, in consultation with the TDM Facilitator, will pre-arrange adequate security at the meeting site. In rare circumstances, a family member may be excluded from the TDM process due to security issues.

See Procedural Guide 0070-548.03, Point of Engagement: Team Decision-Making (TDM)