When does a TDM occur?

A TDM is for placement decisions. It occurs when...

- A child’s safety and well-being in the home is of concern
- A child has been removed from his or her home.
- A child is in custody and a change in placement is required or requested.
- A child is soon to be reunified with his or her guardian.

Your Team Decision-Making Meeting:

Date:________________________
Time:________________________
Location:____________________
Social Worker:_________________
Telephone:___________________

For questions about TDM or for assistance with transportation, child care, or translation, please call your DCFS Social Worker. You may also call (559) 453-6355 and ask to speak to a TDM representative.
What is a TDM?

- A Team Decision-Making Meeting brings together people who are involved with the family.
- This meeting is held to ensure that the best decision is made about the care and placement of the child.
- The goal of a TDM is to ensure the safest and least restrictive placement that is in the best interest of the child.

What are the benefits of a TDM?

Better decisions are made because...

- Valuable information and greater insight about the child is shared.
- Broader participation leads to creative ideas and workable solutions.
- People and places important to a child are acknowledged and respected.
- Children are more likely to remain with family, at their school and in their community.
- Fewer placement changes.
- A network of support is established.
- Decisions are made with the family rather than for the family.

Who attends a TDM?

- Parents/guardians/family members
- Family support system
- Social Worker & Supervisor
- Child (as appropriate)
- Community partners
- Care Providers (Relatives, Foster Care or Mentors)
- Others identified by the family and social worker
- Facilitator

What happens at a TDM?

A facilitator, who is knowledgeable about Child Protective Services, laws and policies, guides the meeting.

The Steps Include:

- Introductions and meeting rules
- Concerns presented by all participants
- Identifying:
  - Child’s Need
  - Child and Family strengths
  - Community Resources
- Exploring placement options and issues.
- Developing consensus among all participants.
- Developing a plan for child’s immediate safety, including follow-up measures.
- An action plan is developed including all participants.

What makes an effective TDM?

- All participants have the opportunity to be heard and contribute to the process in an honest and respectful manner.
- All participants express what they are willing to do and make commitments to provide the best placement for the child.