

WHY HAVE A FAMILY TEAM CONFERENCE?

It **STRENGTHENS** families.

It **HELPS KEEP** families together.

It **HELPS FAMILIES FIND** effective solutions to their challenges, using their own strengths & resources.

It **REDUCES** the amount of time that children are away from their parents or caregivers, if they have already been removed from their homes.

It **ALLOWS** families to have a say in what they want & need for *their* family.

**BETTER DECISIONS MEAN
BETTER OUTCOMES FOR EVERYONE!**

MY FAMILY TEAM CONFERENCE

Anyone who cares for the child or family is encouraged to attend.

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

Contact Your Community Facilitator:



FAMILY TEAM CONFERRING

Program sponsored by:



www.heartlandforchildren.org





WHAT IS A FAMILY TEAM CONFERENCE?

A Family Team Conference is a gathering of family members, friends, and others who care about the well-being of a child or children in a family.

The purpose of a Family Team Conference is to empower families & ensure the safety of children in a particular home.

WHY WOULD A FAMILY TEAM CONFERENCE BE HELD?

Almost any family situation could benefit from a Family Team Conference.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY TEAM CONFENCING

Families are experts regarding their own lives.

Families can and do come up with the best solutions for their particular needs.

All families have strengths.

It is important to focus on solutions, rather than problems.

Flexibility: Services and solutions are matched to the unique needs of the individual family.

WHO PARTICIPATES?

Anyone who the family invites may participate.

PARTICIPANTS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Birth parents
- Child
- Siblings, *if age-appropriate*
- Extended family
- Friends
- Neighbors
- School representatives
- Church pastors, members, etc.
- Current case manager and/or child protective investigator(s)
- Representatives from community service organizations
- Guardian ad Litem(s)
- A community facilitator who is trained to facilitate these meetings

WHAT HAPPENS AT A FAMILY TEAM CONFERENCE?

Greetings and introductions

Establishing ground rules, including mutual respect & confidentiality

DISCUSSION OF:

PURPOSE & GOALS:

What does the family expect to accomplish during their Family Team Conference?

FAMILY STRENGTHS:

How can we help the family meet its goals?

BACKGROUND:

How did the family arrive at this point?

CREATING A PLAN:

The family will put together a plan that they will immediately put into action.

