

KCDHS

Partnering with Families

Child and Family Team Meetings

Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM's) are the best way for the Kern County Department of Human Services (KCDHS) to assist families in making positive changes in children and families' lives. In utilizing a team meeting process, KCDHS and the family can:

- Learn what the family hopes to accomplish.
- Set reasonable and meaningful goals.
- Recognize and affirm family strengths.
- Assess family needs and find solutions.
- Organize tasks to accomplish goals.

When is the Meeting?

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Court Social Worker: _____

Phone No. _____

Primary Social Worker: _____

Phone No. _____

What rights do families have at Child and Family Team Meetings?

- To be treated respectfully
- To choose natural supports to attend the meetings.
- To be able to express feelings honestly and openly without fear of judgement.
- To play a primary role in creating the plan.

Why is it important to attend the meeting?

This is an opportunity for the family to give input into decisions. Team members will listen to the family and help them identify services and options.



100 E. California Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93307
Tel 661.631.6600 TTY 800.735.2929

KCDHS is an equal opportunity agency.

KCDHS.org

KCDHS 640 (3-17)

Kern County Department of Human Services

Child and Family Team Meetings



CFTM

Opportunity. Options. Empowerment.

www.KCDHS.org

What is a Child and Family Team Meeting?

Child and family Team Meetings bring family members together

so that, with the support of professionals and community resources, they can create a plan that ensures child safety and meets the family's needs. The family has input about those involved with the process.

Who can attend the meetings?

Parents and children are an essential part of any Child and Family Team Meeting. Family members are encouraged to invite people they feel will be supportive to them including: relatives, community representatives, friends, neighbors, clergy, teachers, etc.

What happens at the meetings?

A trained facilitator will lead a discussion directed at the goals established by the child and/or family. The primary purpose for each Child and Family Team Meeting is to make meaningful and thoughtful decisions about a child and a family to help the family plan for the future.

What does KCDHS expect of families at the meeting?

KCDHS views parents, other family members and guardians as experts in how the family operates. The Child and Family Team members will look to the family to find out what will help the team to establish the goals of the meeting. The family may also identify outside supports to join the team that may help the family achieve its goals.



How can CFTMs support youth and young adults?

When youth, 14 years and older, and non-minor dependents attend case planning CFTMs they can choose two people to support and advocate for them. The goal of the case planning team meeting is to make sure youth have a voice and a choice in making plans for their futures. Youth will have the opportunity to talk to DHS staff and community providers about what is important to them. We'll work to make plans with the youth, not for the youth.

What is the Continuum of Care and what role do Child and Family Team Meetings play in CCR?

Continuum of Care (CCR) is a comprehensive reform to California's child welfare services that aims to make sure youth in foster care have their day-to-day physical, mental, and emotional needs met; and that they have the greatest chance to grow up in a permanent and supportive home. The Child and Family Team is the group of people who support the family to achieve these goals.

How often are Child and Family Team Meetings held?

Child and Family Team Meetings are held whenever a plan has to be made or changed for a child, youth or non-minor dependent involved with KCDHS. The first CFTM is held within 60 days of juvenile court intervention; thereafter, CFTMs are held at least every 6 months or whenever important decisions must be made.

