

# COMPARISON OF CHILD WELFARE FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

ADAPTED FROM CASEY FAMILY SERVICES (WWW.CASEYFAMILYSERVICES.ORG)

Meeting	Team Decision Meeting (TDM) Annie E. Casey Model	Family Decision Meeting (FDM) /Family Unity Meeting (FUM)	Family Group Conference (FGC) /Family Group Decision Meeting (FGDM)	Permanency Teaming Process (PTP)	Wraparound Process
<p><b>Meeting Goal</b></p> <p>All approaches involve families in a strengths-based, solution-focused team.</p> <p>All approaches focus on the child’s safety, well-being and permanence</p>	<p>To make immediate decisions about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible removal of a child and making a placement</li> <li>• changing a placement</li> </ul> <p>To seek a consensus on a placement that protects the child and preserves or reunifies the family</p>	<p>To develop a team of family, caregivers professionals and natural supports</p> <p>To engage family and assess strengths and needs</p> <p>To develop a plan for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the safety of the child</li> <li>• family reunification</li> <li>• or deciding on another permanency option</li> </ul> <p>To support the family/caregivers overtime to meet child’s needs</p> <p>To track progress and monitor plan as needed</p>	<p>To position the family as lead decision makers in developing a plan for the safety and well-being of the child.</p> <p>To present agency and community resources as options for planning.</p> <p>To build partnership with families and child welfare agencies to encourage family problem-solving.</p>	<p>To build relationships over time among children, families, other important adults, and professionals</p> <p>To develop an individualized plan for a child</p> <p>To ensure that all children, including older youth, exit the child welfare system with an enduring family relationship</p> <p>To link families with post-permanency supports</p>	<p>To maintain youth with the most serious emotional and behavioral problems in their home and community.</p> <p>To coordinate a single plan of care inclusive of interfacing agencies and services, that is family driven and youth guided</p> <p>To develop plans that include both formal and informal supports.</p>

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<p><b>Structure</b> All approaches involve meetings in which family is actively engaged.</p>	<p>Meetings occur when any placement-related decision is required</p> <p>Meetings are mandatory: a meeting must be held prior to any placement or court hearing in cases of imminent risk of removal</p>	<p>Meetings occur when a plan is needed or requires modification.</p> <p>Meetings are voluntary; they occur only with the family's approval.</p> <p>Meetings take place at any point in the life of a child welfare case</p>	<p>Meetings are voluntary; with the family's approval, meetings occur to make critical decisions or as needed by the family</p> <p>Private family time is provided during each meeting</p>	<p>Individual, small group, and large team meetings occur throughout the life of the case</p> <p>Meetings are held as needed, driven by the urgent need to achieve timely permanence</p>	<p>Wraparound is voluntary and structured around identified goals and needs of youth and family</p> <p>Meetings are structured through phases of planning, implementation and transition.</p>
<p><b>Length of Meeting</b></p>	<p>One to two hours</p>	<p>One to two hours</p>	<p>Varies from a few hours to all day.</p>	<p>One to three hours</p>	<p>One to two hours (typically longer in planning phase)</p>
<p><b>Referral Source</b></p>	<p>Public child welfare agency prior to placement decision</p>	<p>Child welfare worker, family or community member</p>	<p>Child welfare worker, family or community member</p>	<p>Public child welfare agency</p>	<p>Mental health, child welfare, education and other child-serving systems.</p>
<p><b>Preparation</b> All approaches view preparing the family meetings as vital to positive outcomes.</p>	<p>Child welfare worker invites and prepares family for meeting</p>	<p>Facilitator (child welfare worker or community provider) prepares family and all team members</p>	<p>FGC Coordinator prepares all team members (coordinator is separate role from child welfare worker)</p>	<p>Assigned child welfare worker prepares team members individually and in small groups.</p>	<p>Wraparound facilitator and family partner (when available) prepare family and all participants.</p>

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<p><b>Facilitator/Coordinator</b> All approaches use trained staff with strengths-based orientation and group-process skills.</p>	<p>Experienced child welfare worker</p>	<p>Child welfare staff or community service provider</p>	<p>Coordinator with no case-specific responsibility</p>	<p>Assigned child welfare worker or In cases of conflict of interest, another agency worker</p>	<p>Facilitator is training in Wraparound process.</p>
<p><b>Team Membership</b> In all approaches, team members may include: birth parents, extended family, non-relative supports, the child, neighborhood and community resources, service providers, the assigned social worker, other agency staff, the caregiver if the child is placed outside the family, and the GAL/CASA</p>	<p>Individuals who may be placement resources or aid in safety planning identified by the family or child welfare worker</p>	<p>Individuals the family decides should participate, with input from the facilitator</p>	<p>All members of child's extended family network</p>	<p>Individuals drawn from the child's natural network of concerned adults including former caregivers as appropriate</p>	<p>Includes formal services and interventions, together with informal supports and assistance provided by friends, kin, and other people drawn from the family's social networks.</p>
<p><b>Decision-Making Responsibility</b> All team approaches emphasize shared planning and decision making by the team</p>	<p>Agency maintains responsibility if consensus on placement or safety plan cannot be reached</p>	<p>Decisions are made by the team, within existing nonnegotiable items  Expectations are that the family's goals and preferences will guide the planning process.</p>	<p>The agency and the family make a collaborative decision  The family crafts an initial plan; the agency works with the family to finalize an ensure that the plan achieves child safety, well-being, and permanence</p>	<p>The team – with the child's voice as a central element – explores options and plans for building family relationships, exiting, or avoiding foster care (and, for older youth, preparing for adulthood in a family context)</p>	<p>Decisions are made with the Wraparound team and are inclusive of family choice and participating agency mandates</p>

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<b>Post-Meeting Monitoring</b>	Child welfare worker	Child welfare worker and facilitator  Providers report contact and information between meetings to child welfare worker	Child welfare and team members monitor and follow-up on the plan	Child welfare worker	
<b>For More Information</b>	Annie E. Casey Foundation	Center for the Study of Social Policy; National Resource Center for Foster Care Permanency Plng.	American Humane Society	Casey Family Services	National Wraparound Initiative