



THE TDM APPROACH: A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DHHS AND THE COMMUNITY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

EVIDENT
CHANGE

MEET EVIDENT CHANGE

EVIDENT
CHANGE



Evident Change is a nonprofit that uses data and research to improve our social systems.

We believe our systems should help people achieve their greatest potential, not create barriers to their success.

That's why we partner with systems professionals and communities to get to the root of their biggest challenges, and give them the tools and knowledge to achieve better outcomes for everyone involved. Because when we join forces with those who work in our systems and the people they serve, we make our systems—and our society—more equitable from the inside out.

**EVIDENT
CHANGE**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- DHHS CSA Staff
- Community Partners



WHAT IS A TDM MEETING?



A meeting convened by a public child welfare agency: when a child's safety is seriously threatened by parental action or inaction and the child's removal is being considered; OR when a child in care faces a possible move; OR when reunification is being considered.

These are the only situations in which TDM meetings are used.

TDM VALUES AND BELIEFS

- A group is often more effective at good decision making than an individual
- Families are the experts on themselves
- The family's worker is invested in making a live decision with the family that will ensure the child's safety



TDM VALUES AND BELIEFS



- When families are engaged and respectfully included in the decision-making process, they can identify and participate in addressing their needs
- Members of the family's community add value to the process as natural allies and experts on community resources

KEY ELEMENTS



Parents and youth are involved in ALL decisions about separations/moves



Timing—TDM meetings BEFORE separations/moves



Inclusive of informal and formal supports



Skilled, available, experienced facilitators



Data-informed evaluation

PURPOSE



Equality



Engagement



Equity, Inclusivity, and Transparency



Fairness



Self-Evaluation and Sustainability

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Shorter stays in out-of-home care



Fewer congregated care placements



Increased likelihood of parent–child reunification in one year



Increased likelihood of permanency with kin within one year



More initial placements in family settings (kin and foster)

WHEN TO CONVENE A TDM MEETING

- 1. Initial removal meeting** (considered or emergency)
The assigned worker assesses that ensuring the child's safety may require that child leaving home.
- 2. Placement stability meeting**
Worker first becomes aware of tensions in the placement OR the need to create a plan for a positive move.
- 3. Permanency meeting to consider unsupervised parenting time**
Parent has made progress and has consistent, positive supervised parenting time.
- 4. Permanency meeting to consider return home**
Reunification assessment indicates reduced safety threats due to parental progress.

WHO IS INVITED?

- Parents
- Family
- Youth
- Friends and non-family supports
- Service providers
- Other DHHS staff
- Community partners
- Attorneys

Each participant is present because they were invited by parents or may become a part of the family's team. Parents' wishes govern at initial TDM meeting (pre custody.)

DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMMUNITY PARTNER ATTENDEES



Support Persons: People who are invited by the family (doesn't matter who they are or how many)



Service Providers: Formal or informal providers who serve the family either currently or potentially and can be community based or agency based



Community Representatives: Someone the family is likely to relate to as a member of their "community," however they define it

ROLES OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN TDM MEETINGS

- To serve as a natural ally and/or potential advocate for the family
- To represent the family's community based on shared neighborhood, community of faith, ethnicity, or other identified connections
- To share an awareness of resources which may support the family
- To help make the family feel supported during the TDM meeting
- To help the team understand the family's community, especially its strengths
- To help the family understand the agency's concerns in relation to safety and risk
- To participate and share ideas for ensuring child safety while supporting the family

COMMUNITY PARTNERS . . . WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Connect with parents/caregivers; provide support and advocacy
- Balance out the power differential at the table
- Bring cultural and neighborhood perspective to the discussion
- Identify the resources and strengths of your community
- Speak up; ask us to clarify jargon or acronyms
- Help families understand the agency's concerns
- Ask questions about policies, information, or decisions that don't make sense
- Help connect families to services and identify opportunities to develop long-term relationships within their community

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- Provide space for TDM meetings
- Provide resource information to share with our families
- Help us connect families to supports in their communities, creating a long-term safety net
- Reach out when you need volunteers for community events



BEYOND TODAY

- Be a part of our joint effort to strengthen support for families within their communities.
- Help us identify other community members who may be interested in partnering with DHHS and our families through TDM meetings
- **Training:** More in-depth training is available for community representatives regarding their roles, child welfare policy guiding decisions, what to expect in the meetings, confidentiality, and other key factors involved in the shared decision-making process of TDM meetings
- **Successful and Mutually Beneficial Partnerships:** Ongoing communication and interactions to identify opportunities for growth and maintain positive relationships outside of the TDM meeting



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

EvidentChange.org

(800) 306-6223

Info@EvidentChange.org

Tracie Kress at DHHS:
kresst@michigan.gov

Pat Rideout at Evident Change:
plrideout@gmail.com

**EVIDENT
CHANGE**

