Family Teaming

Using the family teaming process to benefit your family when working with the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

Family teaming = bringing people who care about your family together to ensure that the best decisions are made about the child’s safety, permanence, and well-being with the goal of strengthening and preserving your family.
What are the benefits of Family Teaming?

Family Teaming helps in decision-making about what is best for the child because:

- Those who know and work with the family can provide more information about the family’s strengths.
- A team of people who know the family can think of creative ways to assist the family that will work best for the children.
- People and places important to the child are acknowledged and respected.

When is Family Teaming used?

The Family Teaming process is used when a child is found to be unsafe in the home and DMCPS provides either Intensive In-home Services with the child at home or Ongoing Case Management when the child is in out-of-home care or reunited with the parent. It may be focused on a specific topic such as:

- Decisions around a child’s safety, permanence, and well-being are being made;
- A change of placement is required or requested for a child who is in out-of-home care;
- A child is reunified with parents after being in out-of-home care and the team is called upon for support; or
- A request by the family for a Family Team meeting.

Who may come to a Family Team meeting?

The family, with the help of the case manager, determines who should come to the Family Team meeting. Participants may include:

- Parents, caregivers, family members, and others who support the family;
- Social workers and supervisors;
- Community representatives, including family advocates;
- Service providers;
- Others identified by the family or social worker.

What happens during a Family Team meeting?

The Family Team meeting begins with introducing the members of the team. Members commit to being honest and respectful of others. They also agree that what is said in the meeting is not shared with others outside of the team.

The team discusses the needs of the child, as well as the family’s strengths and needs. The safety plan for the child may be discussed, as well as progress the family is making on the changes they see as necessary to keep children safe in the home.

Members of the team may commit to supporting the family in whatever way they can.