

**WHERE IS THE TDM MEETING HELD?**

The Richmond Department of Social Services uses various locations within the community. Please see below for your specific meeting location.

<b>WHEN IS THE MEETING?</b>
<b>DATE:</b>
<b>TIME:</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>
<b>SOCIAL WORKER:</b>
<b>SOCIAL WORKER PHONE NUMBER:</b>

**REMEMBER**

*You are the expert on your family. This meeting is your opportunity to give input regarding the safety of your child. You can invite anyone you feel will be supportive to you in the meeting. Please let your worker know whom you are inviting. Also, if you are already working with a community agency, please let your worker know so they can be invited to participate in the meeting.*



**TEAM DECISION MAKING MEETING**



**INVOLVING THE CHILD, FAMILY, AGENCY AND COMMUNITY IN ALL PLACEMENT DECISIONS**

*Working together to keep children safe*

## WHAT IS A TEAM DECISION MAKING (TDM) MEETING?

The TDM meeting is an informal family meeting. This strength-based meeting is led by a trained facilitator who works with the Family and Social Worker to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate.

## WHEN IS A TDM MEETING NECESSARY?

A TDM is held when:

- \*A child's initial removal from his/her family is being considered,
- \*A change in a child's placement is being considered, and/or
- \*Recommendations are made for a permanent plan, including reunification, termination of parental rights, or emancipation.

## WHAT HAPPENS AT A TDM MEETING?

\*A trained facilitator goes over the ground rules, guides the meeting, and helps all participants have a voice in the meeting.

- Social worker identifies the reason for the meeting.
- Participants are asked to identify youth/family strengths and needs.
- Participants share their ideas of how to provide for child's safety and well-being.
- Participants review ideas and come up with a plan that all can support.
- The parents have a voice in making decisions and plans.
- If the child is in foster care, foster parents get a chance to discuss concerns and to identify what support they need to maintain the child in their home.
- All participants are treated with respect and dignity by everyone in attendance.
- The goal of the meeting is to reach a consensus about a plan that protects the child (ren) and preserves or reunifies the family.

## TDM'S HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO:

- Improve the quality of decisions because a group can be more effective in decision making than an individual
- Improve safety outcomes for children
- Recognize that families are the experts on themselves
- Increase cooperation and participation among families, service providers, the community, and social workers.
- Decrease the length of time children stay in foster care.

