

TDM

TEAM

DECISIONMAKING

**"Let us put our heads
together and see what life we will make for our children."**

Tatanka Iotanka (Sitting Bull)

TDM is a team process used to create a collaborative effort between DCFS staff, family, youth, community members, caregivers and service providers in the decision making process regarding a child's removal, placement and reunification.

A Team Decision Making Meeting (TDM) occurs when a child being:

- ❖ A child/youth is considered for **removal** from his/her home
- ❖ A child/youth is considered for placement/**replacement**
- ❖ A child/youth is considered for **reunification**

A TDM focuses on safety and the needs of the child and family.

A TDM is held to make the best decision about the care and placement of the child.

Stages of a TDM:

- ❖ INTRODUCTION
- ❖ IDENTIFY THE SITUATION
- ❖ ASSESS THE SITUATION
- ❖ DEVELOP IDEAS
- ❖ REACH A DECISION
- ❖ RECAP/EVALUATION/CLOSING

The **goal** is to reach consensus on a decision regarding placement and/or to make a Safety/Action Plan, which protects the children and preserves or reunifies the family. For policy purposes, consensus means that each participant can support the plan made by the team and may not necessarily mean that the participant agrees with everything.

For additional information, please visit:

DCFS external TDM website:

http://lacdcs.org/katieA/programs_resources/index.html

Annie E. Casey Foundation:

<http://www.aecf.org/Home/MajorInitiatives/Family%20to%20Family/Resources.aspx>

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