

TEAM DECISION MAKING (TDM)

A TDM brings together people who are involved with the youth to discuss the concerns/needs, and strengths of the youth and family in order to provide the Court, and informed recommendation regarding the care and placement of the youth.

When to Schedule a TDM:

- **Imminent Risk of Removal:** When safety/risk factors are present for the youth and parent(s) and safety interventions are inadequate or do not exist therefore making the youth at risk for removal.
- **Placement Change/Disruption:** When a caregiver gives a 7-day notice or when PO determines, in consultation with the supervisor, that the placement is in danger or disruption due to reasons including but not limited to: non-compliance and safety concerns.
- **Reunification/Exit:** When youth/parent(s) have made sufficient progress in reducing the safety/risk factors that resulted in youth's out-of-home placement. Ideally, reunification TDM should occur prior to starting overnight visitation home.

Role of the Probation Officer for TDM

- Consult with your supervisor to determine if a TDM is appropriate. Discuss possible meeting participants for meeting.
- Advise the youth and family of what a TDM is and the reasons necessitating the TDM.
- Complete the TDM request form (hyperlink to TDM Request Form in JAMS) and provide to the Facilitator.
- Be honest, clear when presenting concerns and strengths during the meeting.
- Know the case; if the case was recently transferred, consult previous PO about concerns and strengths.
- Support the values and best practices of the Probation Department
- If the group does not reach a consensus, be prepared to consider all the information and make a recommendation regarding the youth's placement that will be presented to the Staffing Committee, if necessary.

Role of the Supervisor for TDM:

- Assist the PO in determining if a TDM is appropriate
- Assist the team in coming up with a decision that is in the youth's best interest and in the least restrictive environment to meet rehabilitative needs.
- Support the values and best practices of the Probation Department.
- If the group does not reach a consensus, be prepared to assist the PO in making a recommendation regarding the youth's placement that will be presented to the Staffing Committee, if necessary
- Debrief TDM with PO and/or Facilitator if necessary.