



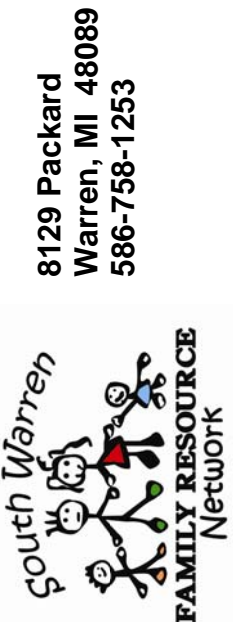
Be a Part of the Team

You can become a member of the Team Decision Making (TDM) group that meets when it may be necessary for the Department of Human Services to consider removing children from their birth parents



Family to Family

An initiative to support families involved in the foster care system.



8129 Packard
Warren, MI 48089
586-758-1253

You CAN Make a Difference! Volunteer to become a Family to Family Community Representative

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Organization _____

Telephone number _____ Email address _____

I am willing to serve as a community representative in Team Decision Making. Yes No

My organization is willing to collaborate with a network of community

partners to support families whose children may have been abused/neglected. Yes No

Please mail to: **Community Specialist - 8129 Packard - Warren, MI 48089** or call 586-758-1253

What is a Team Decision Making Meeting?

A team decision making meeting (TDM) is scheduled by the Department of Human Services (DHS) caseworker to assure that the best possible decision is made regarding issues of custody, placement and permanency for children with the focus always on the best interests of the children.

The Department of Human Services makes a commitment to invite a Community Representative to TDM meetings, especially to those involving the potential removal of a child from his/her birth family.

Being a part of “the team” will mean you will play one of the following roles:

- Represent the birth family’s “community” because of a shared geographic, cultural, religious, socioeconomic and/or ethnic connection. This supportive connection can continue throughout the family’s involvement with the system and beyond.
- Provide the Department of Human Services staff and its partners an under-standing of the family’s community of origin, especially its strengths.
- Serve as a natural support for birth families at a TDM meeting.
- Participate in the meeting and particularly share ideas for ensuring the children’s safety while supporting the family.

Who Makes Up The Team?



- You!
- Birth Parents
- Foster Parents

• Adoptive Parents

• Family’s Support System

• Department of Human Services Worker

• Extended Family Members

• Fictive Kin - Family Friends, Neighbors



• Service Providers

• Community Advocates

• Prevention Services Worker

• Guardian Ad Litem



• Teacher/Counselor or School Staff

• Probation/Parole Officer

• Children, when age appropriate

What to Expect During a Team Decision Making Meeting

- Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect.
- Be prepared to share information regarding strengths and needs of the family and the children.
- Be honest and offer straight talk.
- Explore options and resources that support the family and children.
- Plan for safety and permanency for the children.
- Express what you are willing to do and make your commitments.
- The Department of Human Services caseworker should have Structured Decision Making tools completed and available. The case worker should be prepared to lead a discussion regarding children safety, risk and permanency.

Call the Family to Family Community Specialist at 586-758-1253 to find out more about becoming a volunteer member of the team.