

The Role of the Community at the TDM Meeting

There are three different types of “community” people:

- 1) Support persons who are invited by the family (as many as they like and whoever they are)
- 2) Service providers, either formal or informal, who serve the family either presently or potentially (in the second case, family permission is required at an initial meeting). They can be invited by anyone, and can be community or agency based.
- 3) Specific “Community Representatives” who are invited by the agency: these are the people whose role it is to relate to the family and assist in identifying natural, existing or creative yet safe supports for the family.

The goal of the meeting is to make informed decisions regarding the safe and stable placement of children in the least intrusive and restrictive manner by having maximum information. This cannot be done effectively without the community having a permanent place at the table.

How Can I Learn More or Become a Community Representative?

We all have a stake in what happens to children and families in our own communities. Anyone can become a Community Representative.

For more information or to learn how to become a Community Representative please contact the Montgomery County Office of Children & Youth by calling (610) 278-5800.



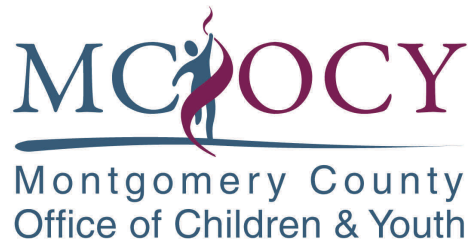
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH

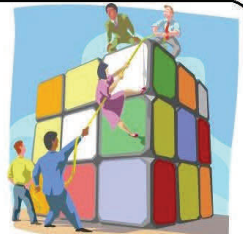
TEAM DECISION MAKING

Supporting Children; Home, Neighbors & Community



TDM
Team Decision Making

Montgomery County Office of Children & Youth



TEAM DECISION MAKING

What is TDM?

Team Decision Making (TDM) is a meeting between caseworkers, parents, family members, friends, and community members to decide how best to protect and help a child and family. TDM's are held for all placement-related decisions. They should occur before a child moves, with hopes of preventing children from placement or placement disruptions.

Why hold a TDM?

- A group can be more effective in decision-making than an individual
- Families are the experts regarding themselves
- When families are included in decision making, they are capable of identifying their own needs and strengths
- Family members and community members add value to the decision making process of children in formal placement settings



It takes all of us to support our children. They are our future!

The Importance of

Team Decision Making:

Out of home placement of children is a very traumatic experience for everyone. The removal of a child affects the family, friends, and the entire community. Through TDM, everyone comes together to find the least intrusive, least restrictive plan possible for children and families. The goal is to ensure that children are safe at all times, and that the family and the community are given the opportunity to work as a team to find ways to keep the children safe and the family supported through this time. By bringing everyone together, the family is able to discover resources that they may not have previously known, the community is able to provide support for the family, and the child is provided with many more options.

Why is TDM needed...

Montgomery County Statistics Show:

- Over 7,000 contacts from concerned citizens to MCOCY per year
- Approximately 1,500 investigations of Child Abuse & Neglect each year
- Over 300 children in foster placement
- Child well-being improves with home and placement stability
- Caring family and community members are natural supports for families
- Supporting children and families improves the future for all of us

The TDM Meeting:

- Lasts approximately 1-2 hours
- Guided by a facilitator
- Identifies & assesses situation
- Strategies & ideas discussed
- Resources identified
- Decisions made
- Plans set forth



Who Makes Up The Team:

Parents/Custodians
Children – Age 10 and Up
Extended family & non-relative supports
Current caregivers –
(kin/foster/group/residential)
Caseworker(s) of record and supervisor (s) of record
Community partners
Service providers
Child Advocate/GAL
Other agency staff—to include resource homes and in-home services
Facilitator