

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

DECEMBER 14, 2007

MEMORANDUM**What's Inside:**Lack of consensus
at FST/PPRT
meetings

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LACK OF CONSENSUS AT FAMILY SUPPORT/PERMANENCY
PLANNING REVIEW TEAM MEETINGS

DISCUSSION:

This memorandum addresses steps staff should follow when there is a lack of consensus at Family Support Team (FST) or Permanency Planning Review Team (PPRT) meetings. Occasionally, there are situations when FST/PPRT participants put forth recommendations which Children's Division (CD) staff cannot accept as the recommendations are not believed to be in the best interest of the child and/or conflicts with Child Welfare policy.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Child Welfare Manual (CWM), staff should follow the steps listed below when confronted with a lack of consensus at a FST/PPRT meeting. The Children's Service Worker (CSW) should:

1. Inform the participants of the meeting that s(he) may not agree with the recommendation and will need to seek supervisory guidance.
2. Refer the issue to the next level of supervision for review and guidance.
3. The Supervisor/Circuit Manager or designee should review the recommendation.
 - a. If it is determined the recommendation is in the best interest of the child, the Supervisor/Circuit Manager or designee should provide written documentation to the CSW as to why the recommendation is appropriate, and the CSW should then submit the case plan to the court of jurisdiction.
 - b. If it is determined the recommendation is not in the best interest of the child, the Supervisor/Circuit Manager or designee should provide the CSW with written documentation as to why the recommendation is not appropriate. The CSW should then submit the case plan along with a written explanation to the court of

jurisdiction why the CD believes the specific recommendation is not in the best interest of the child.

The recommendations listed below are two examples which the Children's Division may not agree with the FST/PPRT participants:

- The FST/PPRT recommends a child be placed in an out-of-state residential treatment facility, or
- The FST/PPRT recommends the separation of a sibling group for placement or adoption.

If these, or any other recommendations, appear to not be in the best interest of the child, and/or conflicts with CD's Child Welfare policy, staff should follow the steps listed above before agreeing to implement the recommendation.

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| NECESSARY ACTION: | |
| 1. Review this memorandum and CW manual changes with all Children's Division staff. | |
| 2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: | |
| PDS CONTACT: Belinda K. Luke 573-751-8615 Belinda.K.Luke@dss.mo.gov | DEPUTY DIRECTOR: James C. Harrison 573-751-2502 James.C.Harrison@dss.mo.gov |
| CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS: Section 3 Chapter 3.6.4 Family Support Team Meeting Agenda Section 4 Chapter 7.2.4 Lack of Consensus at Family Support Team (FST)/Permanency Planning Review Team (PPRT) Meetings Section 4 Chapter 8.1 Services for Family-Centered Out-of-Home Care Section 4 Chapter 9.3 Decision Making for Permanency Section 4 Chapter 9.6.3 Reporting the FST/PPRT Meeting Section 4 Chapter 10.6 Family Approval Section 4 Chapter 10.10 Recommending Reunification Section 4 Chapter 14.3.2 BFC Program Children's Service Worker Section 4 Chapter 16.5 Ongoing Procedures to Maintain Placement Section 4 Chapter 23.4 Responsibilities in Development of the Planned Permanency Agreement | |