

Introducing... PARTNER Meetings, a Teaming Unit PDSA/Pilot.

PARENTING
ACTIVELY &
RESPECTFULLY
TOGETHER
NURTURES
EFFECTIVE
REUNIFICATION

PARTNER Meetings are facilitated introductory meetings for Birth Families & Resource Families.

PARTNER Meetings aim to help Birth Families and Resource Families open communication and develop a positive relationship that eases the child's transition in care by modeling cooperation, promoting consistent identity formation and helps the child maintain contact with the birth family.

A supportive parenting partnership built on trust and transparency is encouraged through open communication, continuity of parental involvement and care, respect for parent expertise, contextual understanding of child strengths and needs, and joint development of strategies to meet the child's needs.

Scheduling Line: (415) 355-3638

Questions? Kimberly.0'Young@sfgov.org



How to Refer Families to PARTNER Meetings

PSW Responsibilities:

- Identify Eligible Families
 - ∞ Must Voluntarily Participate
 - ∞ Must be Sober During Participation
 - ∞ Rule Out Current Threats/Violence
- PSW Commitment to the Process
- PSW Contacts Scheduler to request PARTNER meeting.
- PSW Speaks to assigned Facilitator

Facilitator Preparation:

- Facilitator conducts individual preparatory phone interviews with Child, Birth Family and Resource Family to explain goals, identify questions/concerns, and establishes limits/parameters.
- Facilitator arranges facilitated phone call to introduce the parties, check in about the child's current adjustment and plan a date/time to meet in person.
- Facilitator follows up with phone debrief with both parties.

The Facilitated PARTNER Meeting

- Occurs in a neutral space
- Participants only include the Birth Family and Resource Family; the Children and PSW do not participate.
- Introductions are made. The meeting is Child-Focused: Child's Current Functioning, Sharing of Expertise and Information about Child, Sharing of Parenting Values
- The goal is to develop a PARTNER Plan of how both families will show respect and communicate with one another for the benefit of the child; How will questions/concerns/good news be shared? How will differences be resolved?

Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) Core Principles

- Excellent Parenting
- Consistency
- Community
- Supportive Policy/Practice
- Partners in Change

Resource Families play a valuable role supporting the children in their care and helping them reach their potential.

Developing a cooperative partnership with the children's family of origin is important to understand how to support the children's well-being and provide continuity and consistency of care.

Strong Parents, Stable Children:

Building Protective Factors to Strengthen Families



Parenting Partnership Ice Breakers

- What do you think is important for me to know about your child to support your child while you are separated?
- What three things do you most want or value for your child?
- What does your child like to eat?
- What does your child like to do?
- What are you most worried about for your child while you are separated?
- What helps your child relax when worried/anxious/scared/angry?

Families Offer Support To Encourage Reunification



SAN FRANCISCO



Child & Family Team for Caregivers



What is a CFT Meeting?

The **Child and Family Team (CFT)** is a partnership approach to provide families referred to Child Welfare with a supportive team of people who care about their children and family to help them understand, problem solve and troubleshoot issues to assist them in addressing their child welfare concerns.

Who is involved?

The Protective Services Worker (PSW) works with the family to identify who the family wants to participate on its team to help them identify concerns and make recommendations and plans. The family decides with whom to share information.

The team includes the parents and children and ideally includes the following:

- Families/Friends/Mentors Advocates/Sponsors
- Case Managers
- Treatment Program Staff
- School Staff/Supports
- Resource Families
- Community Resources



Attorneys do not attend except for children's attorneys, who may attend CFT meetings about safety/placement.

Different members of the **Child and Family Team** may meet at different times depending on what concerns will be discussed. These meetings are **Child and Family Team Meetings**.



What Happens at the CFT Meeting?

During the **CFT** meeting, the team works with the family to...

- 1) understand the child(ren)'s current functioning and what is needed to support the child(ren)'s safety, stability and well-being.
- 2) identify how team members can support the children.
- 3) recommend any needed changes to the service plan.

A facilitator who is knowledgeable about child welfare, laws, and policies guides the meeting to ensure discussion is focused on the meeting purpose and each participant has the opportunity to share.

***We do not need to know
the beginning of a child's
story to change the ending.
FI Newood***

The Team's Plan

During the meeting the team develops a plan, listing steps individual team members will take to help address the child's needs.

The facilitator writes these steps on a **Shared Family Care Plan**. All participants at the meeting receive a copy of the plan.

The plan is reviewed at least every couple months to check the progress with the plan and ensure that team members are following through on what they committed to do. Another CFT meeting will be scheduled to update the plan and change it, when needed.

Resource Family's Role in the Meeting.

As the Resource Family, you have important information to share with the team about how the child(ren) is/are adapting to your home, school, or new routine, coping with separation from the parent/siblings, and other emotional, developmental and logistical challenges.

You may have questions the family and team may be able to address to help you better meet the child(ren)'s needs, such as dislikes, preferences, evening routine, allergies, context for understanding behavior, and interventions that work.