

**County of Orange Social Services Agency
Family Self-Sufficiency & Adult Services**

Program/Area: CalWORKs
Title: **Role of CalWORKs in Team Decision Making**
Number: 404 **Status:** *Signature on file*
Effective Date: 10-01-04 **Revision Date:**
Approval:

POLICY This policy addresses the requirement for CalWORKs and Contracted staff to attend Team Decision Making (TDM) Meetings when requested by the Children and Family Services (CFS) Team Decision Making Scheduler to support the CFS Family to Family initiative.

FAMILY TO FAMILY AND TEAM DECISION MAKING The Family to Family initiative is a CFS value-based, principle driven program designed to improve outcomes for children in foster care by involving their family, extended support members and community in key safety and placement decisions. Based on the belief that children need a family, families need the support of strong, nurturing communities, and child welfare agencies can best help families by partnering with their communities, the Family to Family initiative is implemented via four key strategies:

- Building Community Partnerships
- Recruitment, Training and Support
- Team Decision Making
- On-going Self Evaluation.

STAFF THAT WILL ATTEND TDMS The CFS TDM Scheduler will contact the designated CalWORKs liaison to request that a CalWORKs worker attend a TDM when:

A. Case is identified as having an open welfare to Work (WTW) case.

The designated Initial Services Worker (ISW) or Case Manager (CM) shall attend the TDM as requested. If unavailable, the worker must make arrangements for the officer of the day or another substitute to attend the meeting as it may make the difference as to whether or not a child is removed from the care and control of the parent or caretaker.

B. Case is identified as open CalWORKs – Parent(s) not mandatory for WTW.

The CFS TDM scheduler will contact the designated liaison in the appropriate district to request that a CalWORKs representative attend the TDM. The designated liaison will contact the appropriate individual to have a WTW case manager assigned to the case as a consultant. The WTW case manager should attend all meetings as requested.

C. Case is identified as potentially eligible for CalWORKs based on screening completed by CFS

The CFS TDM scheduler will contact the designated liaison in the appropriate district to request that an ISW attend the TDM. The ISW will have the participant sign a SAWS 1 at the TDM if appropriate, to establish the beginning date of aid. The CalWORKs worker will make an appointment for the client to complete the application at a later time unless the participant indicates that there is a need for immediate need

GOAL

The goal of TDM is to involve family and community members, along with caregivers, service providers and agency staff in all decisions regarding child removal, placement and reunification, and to ensure a network of support for children and the adults who care for them.

The focus of the TDM meeting is to preserve the family, and at the same time, provide for the child's safety and well-being. The efforts will enhance the family's achievements towards self-sufficiency. CalWORKs staff will help meet this goal by attending TDMs and providing services whenever possible.

When possible, CFS uses the family and community's strengths to form safety plans that will enable children to safely remain or immediately return home with appropriate services. When this is not possible, plans are made that reflect the least restrictive placement possible for each child that will both keep the child safe, and preserve and nurture the child's familial and community connections.

**CALWORKS
ROLE**

The role of CalWORKs at a TDM may include the following:

1. Providing information on the household (if known to the worker)
2. Providing information on the client's strengths
3. Assessing for CalWORKs services as part of the plan for the child to remain safely in the home

4. Assessing for the need to change current WTW plan and include additional services
5. Providing supportive services referrals
6. Identifying CalWORKs Family Reunification Services eligibility, if applicable
7. Assessing for apparent eligibility to CalWORKs
8. Providing SAWS 1 to establish beginning date of aid (if applicable)
9. Setting up an appointment to complete the SAWS II as soon as possible
10. Assessing for eligibility to Diversion (if applicable)
11. Assessing for Homeless Assistance
12. Assessing for potential services through the Extraordinary Circumstances Policy
13. Developing a coordinated case plan if the case is assigned to one of the CFS programs