



Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services

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May 15, 2015

Varnaria Vickers-Smith, Legislative Analyst
Senate Interim Children and Youth Committee and the
House Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs Committee
Arkansas Bureau of Legislative Research
One Capital Mall, 5th Floor, Room R-516
Little Rock, AR 72201



RE: Initial Filing - Regular Promulgation

Dear Ms. Vickers-Smith:

Please place the Division of Children & Family Services on the Children & Youth Committee agenda for review of the Rules as listed on the Questionnaire. The public comment period is from May 15, 2015 to June 14, 2015, with an effective date of July 27, 2015.

Enclosed are copies of the Questionnaire, Summary of Changes, Financial Impact Statement and Rule.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Christin Harper, Policy & Professional Development Administrator, Division of Children and Family Services, P.O. Box 1437, (Slot S570), Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437; phone 682-8541; email christin.harper@dhs.arkansas.gov or fax 682-6968.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cecile Blucker".
Cecile Blucker

Director, Division of Children and Family Services

BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Children and Family Services
AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

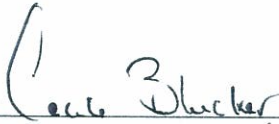
TITLE: Revised Rule
• POLICY II-L: TEAM DECISION MAKING

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2015

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: A.C.A. 9-28-103

NECESSITY AND FUNCTION: Revised Rule
• POLICY II-L: TEAM DECISION MAKING
○ To allow Garrett's Law allegations to be referred for Team Decision Making (TDM) Meetings in counties in which TDM is implemented and establish procedures related to those referrals
○ To clarify content and routing instructions for the TDM Summary Report
○ To specify TDM referral procedures involving the TDM Supervisor

PAGES FILED:



Signature

Name: Cecile Blucker Title: Director

Section: Division of Children and Family Services

Department of Human Services

PROMULGATION DATES: May 15, 2015-June 14, 2015

CONTACT PERSON: Christin Harper
DHS-DCFS Policy Unit
Phone: (501) 682-8541
Fax: (501) 683-4854
Email: christin.harper@dhs.arkansas.gov

NOTICE OF RULE MAKING

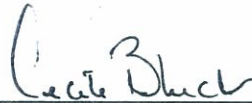
Pursuant to A.C.A. § 9-28-103, the Director, Division of Children and Family Services, issues proposed changes to the Division's Team Decision Making Policy and Procedures to:

- Allow Garrett's Law allegations to be referred for Team Decision Making (TDM) Meetings in counties in which TDM is implemented
- Clarify content and routing instructions for the TDM Summary Report
- To specify TDM referral procedures involving the TDM Supervisor

The proposed changes are available for review at the Division of Children and Family Services, Policy Unit, 5th floor Donaghey Plaza South, 7th and Main Streets, Little Rock, AR. 72203-1437. All comments must be submitted in writing to the Policy Unit no later than June 14, 2015. All the proposed changes may be viewed in their entirety at

<https://ardhs.sharepointsite.net/CW/Notice%20of%20Rule%20Making/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact our Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 501- 682-8830 (Voice) or 501- 682-1442 (TDD). The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and operates, manages and delivers services without regard to age, religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, sex, race, color or national origin.



Cecile Blucker
Director, Division of Children and Family Services

5/14/15

Date

**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FILING PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS
WITH THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE**

DEPARTMENT/AGENCY Department of Human Services
DIVISION Division of Children and Family Services
DIVISION DIRECTOR Cecile Blucker
CONTACT PERSON Christin Harper, Policy & Professional Development Administrator
ADDRESS P. O. Box 1437, Slot S570, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437
PHONE NO. (501)682-8541 FAX NO. (501) 683-4854 E-MAIL christin.harper@dhs.arkansas.gov
NAME OF PRESENTER AT COMMITTEE MEETING Christin Harper
PRESENTER E-MAIL christin.harper@dhs.arkansas.gov

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Please make copies of this form for future use.
- B. Please answer each question completely using layman terms. You may use additional sheets, if necessary.
- C. If you have a method of indexing your rules, please give the proposed citation after "Short Title of this Rule" below.
- D. Submit two (2) copies of this questionnaire and financial impact statement attached to the front of two (2) copies of the proposed rule and required documents. Mail or deliver to:

**Donna K. Davis
Administrative Rules Review Section
Arkansas Legislative Council
Bureau of Legislative Research
One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201**

1. What is the short title of this rule? Revisions to Team Decision Making Policy and Procedures

2. What is the subject of the proposed rule? Revisions to allow Garrett's Law allegations to be referred for Team Decision Making (TDM) Meetings in counties in which TDM is implemented and clarify content and routing instructions for the TDM Summary Report

3. Is this rule required to comply with a federal statute, rule, or regulation? Yes No
If yes, please provide the federal rule, regulation, and/or statute citation. _____

4. Was this rule filed under the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act? Yes No
If yes, what is the effective date of the emergency rule? _____

When does the emergency rule expire? _____

Will this emergency rule be promulgated under the permanent provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act?

Yes

No

5. Is this a new rule? Yes No
If yes, please provide a brief summary explaining the regulation. _____

Does this repeal an existing rule? Yes No

If yes, a copy of the repealed rule is to be included with your completed questionnaire. If it is being replaced with a new rule, please provide a summary of the rule giving an explanation of what the rule does. _____

Is this an amendment to an existing rule? Yes No

If yes, please attach a mark-up showing the changes in the existing rule and a summary of the substantive changes. **Note: The summary should explain what the amendment does, and the mark-up copy should be clearly labeled "mark-up."**

6. Cite the state law that grants the authority for this proposed rule? If codified, please give the Arkansas Code citation. A.C.A. § 9-28-103

7. What is the purpose of this proposed rule? Why is it necessary?

• The purpose of this rule is to allow Garrett's Law allegations to be referred for Team Decision Making (TDM) Meetings, one of Arkansas's federal IV-E Waiver interventions, in counties in which TDM is implemented and to clarify instructions related to the TDM Summary Report. This rule is necessary to ensure Garrett's Law allegations receive additional planning around the safety of the child through TDM and to further clarify procedures related to TDM.

8. Please provide the address where this rule is publicly accessible in electronic form via the Internet as required by Arkansas Code § 25-19-108(b).

AR Secretary of State Website

DHS/DCFS CHRIS public:

<https://ardhs.sharepoint.com/CW/Notice%20of%20Rule%20Making/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

9. Will a public hearing be held on this proposed rule? Yes No

If yes, please complete the following:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

10. When does the public comment period expire for permanent promulgation? (Must provide a date.)

June 14, 2015

11. What is the proposed effective date of this proposed rule? (Must provide a date.)

July 27, 2015

12. Do you expect this rule to be controversial? Yes No
If yes, please explain. _____

13. Please give the names of persons, groups, or organizations that you expect to comment on these rules? Please provide their position (for or against) if known.

_____ We do not know of any specific groups of persons who would comment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY

DEPARTMENT Department of Human Services
DIVISION Division of Children and Family Services
PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT Cecile Blucker
TELEPHONE NO. (501)682-6248 **FAX NO.** (501) 682-6968 **EMAIL:** cecile.blucker@dhs.arkansas.gov

To comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e), please complete the following Financial Impact Statement and file two copies with the questionnaire and proposed rules.

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE Revisions to Team Decision Making Policy and Procedures

- 1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule have a financial impact? Yes No

- 2. Is the rule based on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, or other evidence and information available concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule? Yes No

- 3. In consideration of the alternatives to this rule, was this rule determined by the agency to be the least costly rule considered? Yes No

If an agency is proposing a more costly rule, please state the following:

- (a) How the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional cost;

- (b) The reason for adoption of the more costly rule;

- (c) Whether the more costly rule is based on the interests of public health, safety, or welfare, and if so, please explain; and;

- (d) Whether the reason is within the scope of the agency's statutory authority; and if so, please explain.

4. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a federal rule or regulation, please state the following:

- (a) What is the cost to implement the federal rule or regulation?

<u>Current Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Next Fiscal Year</u>
General Revenue _____	General Revenue _____
Federal Funds _____	Federal Funds _____
Cash Funds _____	Cash Funds _____
Special _____	Special Revenue _____

Revenue _____
Other (Identify) _____

_____ _____
Other (Identify) _____

Total 0.00

Total 0.00

(b) What is the additional cost of the state rule?

Current Fiscal Year

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue _____

General Revenue _____

Federal Funds _____

Federal Funds _____

Cash Funds _____

Cash Funds _____

Special Revenue _____

Special Revenue _____

Other (Identify) _____

Other (Identify) _____

Total 0.00

Total 0.00

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any private individual, entity and business subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? Identify the entity(ies) subject to the proposed rule and explain how they are affected.

Current Fiscal Year

Next Fiscal Year

\$ 0.00

\$ 0.00

6. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to state, county, and municipal government to implement this rule? Is this the cost of the program or grant? Please explain how the government is affected.

Current Fiscal Year

Next Fiscal Year

\$ 0.00

\$ 0.00

7. With respect to the agency's answers to Questions #5 and #6 above, is there a new or increased cost or obligation of at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year to a private individual, private entity, private business, state government, county government, municipal government, or to two (2) or more of those entities combined?

Yes No

If YES, the agency is required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(4) to file written findings at the time of filing the financial impact statement. The written findings shall be filed simultaneously with the financial impact statement and shall include, without limitation, the following:

(1) a statement of the rule's basis and purpose;

(2) the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;

(3) a description of the factual evidence that:

(a) justifies the agency's need for the proposed rule; and

- (b) describes how the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs;
- (4) a list of less costly alternatives to the proposed rule and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (5) a list of alternatives to the proposed rule that were suggested as a result of public comment and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (6) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule and, if existing rules have created or contributed to the problem, an explanation of why amendment or repeal of the rule creating or contributing to the problem is not a sufficient response; and
- (7) an agency plan for review of the rule no less than every ten (10) years to determine whether, based upon the evidence, there remains a need for the rule including, without limitation, whether:
 - (a) the rule is achieving the statutory objectives;
 - (b) the benefits of the rule continue to justify its costs; and
 - (c) the rule can be amended or repealed to reduce costs while continuing to achieve the statutory objectives.

DCFS SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR MAY 2015 PROMULGATION

SUMMARY OF DCFS REGULAR PROMULGATION

The purpose of this regular promulgation is to make revisions to the Division's Team Decision Making policy and procedures to allow Garrett's Law allegations to be referred for Team Decision Making (TDM) Meetings in counties in which TDM is implemented, clarify content and routing instructions for the TDM Summary Report, and specify TDM referral procedures involving the TDM Supervisor.

POLICY II-L: Team Decision Making

075/20154

OVERVIEW

Team Decision Making (TDM) provides a facilitated forum for families, community members, and DCFS to collaboratively problem solve and make decisions regarding children's safety and placement using the most information possible. TDM has proven to be an effective intervention in ensuring that all placement decisions are a shared responsibility and in the best interest of children. TDM also assists in establishing a network of support for children and the adults who care for them. As such, the consistent and effective use of Team Decision Making promotes family engagement and helps to maintain safe family relationships that are crucial to minimizing trauma to children.

TEAM DECISION MAKING INITIATION AND REFERRAL

A Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting is held within 48 hours of the establishment of a protection plan due to a safety factor (see Appendix IX: Arkansas Health and Safety Factors) being identified in the home and always before the case is brought to court (though a protection plan may be filed with the court when necessary). TDM meetings referrals are made by the DCFS FSW who put the protection plan in place to the area DCFS Facilitator. If the area DCFS Facilitator is unavailable, the DCFS FSW who put the protection plan in place will contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor. The DCFS Facilitator Supervisor will then make a referral to a back-up facilitator who can facilitate the TDM meeting within 48 hours of the establishment of a protection plan.

~~A TDM meeting is also held within 4872 hours of receipt of a Garrett's law allegation to the hotline an initiation of an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation and always before the case is brought to court (though if a protection plan is put into place at the initiation of an investigation involving a Garrett's Law report, that protection plan may also be filed with the court as necessary). TDM meeting referrals related to Garrett's Law allegations are made by the primary DCFS FSW investigator to the area DCFS Facilitator. If the area DCFS Facilitator is unavailable, the primary DCFS FSW investigator will contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor. The DCFS Facilitator Supervisor will then make a referral to a back-up facilitator who can facilitate the TDM meeting within 48 hours an accepted report of a Garrett's Law allegation to the hotline. of the initiation of the investigation involving a Garrett's Law referral.~~

TEAM DECISION MAKING PREPARATION

Prior to the Team Decision Making meeting, the FSW ~~and~~, the FSW Supervisor who approved the initial protection plan ~~or the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation and that FSW's Supervisor will conference with~~, ~~and~~ the Facilitator who will moderate the TDM meeting ~~in order will conference~~ to prepare for the TDM. This conference will allow these Division staff members to review the TDM process as necessary and review information gathered at that point in time regarding the family with particular attention to the identified safety factors ~~and/or other information gathered during the investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation~~. During this meeting DCFS staff will assess whether the children involved in the protection plan ~~and/or the children involved in an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation~~ should be present at the TDM meeting based on the child~~ren~~'s preferences and the child~~ren~~'s ability to handle the emotional impact of the meeting.

A safety check-in meeting will also occur per TDM protocols with the biological parent(s) and children who plan to participate in TDM prior to the TDM meeting. The safety check-in is conducted to learn about any safety concerns the parents and/or children may have regarding the meeting proceedings and/or other participants. If safety concerns exist, DCFS will ensure the appropriate precautions are put in place.

TEAM DECISION MAKING PARTICIPANTS

Concerted efforts shall be made by DCFS to engage the biological parents (or other person responsible for care, as applicable) and support their attendance at the Team Decision Making meeting. Children are also encouraged to participate in the meeting when deemed appropriate according to their age, developmental status, emotional condition, and trauma-related needs and responses. The FSW who put the protection plan into place and/or the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation and the Facilitator must participate in the TDM meeting.

The FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation is also required to participate in the TDM meeting. If necessary, the FSW Supervisor ~~who approved the protection plan~~ may participate by phone with prior approval from the Area Director. If an emergency arises and the FSW Supervisor ~~who approved the protection plan~~ is unable to participate even by phone, then the Area Director is responsible for ensuring another supervisor, preferably the county supervisor, participate in the TDM meeting in order to better support the FSW. For TDMs involving protection plans, ~~t~~The FSW's direct supervisor (if different from the FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan) is encouraged, but not required, to attend the TDM meeting. Any other supervisor is welcome to attend the TDM meeting if desired.

The biological parents (or other person responsible for care, as applicable) and children are recognized as the experts regarding their family's needs and strengths. The FSW serves as the representative to speak to the protection plan and/or his/her initial assessment of ~~the identified safety factor(s) and~~ family functioning for those families involved in an investigation with a Garrett's Law allegation. The Facilitator is a trained process expert with extensive knowledge of agency history, policies, procedures, and best practices. He or she works with everyone present at the TDM meeting to lead that group through solution-focused discussion that provides all participants with opportunities to voice their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions.

With a parent's (or other person responsible for care, as applicable) consent, additional efforts to include relatives, natural support persons, and current service providers will be made. The Division will be mindful about the balance of staff or professionals to family members and their natural supports. The more family-supportive individuals involved in the decision-making process, the more likely the resulting plan will be customized to meet the unique needs of the family. TDM participants may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Extended family and/or fictive kin invited by parents to support, assist, and/or serve as a resource.
- B. Current caregivers (if not the biological parents) so they may assist in providing information regarding children's needs and in developing ideas and reaching decisions.
- C. Community partners who are defined as such by the family or the Division, whether based on neighborhood, faith/religion, or other connection, to provide support, resource expertise, and external perspective in decision-making.
- D. Service providers who are currently involved with family and can provide insight regarding family functioning and assist in problem solving.
- E. Other public agency staff such as representatives from Division of Behavioral Health Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, Division of Youth Services, Department of Education, Department of Workforce Services, Public Housing Authority, etc. to provide expertise and information.

TEAM DECISION MAKING MEETING GOALS AND PROCESSES

During the Team Decision Making meeting the group:

- A. Engages the family to discuss family's needs and strengths;
- B. Reviews the family's protection plan, as applicable;
- C. Assesses the effectiveness of the protection plan thus far, as applicable;
- ~~C.D.~~ Assesses any risk factors;
- ~~D.E.~~ Determines if any changes to the protection plan are needed, as applicable;

- E.F. Decides if other appropriate services and supports are available to strengthen the family; and,
- F.G. Reaches consensus regarding the child's placement that protects the child and preserves the family.

For TDM meetings involving protection plans, the original protection plan that the FSW put into place via the CFS-200: Protection Plan will be documented on the Safety Planning Screen of the Health and Safety Assessment. If the protection plan is updated or otherwise enhanced during the course of the TDM meeting, any pieces of the initial protection plan (documented on CFS-200: Protection Plan) that will remain in the updated version must also be documented on CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report. In addition, any new information or requirements to which the team agrees during the TDM meeting will also be included on the CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report. The information and requirements outlined in the TDM Action Plan that all participants agree to by signing the CFS-355 replaces the original protection plan for the family.

For TDM meetings involving allegations of Garrett's Law for which no protection plan was put into place during the investigation, the CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report signed by all participants will serve as the TDM Action Plan for that family. As per the CFS-355, each person's signature on that form means that he or she understands and agrees to the actions steps outlined on the CFS-355.

Privacy and respect are valued and practiced during TDM meetings. However, information from the meeting may be used, as applicable, for future case planning, in subsequent court proceedings, and/or in the investigation of any new allegations of abuse or neglect.

The Division maintains the legal responsibility to make decisions regarding children's placement and safety at all times. If the entire group involved in the TDM meeting cannot reach consensus, the Facilitator must at least ensure the Division staff involved in the TDM meeting reach consensus.

TEAM DECISION MAKING REVIEW PROCESS

A review process is available if Division staff members believe the decision puts the child at serious risk of harm or violates law or policy. A Division staff member who requests a review process must notify the group of his/her intent to seek review before the Team Decision Making meeting adjourns. The TDM Review will be conducted immediately by either a DCFS County Supervisor or the Area Director, as appropriate, prior to participants leaving. The TDM Review may be conducted in-person or by phone conference. The final decision is made by the TDM Reviewer after hearing summaries of the meeting and reason for review. Division personnel are responsible to implement the final decision and demonstrate full support.

TEAM DECISION MAKING FOLLOW-UP

Following all Team Decision Making meetings, the FSW, FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation, and Facilitator will meet or conference call within 24 hours to debrief the TDM meeting. The debriefing meeting serves as a learning tool for Division staff by allowing them to give each other feedback regarding their interactions in the meeting specific to processes and roles. The debriefing meeting is not a time to revisit the content of the discussion or reconsider the decision made during the TDM meeting.

The DCFS Facilitator will enter all required TDM data elements into CHRIS within 72 business hours of the TDM meeting. If a back-up Facilitator participated in the meeting, that back-up Facilitator must provide all data elements to the DCFS Facilitator within 72 business hours. The DCFS Facilitator will enter the TDM data elements into CHRIS within 72 business hours of receipt of the data elements from the back-up Facilitator.

The FSW who put the protection plan into place will continue to be responsible for monitoring the protection plan and any other elements necessary, as determined during the TDM meeting, throughout the completion of the investigation.

For Garrett's Law referrals involving two counties (e.g., if parents reside in one county but give birth to the infant in a neighboring county), the secondary FSW investigator who initiates the investigation will also interview any other collaterals available at the time of initiation in the county where the infant was born (if applicable) based on when infant was discharged from the hospital and when the hotline report is accepted.

The primary FSW investigator in the county where the family resides will conduct a home visit before the TDM meeting takes place, if possible. However, the primary FSW investigator must conduct a home visit prior to the infant's discharge from hospital (if applicable depending on when hotline report was made). If the home visit is conducted before the TDM meeting occurs and prior to the infant's discharge from the hospital, then that home visit will meet the requirement for both. The primary FSW investigator will also interview all other necessary collaterals who were not interviewed during the investigation initiation.

The primary and secondary investigators must share all information regarding the investigation prior to the TDM meeting. The secondary investigator is not required to attend the TDM meeting but is encouraged to do so. The primary investigator must attend the TDM meeting.

If a protective services or foster care case is subsequently opened, the FSW who initially put the protection plan into place and participated in the TDM meeting will communicate all information regarding the plan and TDM meeting to the appropriate FSW caseworker. The newly assigned FSW caseworker will then have the primary responsibility of monitoring the protection plan, any other associated elements, and case plan (i.e., the case plan is separate from the protection plan).

Procedure II-L1: Team Decision Making Initiation and Referral

057/20154

After establishing a protection plan and/or initiating an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation, the FSW will:

- A. Inform parents (or person responsible for care, as applicable) and youth (as appropriate) of:
 - 1) The purpose of a Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting;
 - 2) That they will be required to attend the next scheduled TDM meeting; and,
 - 3) What will be expected of them during the TDM meeting (e.g., to share their understanding of the safety and risk issues as well as strengths in their home, their understanding of the protection plan as applicable, etc.).
- B. Tell the parents (or person responsible for care, as applicable) that, if they would like, the assigned facilitator can also contact the family by the next business day to explain more about the process.
- C. Ask parents (or person responsible for care, as applicable) and youth (as appropriate) to identify extended family members, fictive kin, or community partners who they would like to attend the upcoming TDM and ask the family to contact those individuals with information about the upcoming TDM meeting.
 - 1) Collect names, phone numbers, and addresses of family identified team members.
- D. Leave PUB-35: "What is Team Decision Making?" with the family.

E. Discuss whether family will need assistance with transportation and help coordinate transportation as appropriate.

F. Contact the area DCFS Facilitator by phone or email within two hours of putting the protection plan in place and/or within two hours of initiating an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation to refer the family for a Team Decision Making meeting.

F.1) When the FSW emails or leaves a voicemail referral with the area TDM Facilitator during normal business hours and has not heard back from the facilitator by 4:00 p.m. that same business day, then the FSW will contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor by phone or email with the referral information.

2) If TDM referral is made after hours, on the weekend, or during a holiday, an email must be sent or a voicemail must be left to make the referral.

1)a) When the FSW emails or leaves a voicemail with the area TDM Facilitator after hours and has not heard back from that facilitator by 9:00 a.m. the next business day, then the FSW will contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor by phone or email with the referral information.

2)3) Provide the DCFS Facilitator (or DCFS Facilitator Supervisor, as applicable) with:

- a) Names of family members
- b) Family address and phone number
- c) Dates of birth of family members
- d) Protection plan, if applicable
- e) Any special information or needs regarding safety (e.g., domestic violence issues), language interpretation, physical accommodations, child care for very young children, etc.
- f) Contact information and family request to be contacted by the facilitator to provide more information about the TDM process, if applicable.

~~G. If the area DCFS Facilitator is unavailable for any reason, contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor to refer the TDM meeting to a back-up facilitator.~~

~~1) Provide the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor and back-up Facilitator with:~~

- ~~a) Names of family members~~
- ~~b) Family address and phone number~~
- ~~c) Dates of birth of family members~~
- ~~d) Protection plan~~
- ~~e) Any special information or needs regarding safety (e.g., domestic violence issues), language interpretation, physical accommodations, child care for very young children, etc.~~
- ~~f) Contact information and family request to be contacted by the facilitator to provide more information about the TDM process, if applicable.~~

~~H.G. Work with the assigned facilitator and family to confirm exact date, time, and location of TDM meeting within twenty-four hours of establishing protection plan and/or within twenty-four hours of initiating an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation[CH1].~~

~~H.H. Enter family's demographic information into CHRIS within twenty-four hours of receiving referral.~~

~~H.I. Document date and time family is informed of agreed-upon TDM meeting date, time, and location in CHRIS.~~

The FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan and/or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation will:

- A. Conference with FSW as needed.

The Facilitator will:

- A. Work with FSW to confirm exact date, time, and location of meeting.

The Facilitator Supervisor will:

- A. Conference with the DCFS Facilitator as needed.
- B. Make any needed TDM referrals to the back-up facilitator by the next business day.

MARKKUP

Procedure II-L2: Team Decision Making Preparation

075/20154

The FSW will:

- A. Conference with the FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation, as applicable, and facilitator to prepare for the TDM meeting.
- B. Conduct the safety check-in meeting as appropriate/assigned with the biological parent(s) (or other persons responsible for care, if applicable) and any children who plan to attend the TDM meeting.

The FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation will:

- A. Conference with the FSW and facilitator to prepare for the TDM meeting.
- B. Determine whether or not children involved in the ~~investigation~~ protection plan will attend the TDM meeting.
- C. Assign the FSW, facilitator, or self as appropriate, to conduct the safety check-in meeting with the biological parent(s) (or other persons responsible for care, if applicable) and any children who plan to attend the meeting.
- D. Conduct the safety check-in meeting as appropriate/assigned with the biological parent(s) (or other persons responsible for care, if applicable) and any children who plan to attend the TDM meeting.

The Facilitator will:

- A. Review the protection plan, if applicable.
- B. Contact the family who will participate in the TDM meeting, if the family requested that the facilitator call to provide more information about the TDM process.
- C. Invite service providers or other public agency staff, including language interpreters, if needed, to TDM meeting as appropriate.
- D. Document date and time any service providers or other public agency staff are informed of TDM meeting date, time, and location in CHRIS.
- E. Conference with the FSW and FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation to prepare for the TDM meeting.
- F. Conduct the safety check-in meeting as appropriate/assigned with the biological parent(s) (or other persons responsible for care, if applicable) and any children who plan to attend the TDM meeting.

Procedure II-L3: Team Decision Making Meeting

057/20154

The Facilitator will:

- A. Open the TDM meeting by
 - 1) Welcoming all participants
 - 2) Explaining purpose of TDM
 - 3) Asking all participants to complete CFS-354: Team Decision Making Meeting Sign-in Sheet and Privacy Statement

- 4) Inviting all participants to introduce themselves
 - 5) Asking Division employees or other service providers to explain their respective roles as they relate to TDM
- B. Ask the immediate family (including age appropriate children and youth) to describe their:
- 1) Understanding of the safety and/or risk issues in their home;
 - 2) Understanding of the protection plan, if applicable;
 - 3) Their perceived strengths that can be used as protective factors in addressing the specific harm or danger to the child; and,
 - 4) Any other relevant information.
- C. Ask the FSW to describe:
- 1) Identified safety factors in the home;
 - 2) Family's strengths that can be used as protective factors in addressing the specific harm or danger to the child; and,
 - 3) Established protection plan, if applicable.
- D. Continue to facilitate the meeting per TDM protocols to help the TDM group to:
- 1) Assess if family is adequately following established protection plan, if applicable;
 - 2) Decide whether changes are needed to make the protection plan more effective or better ensure child's safety, if applicable;
 - 3) Determine if current placement decision ensures the child's safety;
 - 4) Identify ways in which TDM members may support the family;
 - 5) Assist the group in moving toward consensus.
- E. Complete CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report.
- 1) The CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report must include the timeframe in which DCFS will conduct the next home visit with the family.
- F. Provide a copy of the CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary to the family prior to adjourning the meeting.
- 5) _____

The FSW will:

- A. Assist family with transportation as appropriate.
- B. Share information regarding identified safety issues, family strengths, and established protection plan, if applicable.
- C. Actively participate in problem solving and decision making processes throughout the TDM meeting and remain open to revisions to the initial protection plan, if applicable.

FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation will:

- A. Attend TDM when possible.
- B. Conference with FSW and facilitator as needed.

Procedure II-L4: Team Decision Making Review

05/2014

The requesting Division staff member will:

- A. Notify the entire TDM team of his/her intent to seek a review prior to the end of the TDM meeting.

- B. Present summary of the meeting and reason for review to the TDM Reviewer.

The Facilitator will:

- A. Notify the appropriate on-call TDM Reviewer and supervisor.
- B. Explain the review process to the TDM group.

The Division staff member requesting the review will:

- A. Present summary of the meeting and reason for review to the TDM Reviewer.

The TDM Reviewer (either the DCFS County Supervisor or Area Director, as appropriate) will:

- A. Join the TDM meeting either in person or by conference call before participants leave.
- B. Listen to both summaries.
- C. Determine whether adjustments need to be made to the decision and/or if an interim safety plan is necessary.

Procedure II-L5: Team Decision Making Follow-Up

075/20154

The FSW will:

- A. Meet or conference call with the Facilitator and FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation within 24 hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting.
- B. Continue to monitor family's protection plan progress until the investigation is completed.
- C. Share all relevant information regarding the family's protection plan, if applicable, and progress with the FSW assigned to the family's protective or foster care case, if applicable.

The FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation will:

- A. Meet or conference call with the FSW and facilitator within 24 hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting and as needed.

The DCFS Facilitator will:

- A. Meet or conference call with the FSW who put the protection plan into place and the FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan within 24 hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting.
- B. Enter all required TDM data elements into CHRIS within 72 business hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting and within 72 hours of receipt of TDM data elements from the contracted facilitator when the TDM meeting is facilitated by a contract provider.
- C. Complete CFS 355: Provide copies of the Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report printout from CHRIS and provide a copy to alleach participants, including the family, as soon as possible following the TDM meeting.
 - 1) DCFS Facilitator is also responsible for providing copies of the Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report printout from CHRIS to all participants, including the family, as soon as possible following the TDM meeting when that TDM meeting was facilitated by a back-up facilitator.

~~C.~~

The back-up facilitator (if applicable) will:

- A. Provide the TDM data elements to the area DCFS Facilitator within 72 business hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting.
- ~~B. Complete CFS 355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report and provide a copy to each participant as soon as possible following the meeting.~~

The Facilitator Supervisor will:

- ~~A.~~ Conference with the DCFS facilitator as needed.

~~A.~~

MARKKUP

POLICY II-L: Team Decision Making

07/2015

OVERVIEW

Team Decision Making (TDM) provides a facilitated forum for families, community members, and DCFS to collaboratively problem solve and make decisions regarding children's safety and placement using the most information possible. TDM has proven to be an effective intervention in ensuring that all placement decisions are a shared responsibility and in the best interest of children. TDM also assists in establishing a network of support for children and the adults who care for them. As such, the consistent and effective use of Team Decision Making promotes family engagement and helps to maintain safe family relationships that are crucial to minimizing trauma to children.

TEAM DECISION MAKING INITIATION AND REFERRAL

A Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting is held within 48 hours of the establishment of a protection plan due to a safety factor (see Appendix IX: Arkansas Health and Safety Factors) being identified in the home and always before the case is brought to court (though a protection plan may be filed with the court when necessary). TDM meetings referrals are made by the DCFS FSW who put the protection plan in place to the area DCFS Facilitator. If the area DCFS Facilitator is unavailable, the DCFS FSW who put the protection plan in place will contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor. The DCFS Facilitator Supervisor will then make a referral to a back-up facilitator who can facilitate the TDM meeting within 48 hours of the establishment of a protection plan.

A TDM meeting is also held within 72 hours of receipt of a Garrett's law allegation to the hotline and always before the case is brought to court (though if a protection plan is put into place at the initiation of an investigation involving a Garrett's Law report, that protection plan may also be filed with the court as necessary). TDM meeting referrals related to Garrett's Law allegations are made by the primary DCFS FSW investigator to the area DCFS Facilitator. If the area DCFS Facilitator is unavailable, the primary DCFS FSW investigator will contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor. The DCFS Facilitator Supervisor will then make a referral to a back-up facilitator who can facilitate the TDM meeting within 48 hours an accepted report of a Garrett's Law allegation to the hotline.

TEAM DECISION MAKING PREPARATION

Prior to the Team Decision Making meeting, the FSW and the FSW Supervisor who approved the initial protection plan or the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation and that FSW's Supervisor will conference with the Facilitator who will moderate the TDM meeting in order to prepare for the TDM. This conference will allow these Division staff members to review the TDM process as necessary and review information gathered at that point in time regarding the family with particular attention to the identified safety factors and/or other information gathered during the investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation. During this meeting DCFS staff will assess whether the children involved in the protection plan and/or the children involved in an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation should be present at the TDM meeting based on the children's preferences and the children's ability to handle the emotional impact of the meeting.

A safety check-in meeting will also occur per TDM protocols with the biological parent(s) and children who plan to participate in TDM prior to the TDM meeting. The safety check-in is conducted to learn about any safety concerns the parents and/or children may have regarding the meeting proceedings and/or other participants. If safety concerns exist, DCFS will ensure the appropriate precautions are put in place.

TEAM DECISION MAKING PARTICIPANTS

Concerted efforts shall be made by DCFS to engage the biological parents (or other person responsible for care, as applicable) and support their attendance at the Team Decision Making meeting. Children are also encouraged to participate in the meeting when deemed appropriate according to their age, developmental status, emotional

condition, and trauma-related needs and responses. The FSW who put the protection plan into place and/or the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation and the Facilitator must participate in the TDM meeting.

The FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation is also required to participate in the TDM meeting. If necessary, the FSW Supervisor may participate by phone with prior approval from the Area Director. If an emergency arises and the FSW Supervisor is unable to participate even by phone, then the Area Director is responsible for ensuring another supervisor, preferably the county supervisor, participate in the TDM meeting in order to better support the FSW. For TDMs involving protection plans, the FSW's direct supervisor (if different from the FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan) is encouraged, but not required, to attend the TDM meeting. Any other supervisor is welcome to attend the TDM meeting if desired.

The biological parents (or other person responsible for care, as applicable) and children are recognized as the experts regarding their family's needs and strengths. The FSW serves as the representative to speak to the protection plan and/or his/her initial assessment of family functioning for those families involved in an investigation with a Garrett's Law allegation. The Facilitator is a trained process expert with extensive knowledge of agency history, policies, procedures, and best practices. He or she works with everyone present at the TDM meeting to lead that group through solution-focused discussion that provides all participants with opportunities to voice their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions.

With a parent's (or other person responsible for care, as applicable) consent, additional efforts to include relatives, natural support persons, and current service providers will be made. The Division will be mindful about the balance of staff or professionals to family members and their natural supports. The more family-supportive individuals involved in the decision-making process, the more likely the resulting plan will be customized to meet the unique needs of the family. TDM participants may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Extended family and/or fictive kin invited by parents to support, assist, and/or serve as a resource.
- B. Current caregivers (if not the biological parents) so they may assist in providing information regarding children's needs and in developing ideas and reaching decisions.
- C. Community partners who are defined as such by the family or the Division, whether based on neighborhood, faith/religion, or other connection, to provide support, resource expertise, and external perspective in decision-making.
- D. Service providers who are currently involved with family and can provide insight regarding family functioning and assist in problem solving.
- E. Other public agency staff such as representatives from Division of Behavioral Health Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, Division of Youth Services, Department of Education, Department of Workforce Services, Public Housing Authority, etc. to provide expertise and information.

TEAM DECISION MAKING MEETING GOALS AND PROCESSES

During the Team Decision Making meeting the group:

- A. Engages the family to discuss family's needs and strengths;
- B. Reviews the family's protection plan, as applicable;
- C. Assesses the effectiveness of the protection plan thus far, as applicable;
- D. Assesses any risk factors;
- E. Determines if any changes to the protection plan are needed, as applicable;
- F. Decides if other appropriate services and supports are available to strengthen the family; and,
- G. Reaches consensus regarding the child's placement that protects the child and preserves the family.

For TDM meetings involving protection plans, the original protection plan that the FSW put into place via the CFS-200: Protection Plan will be documented on the Safety Planning Screen of the Health and Safety Assessment. If the protection plan is updated or otherwise enhanced during the course of the TDM meeting, any pieces of the initial protection plan (documented on CFS-200: Protection Plan) that will remain in the updated version must also be documented on CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report. In addition, any new information or requirements to which the team agrees during the TDM meeting will also be included on the CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report. The information and requirements outlined in the TDM Action Plan that all participants agree to by signing the CFS-355 replaces the original protection plan for the family.

For TDM meetings involving allegations of Garrett's Law for which no protection plan was put into place during the investigation, the CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report signed by all participants will serve as the TDM Action Plan for that family. As per the CFS-355, each person's signature on that form means that he or she understands and agrees to the actions steps outlined on the CFS-355.

Privacy and respect are valued and practiced during TDM meetings. However, information from the meeting may be used, as applicable, for future case planning, in subsequent court proceedings, and/or in the investigation of any new allegations of abuse or neglect.

The Division maintains the legal responsibility to make decisions regarding children's placement and safety at all times. If the entire group involved in the TDM meeting cannot reach consensus, the Facilitator must at least ensure the Division staff involved in the TDM meeting reach consensus.

TEAM DECISION MAKING REVIEW PROCESS

A review process is available if Division staff members believe the decision puts the child at serious risk of harm or violates law or policy. A Division staff member who requests a review process must notify the group of his/her intent to seek review before the Team Decision Making meeting adjourns. The TDM Review will be conducted immediately by either a DCFS County Supervisor or the Area Director, as appropriate, prior to participants leaving. The TDM Review may be conducted in-person or by phone conference. The final decision is made by the TDM Reviewer after hearing summaries of the meeting and reason for review. Division personnel are responsible to implement the final decision and demonstrate full support.

TEAM DECISION MAKING FOLLOW-UP

Following all Team Decision Making meetings, the FSW, FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation, and Facilitator will meet or conference call within 24 hours to debrief the TDM meeting. The debriefing meeting serves as a learning tool for Division staff by allowing them to give each other feedback regarding their interactions in the meeting specific to processes and roles. The debriefing meeting is not a time to revisit the content of the discussion or reconsider the decision made during the TDM meeting.

The DCFS Facilitator will enter all required TDM data elements into CHRIS within 72 business hours of the TDM meeting. If a back-up Facilitator participated in the meeting, that back-up Facilitator must provide all data elements to the DCFS Facilitator within 72 business hours. The DCFS Facilitator will enter the TDM data elements into CHRIS within 72 business hours of receipt of the data elements from the back-up Facilitator.

The FSW who put the protection plan into place will continue to be responsible for monitoring the protection plan and any other elements necessary, as determined during the TDM meeting, throughout the completion of the investigation.

For Garrett's Law referrals involving two counties (e.g., parents reside in one county but give birth to the infant in a neighboring county), the secondary FSW investigator who initiates the investigation will also interview any other collaterals available at the time of initiation in the county where the infant was born (if applicable) based on when infant was discharged from the hospital and when the hotline report is accepted.

The primary FSW investigator in the county where the family resides will conduct a home visit before the TDM meeting takes place, if possible. However, the primary FSW investigator must conduct a home visit prior to the infant's discharge from hospital (if applicable depending on when hotline report was made). If the home visit is conducted before the TDM meeting occurs and prior to the infant's discharge from the hospital, then that home visit will meet the requirement for both. The primary FSW investigator will also interview all other necessary collaterals who were not interviewed during the investigation initiation.

The primary and secondary investigators must share all information regarding the investigation prior to the TDM meeting. The secondary investigator is not required to attend the TDM meeting but is encouraged to do so. The primary investigator must attend the TDM meeting.

If a protective services or foster care case is subsequently opened, the FSW who initially put the protection plan into place and participated in the TDM meeting will communicate all information regarding the plan and TDM meeting to the appropriate FSW caseworker. The newly assigned FSW caseworker will then have the primary responsibility of monitoring the protection plan, any other associated elements, and case plan (i.e., the case plan is separate from the protection plan).

Procedure II-L1: Team Decision Making Initiation and Referral

07/2015

After establishing a protection plan and/or initiating an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation, the FSW will:

- A. Inform parents (or person responsible for care, as applicable) and youth (as appropriate) of:
 - 1) The purpose of a Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting;
 - 2) That they will be required to attend the next scheduled TDM meeting; and,
 - 3) What will be expected of them during the TDM meeting (e.g., to share their understanding of the safety and risk issues as well as strengths in their home, their understanding of the protection plan as applicable, etc.).
- B. Tell the parents (or person responsible for care, as applicable) that, if they would like, the assigned facilitator can also contact the family by the next business day to explain more about the process.
- C. Ask parents (or person responsible for care, as applicable) and youth (as appropriate) to identify extended family members, fictive kin, or community partners who they would like to attend the upcoming TDM and ask the family to contact those individuals with information about the upcoming TDM meeting.
 - 1) Collect names, phone numbers, and addresses of family identified team members.
- D. Leave PUB-35: "What is Team Decision Making?" with the family.
- E. Discuss whether family will need assistance with transportation and help coordinate transportation as appropriate.
- F. Contact the area DCFS Facilitator by phone or email within two hours of putting the protection plan in place and/or within two hours of initiating an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation to refer the family for a Team Decision Making meeting.
 - 1) When the FSW emails or leaves a voicemail referral with the area TDM Facilitator during normal business hours and has not heard back from the facilitator by 4:00 p.m. that same business day,

then the FSW will contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor by phone or email with the referral information.

- 2) If TDM referral is made after hours, on the weekend, or during a holiday, an email must be sent or a voicemail must be left to make the referral.
 - a) When the FSW emails or leaves a voicemail with the area TDM Facilitator after hours and has not heard back from that facilitator by 9:00 a.m. the next business day, then the FSW will contact the DCFS Facilitator Supervisor by phone or email with the referral information.
- 3) Provide the DCFS Facilitator (or DCFS Facilitator Supervisor, as applicable) with:
 - a) Names of family members
 - b) Family address and phone number
 - c) Dates of birth of family members
 - d) Protection plan, if applicable
 - e) Any special information or needs regarding safety (e.g., domestic violence issues), language interpretation, physical accommodations, child care for very young children, etc.
 - f) Contact information and family request to be contacted by the facilitator to provide more information about the TDM process, if applicable.
- G. Work with the assigned facilitator and family to confirm exact date, time, and location of TDM meeting within twenty-four hours of establishing protection plan and/or within twenty-four hours of initiating an investigation involving a Garrett's Law allegation.
- H. Enter family's demographic information into CHRIS within twenty-four hours of receiving referral.
- I. Document date and time family is informed of agreed-upon TDM meeting date, time, and location in CHRIS.

The FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan and/or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation will:

- A. Conference with FSW as needed.

The Facilitator will:

- A. Work with FSW to confirm exact date, time, and location of meeting.

The Facilitator Supervisor will:

- A. Conference with the DCFS Facilitator as needed.
- B. Make any needed TDM referrals to the back-up facilitator by the next business day.

Procedure II-L2: Team Decision Making Preparation

07/2015

The FSW will:

- A. Conference with the FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation, as applicable, and facilitator to prepare for the TDM meeting.
- B. Conduct the safety check-in meeting as appropriate/assigned with the biological parent(s) (or other persons responsible for care, if applicable) and any children who plan to attend the TDM meeting.

The FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation will:

- A. Conference with the FSW and facilitator to prepare for the TDM meeting.
- B. Determine whether or not children involved in the investigation will attend the TDM meeting.
- C. Assign the FSW, facilitator, or self as appropriate, to conduct the safety check-in meeting with the biological parent(s) (or other persons responsible for care, if applicable) and any children who plan to attend the meeting.
- D. Conduct the safety check-in meeting as appropriate/assigned with the biological parent(s) (or other persons responsible for care, if applicable) and any children who plan to attend the TDM meeting.

The Facilitator will:

- A. Review the protection plan, if applicable.
- B. Contact the family who will participate in the TDM meeting, if the family requested that the facilitator call to provide more information about the TDM process.
- C. Invite service providers or other public agency staff, including language interpreters, if needed, to TDM meeting as appropriate.
- D. Document date and time any service providers or other public agency staff are informed of TDM meeting date, time, and location in CHRIS.
- E. Conference with the FSW and FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation to prepare for the TDM meeting.
- F. Conduct the safety check-in meeting as appropriate/assigned with the biological parent(s) (or other persons responsible for care, if applicable) and any children who plan to attend the TDM meeting.

Procedure II-L3: Team Decision Making Meeting

07/2015

The Facilitator will:

- A. Open the TDM meeting by
 - 1) Welcoming all participants
 - 2) Explaining purpose of TDM
 - 3) Asking all participants to complete CFS-354: Team Decision Making Meeting Sign-in Sheet and Privacy Statement
 - 4) Inviting all participants to introduce themselves
 - 5) Asking Division employees or other service providers to explain their respective roles as they relate to TDM
- B. Ask the immediate family (including age appropriate children and youth) to describe their:
 - 1) Understanding of the safety and/or risk issues in their home;
 - 2) Understanding of the protection plan, if applicable;
 - 3) Their perceived strengths that can be used as protective factors in addressing the specific harm or danger to the child; and,
 - 4) Any other relevant information.
- C. Ask the FSW to describe:
 - 1) Identified safety factors in the home;

- 2) Family's strengths that can be used as protective factors in addressing the specific harm or danger to the child; and,
 - 3) Established protection plan, if applicable.
- D. Continue to facilitate the meeting per TDM protocols to help the TDM group to:
- 1) Assess if family is adequately following established protection plan, if applicable;
 - 2) Decide whether changes are needed to make the protection plan more effective or better ensure child's safety, if applicable;
 - 3) Determine if current placement decision ensures the child's safety;
 - 4) Identify ways in which TDM members may support the family;
 - 5) Assist the group in moving toward consensus.
- E. Complete CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report.
- 1) The CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report must include the timeframe in which DCFS will conduct the next home visit with the family.
- F. Provide a copy of the CFS-355: Team Decision Making Meeting Summary to the family prior to adjourning the meeting.

The FSW will:

- A. Assist family with transportation as appropriate.
- B. Share information regarding identified safety issues, family strengths, and established protection plan, if applicable.
- C. Actively participate in problem solving and decision making processes throughout the TDM meeting and remain open to revisions to the initial protection plan, if applicable.

FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation will:

- A. Attend TDM when possible.
- B. Conference with FSW and facilitator as needed.

Procedure II-L4: Team Decision Making Review

05/2014

The requesting Division staff member will:

- A. Notify the entire TDM team of his/her intent to seek a review prior to the end of the TDM meeting.
- B. Present summary of the meeting and reason for review to the TDM Reviewer.

The Facilitator will:

- A. Notify the appropriate on-call TDM Reviewer and supervisor.
- B. Explain the review process to the TDM group.

The Division staff member requesting the review will:

- A. Present summary of the meeting and reason for review to the TDM Reviewer.

The TDM Reviewer (either the DCFS County Supervisor or Area Director, as appropriate) will:

- A. Join the TDM meeting either in person or by conference call before participants leave.
- B. Listen to both summaries.

- C. Determine whether adjustments need to be made to the decision and/or if an interim safety plan is necessary.

Procedure II-L5: Team Decision Making Follow-Up

07/2015

The FSW will:

- A. Meet or conference call with the Facilitator and FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation within 24 hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting.
- B. Continue to monitor family's progress until the investigation is completed.
- C. Share all relevant information regarding the family's protection plan, if applicable, and progress with the FSW assigned to the family's protective or foster care case, if applicable.

The FSW Supervisor who approved the protection plan or the supervisor of the primary FSW investigator involving a Garrett's Law allegation will:

- A. Meet or conference call with the FSW and facilitator within 24 hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting and as needed.

The DCFS Facilitator will:

- A. Meet or conference call with the FSW and FSW Supervisor within 24 hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting.
- B. Enter all required TDM data elements into CHRIS within 72 business hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting and within 72 hours of receipt of TDM data elements from the contracted facilitator when the TDM meeting is facilitated by a contract provider.
- C. Provide copies of the Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report printout from CHRIS to all participants, including the family, as soon as possible following the TDM meeting.
 - 1) DCFS Facilitator is also responsible for providing copies of the Team Decision Making Meeting Summary Report printout from CHRIS to all participants, including the family, as soon as possible following the TDM meeting when that TDM meeting was facilitated by a back-up facilitator.

The back-up facilitator (if applicable) will:

- A. Provide the TDM data elements to the area DCFS Facilitator within 72 business hours of the conclusion of the TDM meeting.

The Facilitator Supervisor will:

- A. Conference with the DCFS facilitator as needed.