



Structured Family Team Meetings

When we fully involve families in planning for their children's safety and well-being, we often see better outcomes. Structured family team meetings were designed to maximize family involvement in critical child welfare decisions in a supportive and coordinated way. The common theme underlying all family team meeting models is strengths-based and solution-focused family engagement and participation.

Why Ongoing Support is Needed

Structured family team meeting programs require ongoing, rigorous review, support, and adjustment to safeguard against diminished outcomes over time. The following factors contribute to, and are indicative of, decreased quality of these meetings:

- biased facilitation
- lack of clarity regarding participants' roles and meeting structure
- participants who are not prepared
- lack of staff commitment to the process
- reduced family engagement



By recognizing that families are experts of their own experiences and prioritizing their voice in decision-making, families are more likely to create long-lasting changes that lead to better, safer outcomes for themselves and their children.

When structured family team meeting programs devolve over time, the agency loses a powerful tool for children's safety, permanency, and well-being.

How IHS Can Help

Our staff have extensive experience facilitating structured family team meetings, training agency staff in facilitation skills, and managing large-scale facilitation programs. The Institute for Human Services (IHS) can help assess your structured family team meeting program and recommend improvements. We can also assist you to select, train, and coach facilitators to get better outcomes.

Institute for Human Services has worked with Ohio's county child protective service agencies for four decades, providing training, consultation, program evaluation, and technical assistance to staff at all levels. IHS is uniquely qualified to help your agency achieve its mission.

Contact us at 614-251-6000 or info@ihs-trainet.com and we'll help you determine the best path forward to achieve your organization's goals.

Building the World's Capacity to Protect Children and Strengthen Families

