

## FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

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Northeast Parent & Child Society's Family Services Programs, including Family Team Meetings (FTM), in Columbia County provide services to children and families in their homes and in their communities in order to meet our mission of protecting children, preserving families, and strengthening communities. An FTM is a gathering of a family members, friends, community resource providers, and other interested people who join together to brainstorm ideas that will strengthen a family and assist them in solving problems and reaching goals. FTMs evolve from the way that families form natural helping systems to meet needs and solve problems. A neutral facilitator guides the family and their network of supports through the process of coming together to develop, implement, or change a plan that can address child safety, permanency, and well-being.

### AVAILABLE SERVICES

Specific Services offered by the FTM facilitator include the following:

- Creation of a family-focused plan to address child safety, permanency, and well-being
- Identification of family strengths that will lead to success
- Broadened circle of support for all family members
- Flexible, home- and community-based preparation meetings
- Greater knowledge of community services that can benefit family members
- Culturally-competent, family-centered, neutral facilitator guides families through the process
- Follow-up meeting(s) to address unmet needs and concerns

### BENEFITS

- Family-focused, family-driven services
- Families are empowered to make decisions and develop plans to protect and nurture their children
- Family members are able to decide whom they feel will best help them to succeed
- Improved connections between families and their communities
- Stronger collaboration and communication between families and professionals
- Incorporation of family's decisions into the family case plan
- Increased family investment and contribution in the implementation and success of the family case plan
- Improved opportunity for children to remain safely within their home, school, and community
- Available in Columbia County
- No cost to families.

**Who can access services?** In order for a family to be eligible for an FTM, the family needs to be involved with the Columbia County Department of Social Services

**How are services accessed?** For more information, contact

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**When are services available?** Day, evening, and weekend sessions are available to meet the needs of families schedules.