

## PRINCIPLES OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM PROCESS

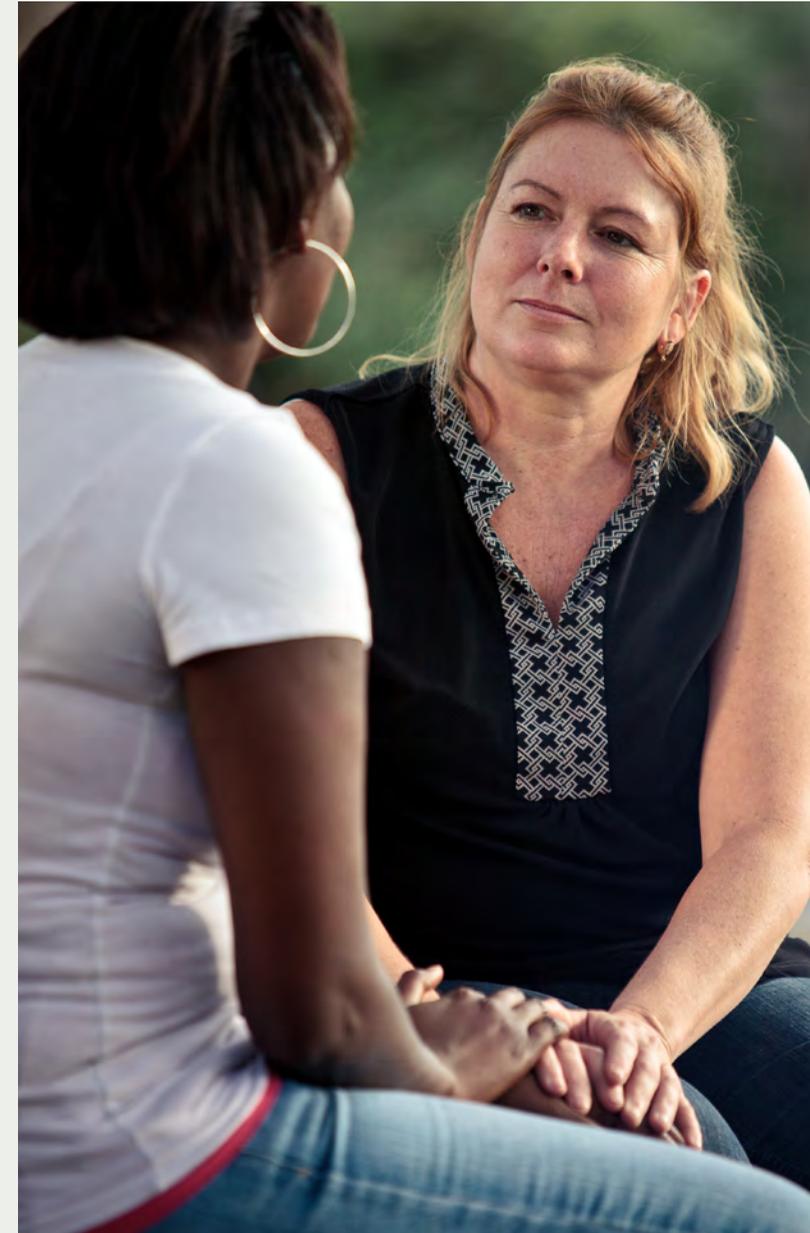
- The focus is on the needs rather than the symptoms.
- People are capable of change
- All people and families have strengths.
- A solution that a family generates with a team is more likely to fit that family.
- A family is more invested in a plan in which they believe.
- Family members and friends can identify solutions that no formal system would be able to generate.
- Family and friends provide love and caring in a way that no formal helping system can.
- When you bring together a number of caring people in the same room you obtain energy that fuels the engine of change.

*Core Principles of Engaging Families and Family Team Conferencing include:*

Respect

Authenticity/Genuineness

Empathy



Visit us at [pfsf.org](http://pfsf.org)



Headquarters . 5950 NW 1st Place, Suite A . Gainesville, FL 32607 . 352.244.1500

Family Team Conferencing



## THE FAMILY TEAM

Families need help in times of crisis, so they draw together people whom they trust and who can help in responding to the issues they face. Almost everyone can identify a time when they formed a team, sometimes involving professional helpers, to meet a specific need. Likewise, most people who have drawn a team around them are willing to become contributors to such a team or circle of friends. Family Team Conferencing is an activity all families receiving service at Partnership for Strong Families have an opportunity to participate in. It is a process in which participants:

- Learn what the family hopes to accomplish
- Set reasonable and meaningful goals
- Recognize and affirm the family strengths
- Assess family needs
- Find solutions to meet family needs
- Design individualized supports and services that match the family's needs and builds on their strengths
- Achieve clarity about who is responsible for agreed upon tasks
- Agree on the next steps

## STUDY ON FAMILY TEAM CONFERENCING

The Partnership for Study Families is conducting an evaluation of Family Team Conferencing (FTC). A summary of the Study and Purpose is detailed below. Please see the [Informed Consent Form \(provided with this brochure\)](#) for more details regarding the study and your possible participation. You will have an opportunity to talk with a [Family Team Conference Coordinator \(who will call you\)](#) about FTCs and the study and meet and discuss this study before signing any consent form.

### SUMMARY

You and your family are being asked to participate in a research study on services provided by the Partnership for Strong Families (herein referred to as PSF). The independent evaluator/Principal Investigator for this study is Robin Perry, Ph.D. from the Institute for Child and Family Services Research. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are currently involved with the Florida State Department of Children and Families (DCF) in-home supervision or out-of-home care in Circuit 3 and 8.

### PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study is to test different approaches of Family Team Conferencing, a meeting that involves various participants. Participants can include, but are not limited to: parent(s), caregiver(s), their children, other family members, friends of the family and professionals from DCF, PSF and other community-based agencies.

The FTC is already an established part of services provided by PSF, although different models of FTC are practiced and researched elsewhere. The project plans to test the current model utilized by PSF with two alternative models:

- Will each model produce different results?
- Will participants, especially the family, perceive and value each model differently?

Results of interest to the study include:

- Increasing child and family safety at home
- Reducing timeliness to achieve permanent homes for children
- Improving child and family well-being
- Greater family involvement in case planning and decision making
- Other service goals and outcomes deemed of value by families working with service providers

The results of the study will be of major importance in helping PSF evaluate the value of FTC in achieving desired outcomes and improving service with children and families.

Please review the Informed Consent Form. If you have any questions regarding this study and your possible participation, please contact Dr. Perry at (850) 322-1901; Institute for Child and Family Services Research, 1400 Village Square Blvd., Suite 3-258, Tallahassee, FL 32312; or [Robin\\_Perry\\_PhD@comcast.net](mailto:Robin_Perry_PhD@comcast.net).