

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

March 10, 2010

MEMORANDUM

What's Inside:

Lack of consensus between CD and the FST

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LACK OF CONSENSUS BETWEEN THE CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND THE FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide staff with an update to the policy outlined in Memorandum [CD07-77](#) regarding lack of consensus at Family Support Team (FST) meetings and Permanency Planning Review Team (PPRT) meetings.

Occasionally, there are situations where there may be a lack of consensus between the team members regarding a particular decision. As explained in Memorandum CD07-77, if the Children's Service Worker is the only member of the FST/PPRT not in agreement with the rest of the Team on a particular decision, the worker should discuss their concerns with their supervisor and/or Circuit Manager. If there is still disagreement after discussion with the supervisor and/or Circuit Manager, new policy requires the county to forward all relevant information to the Regional Office who will review the case to determine how Children's Division should proceed.

When a case is managed by a contracted foster care case management provider, the worker should discuss disagreement with other team members with their immediate supervisor. If there is still disagreement after supervisory review all relevant information should be shared with the Program Manager who will determine the appropriate course of action.

Lack of consensus between team members could result in a delay in permanency for the youth, thus it is especially important that this process is followed in a timely manner to avoid any delays to the youth reaching permanency.

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and

directed to:	
PDS CONTACT: Christy Collins (573) 751-9603 Christy.Collins@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER: Dena Driver (573) 751-3171 Dena.Driver@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS: Section 4 Chapter 7.2.4 Lack of Consensus at Family Support Team (FST)/Permanency Planning Review Team (PPRT) Meetings	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A	
RELATED STATUTE N/A	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A	
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A	
PROTECTIVE FACTORS Parental Resilience-N/A Social Connections-N/A Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development-N/A Concrete Support in Times of Need-N/A Social and Emotional Competence of Children-N/A	
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A	