

## CHILD WELFARE UPDATE

<b>Title:</b>	Solution Focused Meetings (SFMs)
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<b>Effective Date:</b>	July 1, 2021
<b>Program Manager:</b>	Mindy Norwood, Family-Centered Services (FCS) Program Manager <a href="mailto:mnorwoo@dhs.state.ia.us">mnorwoo@dhs.state.ia.us</a> 515.281.4212
<b>Background Information:</b>	<p><b>Background Information:</b> In July 2020, DHS implemented new service contracts for provision of Family-Centered Services (FCS). Solution Based Casework (SBC) was selected as the primary family-centered practice model of child welfare assessment, case planning, and ongoing casework. The model targets specific everyday events in the life of a family that have caused the family difficulty. SBC combines the best of problem focused relapse prevention approaches with solution-focused models. By integrating the two approaches, partnerships between family, DHS workers, FCS contractors, and other service providers can be developed that account for basic needs and restore the family's pride in their own competence.</p> <p>In order to better align with SBC practice, DHS is changing the current family team decision-making (FTDM) meeting process and transitioning to Solution Focused Meetings (SFMs). SFMs are a formal family engagement strategy to work toward solutions.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder Engagement:</b> Various internal and external stakeholders were engaged in the change process including the SBC model developer, representatives from DHS policy and field, and FCS contractors. Under the current contract, FCS contractors are responsible for facilitating FTDM meetings. As the family support specialists are trained in SBC across the state and move toward certification, the FCS contractors are in agreement with DHS moving forward with SFMs for better alignment of SBC practice.</p> <p><b>Reason for the Change:</b> The reason for transitioning from the FTDM meeting process over to the SFM process is to better align with SBC practice under the new FCS contracts.</p>

<p><b>What Is Changing:</b></p>	<p><b>What Is Changing:</b> One change is with the name of the meeting, transitioning from FTDM meetings to SFMs. The primary change is specific to the focus of the meeting. SFMs specifically focus on safety, whereas FTDM meetings focus on all of the current identified family functioning domains. SFM activities and anticipated outcome will be based on which SBC milestone the family is in. SBC engagement and relapse prevention strategies will be utilized in the facilitation of the meeting.</p> <p>In addition, the requirements to become a facilitator are changing. The facilitator training will be shortened and modified to align with SBC. A new quality assurance process is being implemented. As a result, the SFM facilitator will not need to complete coaching, go through an approval process, or maintain an approval number.</p> <p><b>Who Is Impacted:</b> The transition from FTDM meetings to SFMs will impact all family team meeting participants. Additionally, community-based FTDM meeting facilitators will not be trained in SFMs due to the direct link to the SBC practice model. Other family team meeting options are being explored for community-based FTDM meeting facilitators.</p>
<p><b>What Is Not Changing:</b></p>	<p><b>Provide a brief summary of aspects of the policy, practice, initiative, or contract that will not be impacted by the implemented changes:</b> Families will continue to be offered the opportunity to participate a meeting. The timeframes for when SFMs will be facilitated on open DHS child welfare service cases are not changing.</p> <p>Families will continue to determine who attends their SFM based on whom they view as their natural/informal supports. They will continue to be involved in the decision-making process.</p>
<p><b>Expected Benefits:</b></p>	<p><b>Indicate the positive outcomes that are expected as the result of the change:</b> Families are best served when they are actively engaged and their voices are heard, valued, and considered with regard to decision. The goal of SFMs is to bring important family supports, in addition to the family, to the table with DHS and other service providers to address safety, permanency, and well-being.</p> <p>SFMs are solution-based, draw on past successes of the family in problem solving, and work in partnership with the family.</p>