CFTMs vs FTMs

Again with the TLAs….Three Letter Acronyms

# What is the difference between a Child and Family Team Meeting and a Family Team meeting?

There is one and it’s important. Say a social services practitioner says that the case doesn’t need an official CFTM because the Wraparound teams are holding family team meetings every week. That’s not correct. Here’s why:

# The Distinction

* FTM’s (Family Team Meetings) are weekly meetings held by the Wrap teams with the families, typically in the family’s home.  It is DPSS’s Policy that the workers participate in at least one FTM per month (in person or via technology).  Only youth with Wrap have FTM’s, as these are not meetings that are held via other service providers, nor DPSS.
* CFTM’s are meetings that are held for every dependent youth, whether he or she has Wrap or not, and MUST include the child, the caregiver(s)/parents, the Intensive Care Coordinator (typically the child’s therapist), the CFTM Facilitator (if the child has Wrap then this is the Wrap team Facilitator, if the child does not have Wrap then this is the DPSS CFTM Facilitator) and the DPSS Social Services Practitioner (SSP; formerly titled Children’s Social Services Worker).  If any of these parties are missing from the meeting, it can no longer count as a CFTM.  If the child is recognized as “Sub-class”, which essentially means that there are behavioral/mental health concerns that rise to the level at which therapeutic services are deemed medically necessary, then **a CFTM must be held for the child every 90 days**; if the child is recognized as “class”, or that he or she is not in need of therapeutic services, then, barring any changes of note (placement change, onset of new, negative behaviors, etc.), CFTM’s would only need to be held every six months.
* There are very specific and rigid requirements for CFTM documentation, versus FTM’s, for which there are not.  While the Wrap team may be the host or facilitator for a CFTM, the SSP still needs to upload the documentation.

# The Forms

* See a sample of the CFTM service plan, mental health agreement, and confidentiality form here: [Child Family Team Meetings](file:///\\vfcdata\files\CASA%20Riverside%20County\How%20Tos\Child%20Family%20Team%20Meetings)

# In Summary

* FTMs are held weekly as part of Wraparound services.
* CFTMs are a requirement for every child in foster care. Every 6 months at minimum. If the child is receiving mental health services, must be every 90 days. There’s certain people who must attend. It has specific paperwork that must be completed. It’s the social services practitioner’s job to make sure that paperwork is completed.

# Now you know

* CASAs should always be invited to a CFTM and we want their supervisor to attend too!