FILED
SEP 20 2017
Clerk of the Court
Superior Court of California
County of Calaveras
By _____ Deputy

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CALAVERAS

CALAVERAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

General Order No. 17-11

STANDING ORDER CONCERNING TEAM DECISION MAKING AND CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

The Court hereby finds that:

1. Good decisions regarding children's safety and welfare are promoted by involving as many supportive people as possible.

2. Team Decision Making meetings and Child and Family Team meetings are an effective way to involve interested parties in positive decisions for children and families.

3. Effective decisions can not be reached in these meetings unless there is a full discussion of all the facts, including information that may be confidential.

THEREFORE THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS:

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 827(a)(1)(K) Calaveras Health and Human Services Agency may, during these meetings, disclose information in their knowledge regarding the child and family to participants who the Agency has approved to be in attendance.

Each participant shall be advised and agree that all information learned during the meetings, as well as any decisions made are confidential and may not be further disseminated to anyone subsequent to the meeting. This prohibition does not extend to mandated reporters in fulfilling their duties.

Dated: 9-20-17

Judge

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CALAVERAS

General Order No. 17-11

CALAVERAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY	REQUEST FOR STANDING ORDER

Calaveras Health and Human Services Agency (Agency) is committed to the safety of children, and the preservation of families when appropriate. As part of these efforts the Agency has initiated the use of Team Decision Making meetings and Child and Family Team meetings at all stages of a case to insure that best practices are being utilized.

Team Decision Making meetings are held every time a child's placement is changing, including the initial removal from the home of the parent or guardian. In addition to placement they also focus on family finding, locating other relatives, as well as building support networks

for the family. Participants in these meetings can include the parents and children, other family and friends, community agencies, and other Agency professionals.

Child and Family Team meetings are held within the first sixty days of a case coming into the system and every six months thereafter. Participants can include the same people as in the Team Decision Meeting along with the child's attorney and a mental health representative. If the child is in a group home or involved with Mental Health then the meetings must occur every ninety days. The composition of the team is driven by family members' preferences and is as inclusive as possible so the support system that is developed will continue to exist after formal services have been completed and a transition plan is in place. The purpose of Child and Family Team meetings is to ensure that Case Plans are developed that meet the child's needs through group discussion. In addition the meeting is used to get a commitment from the participants that they will follow through with their role in the Case Plan.

All participants in Team Decision Making meetings and Child and Family Team meetings sign a confidentiality agreement that the information revealed at the meeting is confidential and may not be discussed with anyone outside the meeting.

Welfare and Institutions Code, section 827, deals with the confidentiality of records in dependency and sets out the specific persons and entities that are allowed access. Many of the participants in Team Decision Making meetings and Child and Family Team meetings are not named in WIC, section 827. However WIC section 827(a)(1)(P) does allow the court to order access to information in juvenile records to, "Any other person who may be designated by court order…)

To ensure the effectiveness of these meetings the Agency is requesting that the Court issue a Standing Order that persons may participate in Team Decision Making meetings and Child and Family Team meetings with the approval of the Agency. And that those persons may

be provided with oral information about the case as needed for effective discussion during the meeting.

Dated:

Lora Larson, Program Manager, CHHSA

Julie Spoljaric
Deputy County Counsel