



INTEGRATED PRACTICE TEAM (IPT) PROTOCOL

The Integrated Practice Team, is a community-oriented, strength based individualized planning process aimed at helping families meet their needs through informal supports and formal child welfare service systems. The goal of the IPT members is to staff cases as a team and offer knowledge and expertise to develop a comprehensive family service plan with the family to ensure the individual needs of the family are strengthened while safely maintaining children in their homes.

Members of an IPT Team:

The IPT members consist of partners from community agencies:

Lead Facilitator-Community Partnership for Children and Family Integrity Program (St Johns)

Co-Lead Facilitator-Department of Children and Families Child Protective Investigations

Per County and as needed:

Domestic Abuse Advocate

Education School Social Worker

Family Intervention Specialist or Women's Intervention Specialist

Economic Self Sufficiency (ESS) Liaison

Nurse

Mental Health Specialist

Lutheran Services Florida Health System (LSF) representative (housing/respice)

Department of Juvenile Justice

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Department of Health

Guardian Ad Litem

Students with Emotional Disability Network (SEDNET)

Role of the IPT Facilitators

The IPT Facilitators will engage team members in assessing and planning the integration of appropriate services to prevent a removal of children from their homes and/or shorten removal episode. The IPT Facilitators will lead the staffing with the purpose of placing the family at the center of the planning, including relatives, friends, and other close supports. Bringing together family and their close supports to develop and carry out a plan that protects, nurtures, and safeguards children and other family members.

Types of Case:

The type of cases referred are active investigations or open case management where there is a potential for removal of the children. The process is to identify innovative solutions to safely maintain children in their own home. Any child welfare agency may request an IPT. Situations for an IPT staffing could include, but are not limited to: Lockouts; children who have been ordered into DCF care by the judge presiding over the Department of Juvenile Justice; parents

incarcerated and unavailable; homelessness; or other circumstances that could be rectified through this teaming approach.

Note: IPT is NOT designed to replace an agencies' internal staffing process. The IPT staffing is to resolve case specific conflicts that could not be resolved through other internal staffing processes, i.e. Reintegration Staffing; DJJ Cross Over Staffing; FSPT; MDT; CPT; LRT; etc...

If a removal occurs due to immediate child safety issues or after-hours situation, it is recommended the case be staffed with the IPT **but it is not required**.

For DCF and CPC, If CPI/Case Manager exhausted all the steps of trying to prevent a removal or lockout situation then the Supervisor will decide to escalate it to the IPT process.

IPT STAFFING PROTOCOL/REFERRAL FORM:

Protocol: IPT staffing's are held **Monday – Thursday** (Typically 1 hour increments) (9:30a, 11:00a, 12:30p, 2:00p). *

Monday- West Volusia: Location

Tuesday- Putnam: Location

Wednesday-East Volusia: Location

Thursday-Flagler: Location

St Johns county-TBD-IPT's can be set during any of the above days.

**Any emergency staffing request outside of the listed times will be based on the IPT Facilitators' availability.*

Ways to Schedule a staffing:

1. Email the completed IPT referral to the IPT Facilitators at NER.C7.IPT.Referrals@myflfamilies.com
DCF IPT Facilitator: Patrick Brown at 386-481-3192
CPC IPT Facilitator: Christy Gillis at 386-681-7775
FIP IPT Facilitator: TBD
2. Upon receipt of the referral, the IPT Facilitators will email notice with date, time, and DCF location of the staffing. The IPT Facilitators will contact the requesting agency (person) for information regarding formal providers currently involved with the family.
3. **It is the responsibility of the requesting agency(person) to invite the family and informal support system.** The CPI and CM, as well as their Supervisor, must attend the staffing if they requested the IPT staffing. **(please ensure that appropriate box is checked on the referral form indicating which family members will be in attendance).**

*****PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL INFORMATION ON THE REFERRAL FORM IS ACCURATE, ESPECIALLY **THE CHILDREN'S NAMES AND DOB**. Any available records should be uploaded into FSFN or brought to the IPT *****