Why is this FPM happening?

Initial Foster Care FPMs happen…
❖ Within the first month after the Court places a child into Foster Care.
❖ To create an initial service plan for submission to and approval by the Court that includes:
  ❖ Strengths and needs of the family
   ❖ Discussion of the permanency goal and the concurrent goal
   ❖ Steps and services to achieve the goal
   ❖ Identifying family and other natural supports
   ❖ To share information about your child and discuss how he/she is doing
   ❖ (Return Home, Placement with Relatives, Permanent Foster Care, Adoption, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement, or Fostering Futures).

Before the meeting, plan to...
❖ Think about the people who know and care about your children and family and invite them to attend the meeting with you.
❖ Participate for up to two hours.
❖ Express if there is anything that would help you participate (childcare, transportation, safety, etc.)
❖ Understand the conversation may be emotional and challenging.

How to prepare for your FPM?
❖ Talk about what your family needs to keep your children safe and help them thrive.

At the meeting, plan to...
❖ Express your feelings about your children and family.
❖ Talk about your strengths and what is going well.
❖ Share what worries you about your family.
❖ Talk about what your family needs to keep your children safe, help them thrive, and provide them with a consistent and stable home.
❖ Talk about services that have helped or could help.
❖ Make decisions for your children and family.

Date: __________________________
Time: __________________________
Location: ________________________
Contact: _________________________
What’s an FPM?

❖ A team meeting for your family that includes people who care about your family.

❖ An open and creative way for parents, family, friends, professionals, and DSS to work together to make a plan to keep your children safe and stable.

❖ The meeting is structured and led by a facilitator who is not involved with your case. The facilitator will make sure everyone can participate and the meeting stays focused.

How do FPMs work?

❖ Everyone uses respectful, open, and honest communication that respects the privacy of the family.

❖ The family team will discuss the purpose of the meeting.

❖ The team will talk about your children and family’s strengths to help build the plan.

❖ The team will then discuss the concerns and your family’s needs.

❖ Next, the team will “brainstorm” and suggest ideas to support your family.

❖ Finally, the team will make decisions and create a step-by-step plan to accomplish the goals.

❖ The team tries to reach an agreement on the plan.

❖ Everyone will leave the meeting with a printed copy of the plan.

Why is an FPM important?

Because...

❖ Children do best when they are connected to family.

❖ Family participation improves decision making and outcomes for children.

❖ All families have strengths and are experts on themselves.

❖ Teamwork is the best way to make decisions about child safety, stability, permanency, and well-being.