

CPPC's Four Strategies

1. The family. A Family Team Meeting (FTM) pulls together a family needing help, neighbors, local service providers and others to create an action plan that supports the family and ensures the children's safety. These plans identify steps parents, friends, extended families, and other formal and informal groups will carry out. Individuals from CPPC's target neighborhoods and past FTM participants often guide these meetings, creating a comfort level for families new to the experience.

2. The community. The stronger and broader community participation in keeping children safe and families together, the greater CPPC's impact. CPPC needs all parts of the community – schools, faith groups, mental health professionals and health care providers, substance abuse and domestic violence programs, child care providers, parent groups, neighborhood residents, and others – to participate.

3. Shared decision-making. To sustain this approach over time and enhance its ability to meet local needs, CPPC relies on shared decision-making and includes citizens in the process of leading the initiative.

4. Policy and practice changes. CPPC seeks to enhance or change existing policies and practices or develop new ones to more effectively keep children safe and families together.

Won't You Help?

You can become involved in CPPC in many ways.

- Make a referral – when you hear about a family experiencing difficulties that threaten child safety or family stability, tell them about CPPC and offer to help set up a Family Team Meeting.
- Serve as a mentor or resource for a family needing an advocate.
- Become trained to guide Family Team Meetings.
- Offer your ideas and insights about making processes and services more effective for families.
- Participate in monthly shared decision-making team.
- If you are part of a school, agency or organization that has meeting space, offer it as a site for Family Team Meetings or small community meetings.
- Have your church or service group provide food – even the simplest snacks can help create an atmosphere in which people become more willing to work together on tough issues.
- Offer support – babysitting, a meal, a listening ear – when a family member or friend “hits a rough patch.”
- Be a cheerleader – promote the ideas of CPPC as you talk to friends, co-workers, organizations to which you belong.
- Ask CPPC for help.

*Keeping children safe is everybody's concern.
Make it yours.*

More about CPPC

This community approach to protecting children is supported and encouraged by the state of Iowa, with assistance from the federal government. The first CPPCs in Iowa, including CPPC in Polk County, began in 2003. All 99 Iowa counties now have CPPCs. Each county is able to form its CPPC to work best for people in their county.

CPPC in Polk County is funded in part by Polk County Decategorization / Department of Human Services with support and participation from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Black Ministerial Alliance, Children and Families of Iowa, churches, Des Moines Public Schools – Success Consultants and Black Advisory Council, Drake Legal Clinic, Early Childhood Partnership, Family Planning Council of Iowa, Head Start, families and concerned citizens in Polk County, Fatherhood Initiative, Iowa Department of Corrections – 5th Judicial District, Iowa Department of Human Services – Minority Family and Youth Initiatives, Making Connections Des Moines, Neighborhood Associations, Parent Partners, Polk County – Juvenile Court System, Visiting Nurse Services


To make a referral or get more information contact:

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When this child grows up, she may not remember how the community helped her family stay together and grow strong, but she'll surely remember how good it felt.

And she will have you to thank.

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