



What can YOU do to support *Community Partnerships for Protecting Children???*

Okay, you don't want to be a **Family Team** Meeting facilitator. You care about kids and families, but you just can't picture yourself being *that* directly involved.

And while the "**Neighborhood Network**" idea sounds okay, the fact is, you live on a farm, and your "neighborhood" (in a good year) consists of rows of corn, and your "neighbors" look suspiciously like... cattle.

And "**Shared Decision-Making**" sounds suspiciously like a committee...and if there's one thing you don't have time for, it's another committee!

As for the "**DHS Policy and Practice Change**"...well...maybe you figure DHS should take that on.

So - what can you do to help Community Partnerships? Here are some ideas:

- If you are part of a school, agency, or organization that has meeting space, offer your conference room as a possible site for Family Team Meetings or small community meetings.
- Have your church or service group provide food for Family Meetings - even the simplest snacks can help create an atmosphere in which people become more willing to work together on tough issues.
- Offer some real support - babysitting, a meal, a listening ear - when a family member or even just an acquaintance "hits a rough patch".
- Make a referral - when you hear about a family experiencing difficulties that threaten child safety or family stability, tell them about Family Team Meetings and offer to help get a meeting arranged.
- Be a cheerleader - promote the ideas of Community Partnerships as you talk to friends, co-workers, organizations to which you belong, etc.

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