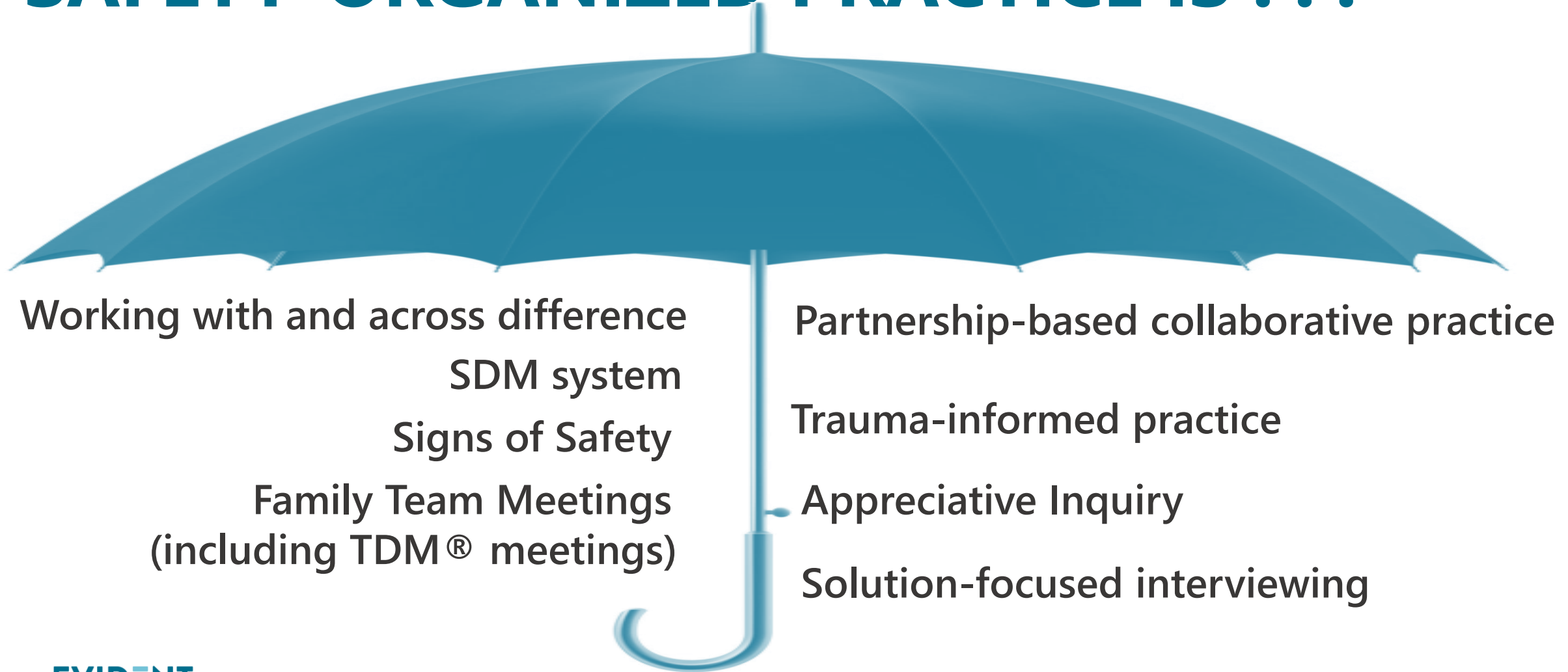# SAFETY ORGANIZED PRACTICE (SOP)

BRIEF COURT OVERVIEW

SAFETY-ORGANIZED PRACTICE IS . . .

Working with and across difference

SDM system

Signs of Safety

Family Team Meetings
(including TDM® meetings)

Partnership-based collaborative practice

Trauma-informed practice

Appreciative Inquiry

Solution-focused interviewing

EVIDENT CHANGE

SAFETY-ORGANIZED PRACTICE OBJECTIVES

Development of good working relationships

Use of critical thinking and decision-support tools

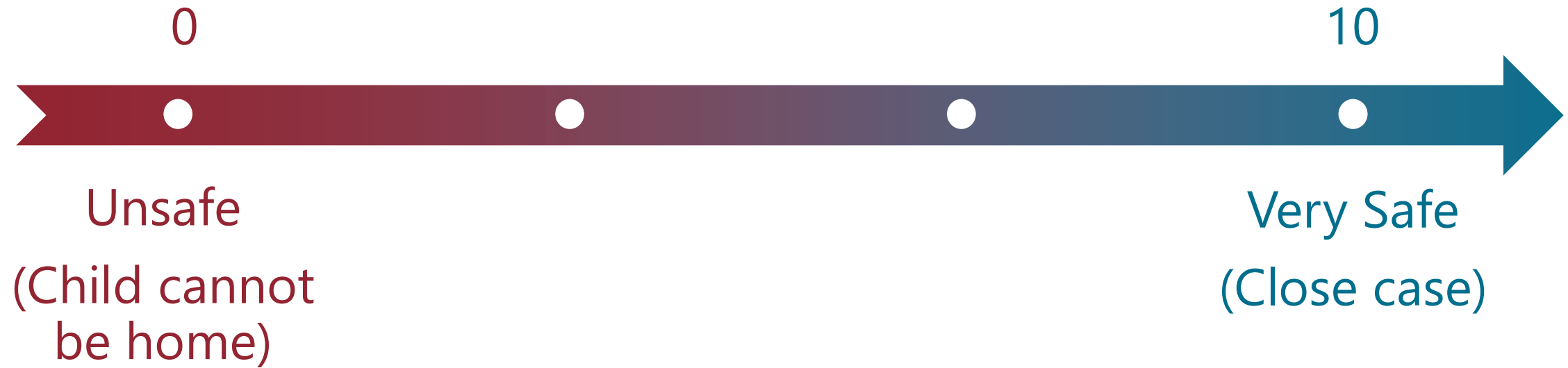Building collaborative plans to enhance daily child safety

EVIDENT CHANGE

THE THREE QUESTIONS

- What are we **worried** about?

- What is **working** well?

- What needs to happen?

EVIDENT CHANGE

Three-Column Mapping

What are we worried about?	What is working well?	What needs to happen next?

0

10

Unsafe

(Child cannot be home)

Very Safe

(Close case)

EVIDENT CHANGE

DISCOVERABLE TOOLS FOR ENGAGING CHILDREN

The Three Houses:
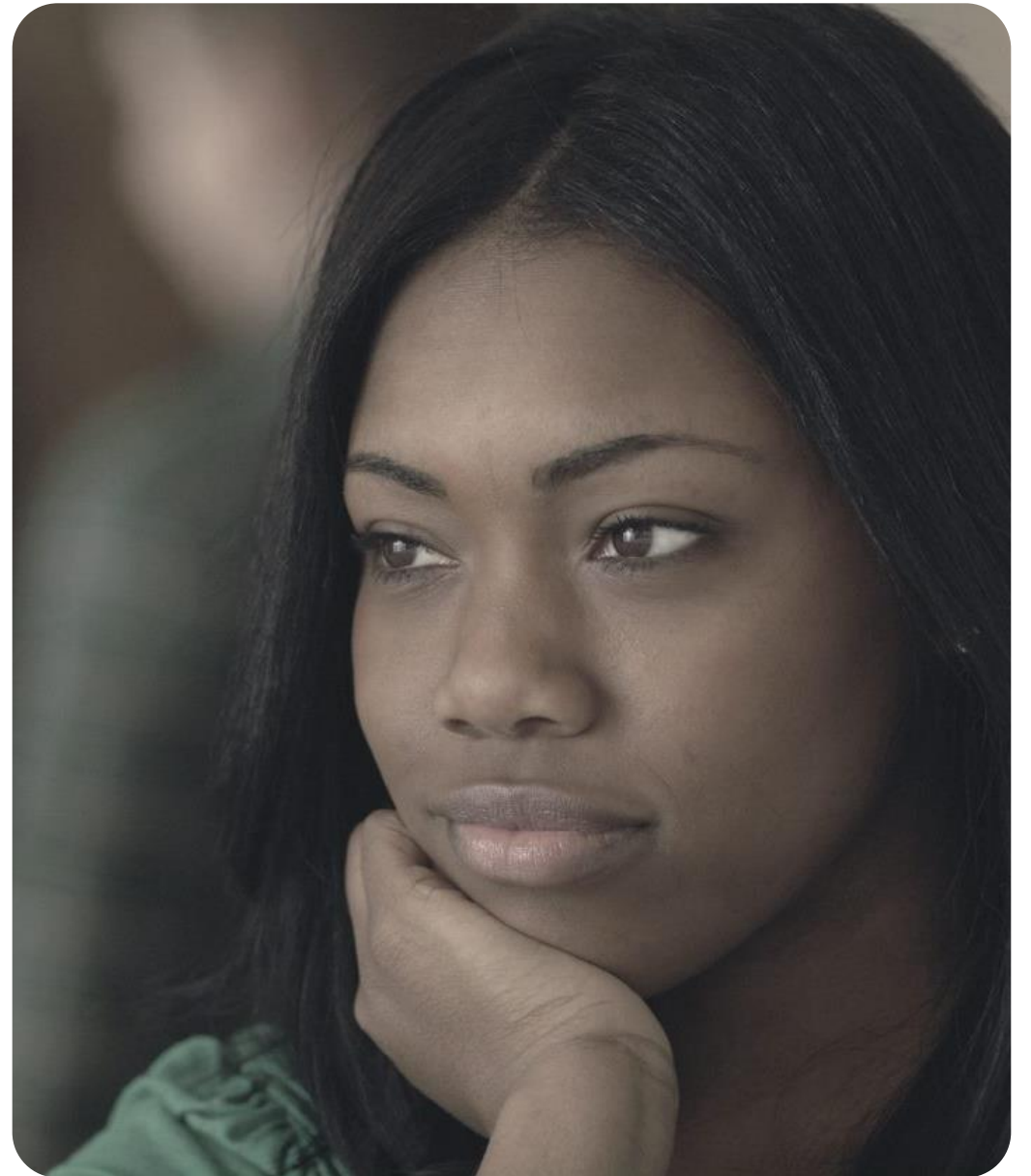Child's voice in assessment

The Safety House:
Child's voice in planning

EVIDENT CHANGE

CRITICAL THINKING

- Collaborative Assessment and Planning (CAP) framework

- Structured Decision Making® (SDM) assessments

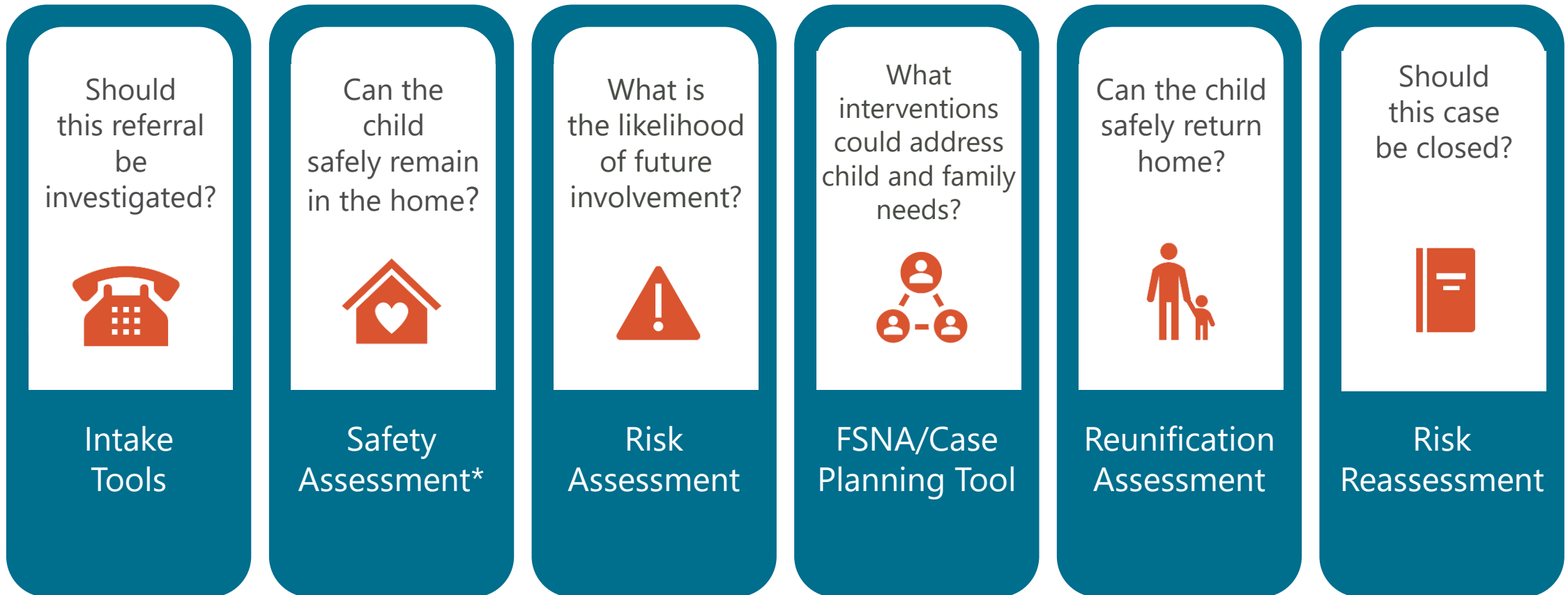- Harm and Worry statements

EVIDENT CHANGE

HARM / WORRY / GOAL STATEMENTS

	WHO	WHAT	HOW
Harm:	Caregiver	Caregiver actions/ Inactions	Impact on the child
Worry:	Caregiver	Potential actions/ Inactions	Potential impact on the child
Goal:	Is part of the network	Will the caregiver DO differently	For HOW long

EVIDENT CHANGE

What Are We Worried About?	Purpose of Consultation	What Is Going Well?
Harm and Danger • Caregiver behavior; impact on child • Youth behavior; impact on youth and others • Pattern/history	**Purpose of Consultation** Hopes for this conversation **Genogram, Ecomap, Circles of Safety and Support** People in the family and network who care about the child/family **Cultural Considerations** How family identifies racially, ethnically, culturally **SDM® System Guidance** Most recent safety and risk assessment results; current recommended decision	**Safety and Permanency/Belonging** • Actions of protection, taken by the caregiver and network, that address the danger and are demonstrated over time • Actions of connection, taken by the caregiver and network and demonstrated over time, that promote enduring relationships to family, community, and culture
Complicating Factors • Conditions or behaviors that create greater barriers to safety, permanency, well-being • Research-based risk factors	**Gray Areas** Incomplete or speculative information	**Strengths and Resources** • Assets, resources, and capacities at the individual, family, and community levels • Presence of research-based protective factors

What Needs to Happen?	
Worry Statements What do key stakeholders worry will happen if nothing changes? Consider safety, permanency, and well-being.	**Goal Statements** What needs to be demonstrated, over time, to address the concerns and ensure the child is safe, well, and connected to family, community, and culture? *(Bottom lines, not services)*

Action Steps
- Look at the next SDM decision point. What information is needed? What conversations with the family and network need to happen?
- What needs to happen next to work toward reaching goals?
- Who has agreed to do what, when?
- What kinds of plans are needed (safety plans, service plans, others)?

Refer to any recommended SDM assessment guidance.

Based on: Consultation and Information Sharing Framework (Lohrbach, 2000); Signs of Safety Assessment and Planning Framework (Turnell & Edwards, 1999; Department of Child Protection, 2011); The Massachusetts Safety Map (Chin, Decter, Madsen, & Vogel, 2010); and The Partnering for Safety Assessment and Planning Framework (Parker & Decter, 2012).

SDM Assessments: Each Decision Point Relates to a Key Question

Should this referral be investigated?

Intake Tools

Can the child safely remain in the home?

Safety Assessment*

What is the likelihood of future involvement?

Risk Assessment

What interventions could address child and family needs?

FSNA/Case Planning Tool

Can the child safely return home?

Reunification Assessment

Should this case be closed?

Risk Reassessment

*Safety is reassessed through the case

SAFETY THREAT

RISK

STRONG NETWORK, STRONG PLAN

We cannot plan for safety only with the people we are worried about.

SOP has concrete strategies for identifying and engaging family networks.

EVIDENT CHANGE

FUTURE STATE: SAFETY ORGANIZED PRACTICE BENCH BOOK

A customized SOP bench book includes hearing specific bench cards with guiding questions for court officers to ask.

Judge-to-Judge consults from other jurisdictions can be made available.

EVIDENT CHANGE

WHAT MAY BE DIFFERENT FOR COURTS?

- Increased consistency, accuracy and equity in decision making.

- Increased transparency about the process for everyone.

- Increased efficiency and better alignment between agency and court processes when courts and attorneys actively encourage SOP efforts.

- Workers should be able to clearly articulate their assessments and recommendations in court reports and testimony.

- Court officers can make better informed decisions.

- Better outcomes for families!

EVIDENT CHANGE

QUESTIONS