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To Whom It May Concern:

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIV.

I'd like to take the opportunity to share a positive experience we have had with the Family Support Team meetings through CFSD in Lewis and Clark County. I have participated in these meetings since their inception in March of 2023. The experience has been very beneficial for me as a professional, as I have personally had a vision to serve families in a coordinated fashion that does not bombard parents with multiple services at once.

In July 2023, one of our families receiving services through our Nurse-Family Partnership home visiting program voluntarily went through the Family Support Team process after the father briefly relapsed with substance misuse. This family has put in years of work to overcome addiction and become great parents to their children. I cannot imagine the courage and strength needed to seek further assistance. Both parents attended the Family Support Team meeting and the father agreed to attend addiction counseling. Since then, I have asked the family to sit on the Lewis and Clark Home Visiting Task Force which serves as the Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teacher Advisory Council. Now that family is not only advocating for themselves but gives us critical insight on how we deliver services to families in our community.

Family Support Team meetings have been a valuable experience for families. It gives parents the opportunity to learn about services in a meaningful way and puts them in control of deciding the best course of action. They leave the meeting with a concrete plan that isn't overwhelming. And from these meetings, we've been able to give a family the opportunity to be in a leadership position that gives vital lived experience insight into how services are delivered in our community.

Respectfully,

Mary S Sparks
Family and Child Health Supervisor
Lewis and Clark Public Health