

## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS

- Multi-Disciplinary Teams are a tool that agencies can use to aid their efforts in coordinating the various entities in order to insure quality services to families.
- Each county agency is required to have a multi-disciplinary team.
- At a minimum, the team must be convened annually.

The multi-disciplinary team is composed of professionals from a variety of disciplines who can serve as consultants to the county agency in its case management responsibilities. The team must consist of *at least* a county caseworker, a health care provider and a law enforcement official. The multi-disciplinary team is a tool that agencies have to aid their efforts in coordinating the various community entities to insure quality services to families. The multi-disciplinary team may be used in a variety of ways including:

- To assist the county agency in diagnosing child abuse by pooling various professional's knowledge and skills;
- To provide or recommend comprehensive, coordinated treatment for families, particularly those with complex issues that must be dealt with;
- To aid in the development of the family service plan. *This is required if a child is the victim of one substantiated report of abuse and the agency receives a second report of suspected abuse;*
- To periodically assess the effectiveness of treatment and progress that families have made;
- To participate in state or local child fatality review teams.