

Moving Beyond Guidance

A WALKTHROUGH

Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards (Part 1)

Ohio Specialty Court Conference | November 2019 | Alexis Balkey, MPA and Jennifer Foley



Acknowledgment

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*Family Treatment Court
Best Practice Standards*



Center for Children and Family Futures
Strengthening Partnerships. Improving Family Outcomes



NADCP
National Association of
Drug Court Professionals

Just Released!

Family Treatment Court

Best Practice

8 Standards

Standards

and Key Provisions

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An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a dense forest. The river is a vibrant turquoise color, with white rapids and cascades. A wooden bridge spans across the river, and the surrounding forest is lush and green. The overall scene is serene and natural.

By the Numbers

*The Family
Treatment Court
Movement*

2 in 1994

495 in 2017

6 + **1** Practice Ingredients
10 Recommendations

8 Best Practice Standards

3 Goals
National Strategic Plan

ALL Families

A Road Map for the Movement

Family Drug Court National Strategic Plan

National Strategic Plan
For Family Drug Courts

MARCH 2017



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1

Ensure Quality Implementation

2

Expansion of FTC Reach

3

Build Evidence Base



**There are more families to serve –
what will happen to them?**

For all families



*What Makes
Family Treatment Courts Unique*

FTC Model as a Collaborative Solution

Judicial Oversight



Drug Court Hearings



Therapeutic Jurisprudence



Access to Quality Treatment and Enhanced Recovery Support



Enhanced Family-Based Services

Comprehensive Services

FTC Model – Multiple Expertise



Child Welfare Services assess risk and safety; assess family needs and refer to services; focus on child permanency and well-being



Treatment assess parent's need for treatment – level of care, areas of life functioning, recovery supports



Court provides oversight, ensures timeliness, child well-being and access to services

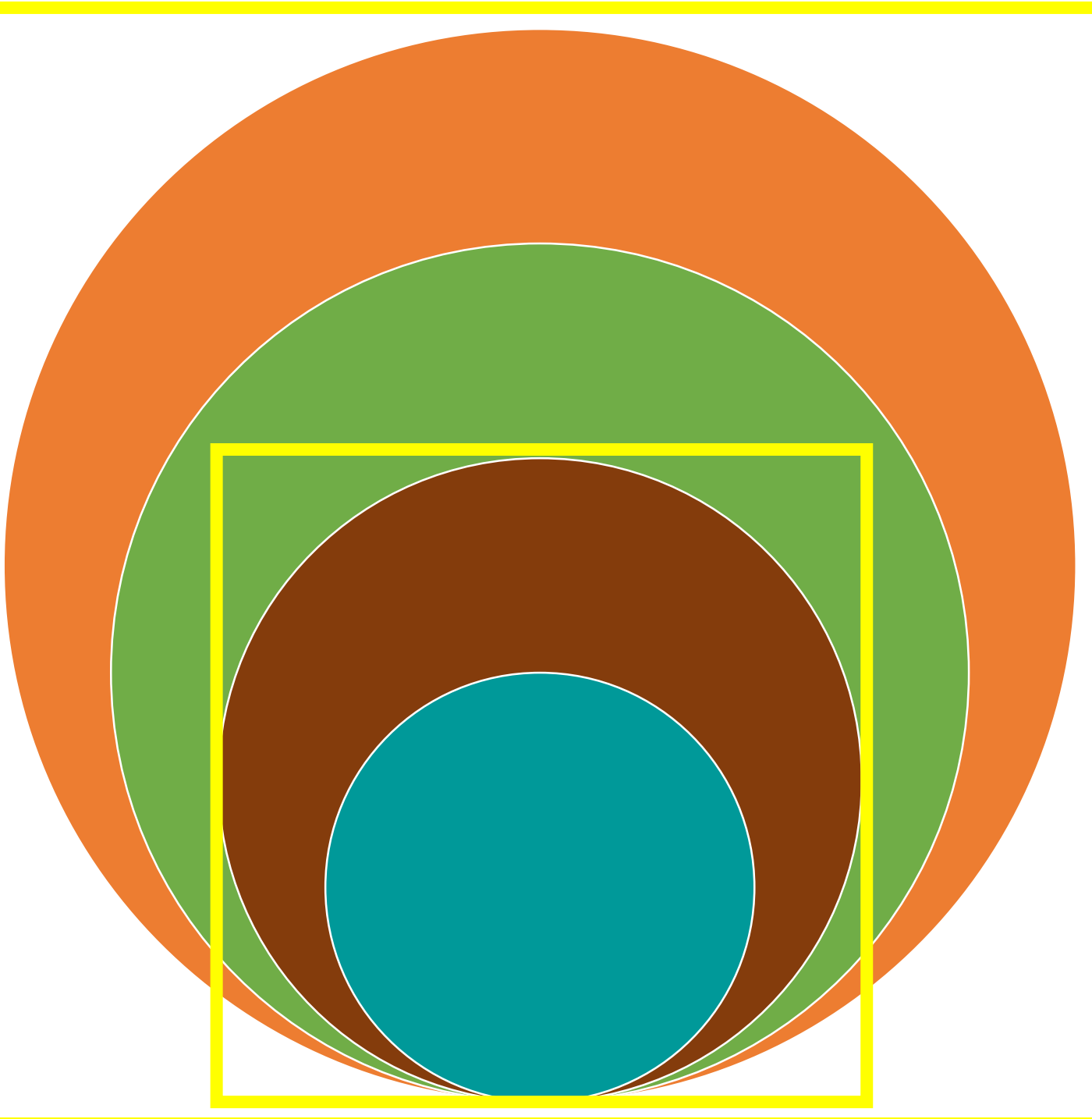


We don't see things in isolation





*Our survival and thriving is
reliant on relationships*



*Family-
Centered*

*Systems
Change*



Family Treatment Courts

From bold experiment

Important Practices of FTCs

7

- System of identifying families

- Timely access to assessment and treatment services

- Increased management of recovery services and compliance with treatment

- Improved family-centered services and parent-child relationships

- Increased judicial oversight

- Systematic response for participants – contingency management

- Collaborative non-adversarial approach grounded in efficient communication across service systems and court

A photograph of laboratory glassware on a white surface. On the left, a round-bottom flask with a stopper, a beaker with a large green leaf inside, and a small Erlenmeyer flask. On the right, a beaker with a smaller green leaf inside, a graduated cylinder, and another Erlenmeyer flask with a glass rod. The background is a plain white wall.

To catalyst for larger systems change

- Can we systematically identify and get parents into treatment sooner and stay in treatment longer?
- Can we heal the parent-child relationship?
- Can we can we all work together to achieve desired outcomes?



**Family Treatment Court
Best Practice Standards**

*Take a closer look on
what works for
children and families*

How Were the Standards Developed?

JUL 2017

Created Advisory Group and held Kick-Off event

AUG 2017

Reviewed existing literature from the FTC Guidelines

Created matrix of effective strategies

JAN 2018

Developed first draft by Advisory Group

NOV 2018

Reviewed matrix to further refine draft Standards

JAN 2019

Review and edit process

SEPT 2019

Released



Moving Beyond Guidance

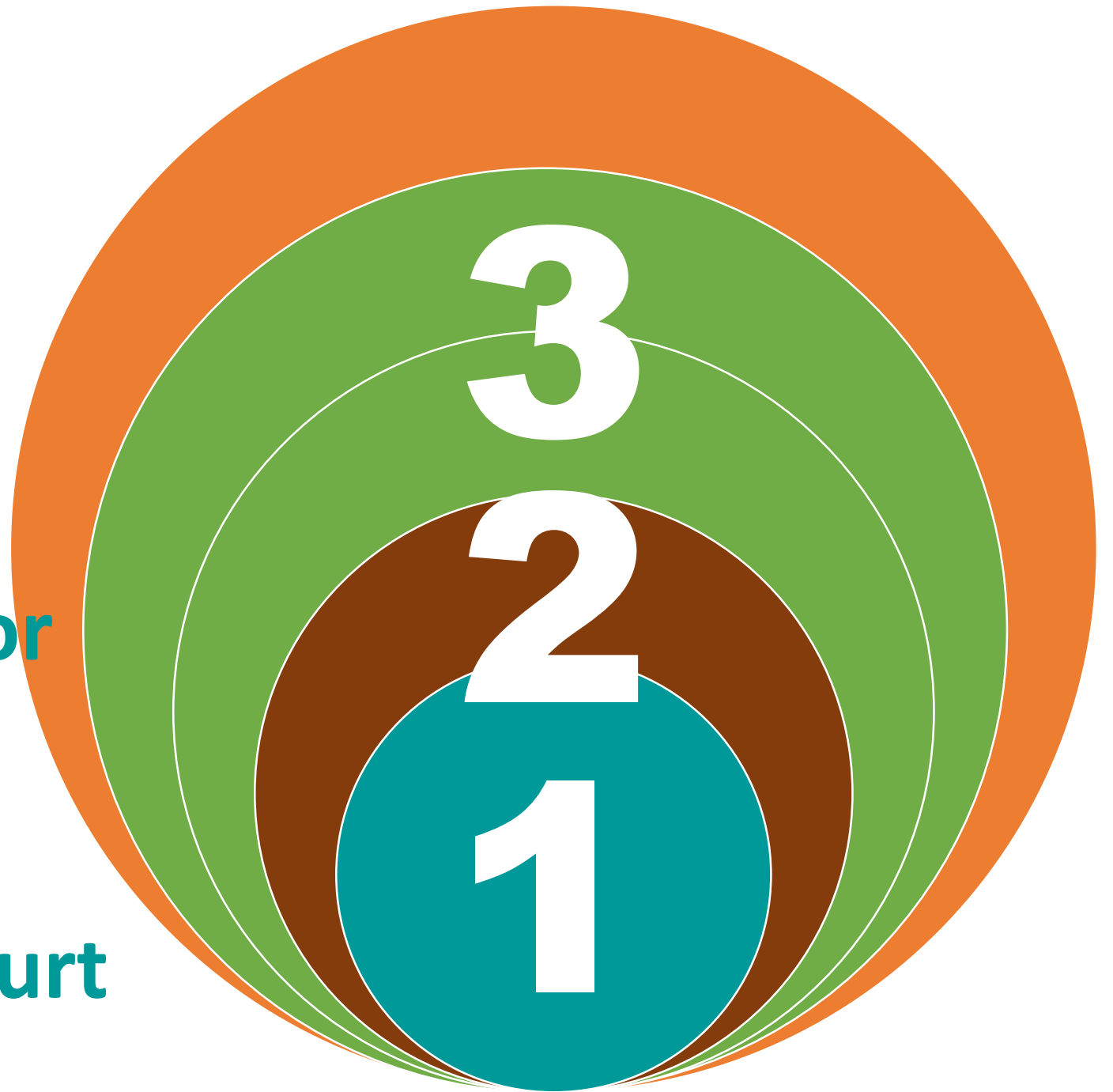
WHY THEY MATTER

Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

**State priorities and
resources**

**Improve outcomes for
all families**

Family Treatment Court







Moving Beyond Guidance

A WALKTHROUGH

Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards



Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

8 - Monitoring and Evaluation

2

Role of the
Judge

3

Equity and
Inclusion

4

Early
Screening
and
Assessment

5

Timely,
Quality
Treatment

6

Case
Management

7

Therapeutic
Behavior
Response

1 - Organization and Structure



Best Practice Standard

#1

Organization and Structure

Organization & Structure

The family treatment court (FTC) has agreed-upon **structural and organizational principles** that are supported by research and based on evidence-informed policies, programs, and practices. The core programmatic components, day-to-day operations, and oversight structures are defined and documented in the FTC policy and procedure manual, participant handbook, and memoranda of understanding (MOUs).

Organization & Structure

- A. Multidisciplinary and Multisystemic Collaborative Approach
- B. Partnerships, Community Resources, and Support
- C. Multidisciplinary Team
- D. Governance Structure
- E. Shared Mission and Vision
- F. Communication and Information sharing
- G. Cross-Training and Interdisciplinary Education
- H. Family-Centered, Culturally Relevant, and Trauma-Informed Approach
- I. FTC Policy and Procedure Manual
- J. FTC Pre-Court Staffing and Court Review Hearing

Research

Governance Structure

Notably, drug courts with an oversight committee that includes members of the community save nearly twice as much money as drug courts that do not have such a committee (Carey, Mackin, and Finigan, 2012; Carey, et al, 2005).

**Multi-
level**

**Executive or Oversight
Committee**

**Steering
Committee**

Operational Team

**Multi-
agency**

Who? Front-line staff

When? Weekly or bi-weekly

Purpose?

- Staff cases
- Ensure participant success
- Identify items to be shared with Steering Committee

**Multi-
Agency**

Operational Team

Who? Management-level

When? Monthly or bi-weekly

Purpose?

- Discuss policy & procedure issues
- Remove barriers to ensure program success
- Review data dashboard to achieve team goals
- Identify items to be shared with Community Advisory/EOC

Steering Committee*

**Multi-
Agency**

*Also referred to as “business meeting” or “policy meeting”

Executive Oversight Committee

**Multi-
Agency**

Who? Top level leadership, key policy decision-makers

When? Quarterly or bi-annually

Purpose?

- Think big, think systems' change
- Plan for long-term sustainability
- Final approval of practice and policy changes

Executive Oversight Committee

**IT'S ABOUT ALL FAMILIES AFFECTED BY
SUBSTANCE USE IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM!**

**60-80% of your population – is it
worth it?**

**Multi-
Agency**

Research

Family-Centered, Culturally Relevant, and Trauma-Informed Approach

Examples of trauma-responsive practices for FTCs

- *Use of sanctions that take into consideration behaviors precipitated by trauma*
- *Adjustments in treatment levels of care and services for participants who do not engage in or respond to present treatment but otherwise comply with FTC requirements;*
- *Implementation of security procedures (as appropriate) that minimize participant exposure to potential triggers*
- *Implementation of practices and requirements in ways that do not overwhelm participants;*
- *Provision of clear information about what participants can expect and opportunities for participant choice when possible; and*
- *Delivery of services in physical and social environments that reduce stress.*



Taking a Closer Look – Site

Example

Jefferson County, CO

Organization & Structure

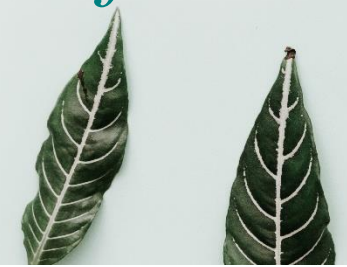


Video Presentation
Live Café Conversation
Team Discussion Guide
Take Action Guide
TA Resources



Family Drug Court Learning Academy

*Governance Structure and
Leadership – Is Your FDC
Built to Last or Left to
Fade?*



Visit: www.cffutures.org/fdc-learning-academy



Best Practice Standard

#2

Role of Judge

Role of the Judge

Judicial leadership is critical to the effective planning and operation of the FTC. The FTC judge works collectively with leaders of partner agencies and other stakeholders to establish clear roles and a shared mission and vision . He or she has the **unique ability to engage the leaders and stakeholders** in the development, implementation, and ongoing operations of the FTC. The judge is a vital part of the operational team, **convening** meetings that encourage team members to identify shared values, voice concerns, and find common groups. Additionally, the judge's development of **rapport with participants** is among the most important components of the FTC.

Role of the Judge

A. Convening Partners

B. Judicial Decision Making

C. Participation in FTC Pre-Court Staffing

D. Interaction with Participants

E. Professional Training

F. Length of Judicial Assignment to the FTC

Research

*By virtue of their position, all drug court judges typically have the **power, influence, and ability to bring together a multidisciplinary team** with representatives of government and community-based organizations (Children and Family Futures, 2015). This allows FTC judges to **convene providers who can provide the services children, parents, and families need** while participating in the FTC and after case closure (Children and Family Futures, 2015; Milner and Kelly, 2018).*



Taking a Closer Look – Site

Example

Tompkins, NY

Role of the Judge



Best Practice Standard

#3

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion

Family treatment court (FTC) has an affirmative obligation to consistently **assess its operations and those of partner organizations** for policies and procedures that could contribute to disproportionality and disparities among historically marginalized and other underserved groups. The FTC actively **collects and analyzes** program and partner organization **data** to determine if disproportionality or disparities exist in the programs; if so, the FTC **implements corrective measures** to eliminate them.

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion

A. Equitable FTC Admission Practices

B. Equitable FTC Retention Rates and Child Welfare Outcomes

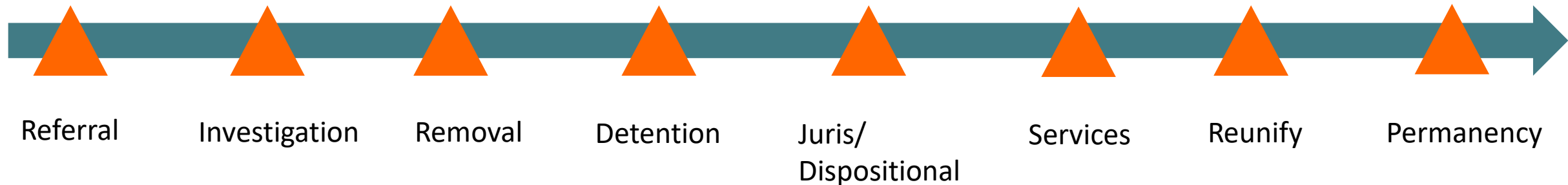
C. Equitable Treatment

D. Equitable Responses to Participant Behavior

E. Team Training

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion

There are opportunities to either reduce or exacerbate disproportionality at every stage of the child welfare case.



A photograph of two Black women kissing on a city street at night. The woman on the left has her hair in a large afro and is wearing a white top. The woman on the right has her hair in a bun and is wearing a black top with a choker. The background is a blurred city street with other people and lights.

Proportional Access

Equitable Treatment

Equal Outcomes

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion

A descriptive analysis of a cohort of 11 FTCs serving more than 3,500 children showed:

- Black children were overrepresented in child welfare population but underrepresented in FTC cohort
- Black, AI/AN and Latino/a children experienced similar length of stay in foster care and reunification with a parent within 12 months to White children.

Source: Breitenbucher P, Bermejo R, Killian C, Young NK, Duong L, DeCerchio K. Exploring racial and ethnic disproportionalities and disparities in family drug courts: findings from the Regional Partnership Grant Program. Journal of Advancing Justice. 2018;1:35–61.

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion

Common program components and strategies:

- Enhanced or intensive case management
- Access to SUD treatment services
- Enhanced outreach and engagement strategies
- Family-based services
- Mental health and trauma services
- Family group decision-making
- Housing services

Source: Breitenbucher P, Bermejo R, Killian C, Young NK, Duong L, DeCerchio K. Exploring racial and ethnic disproportionalities and disparities in family drug courts: findings from the Regional Partnership Grant Program. Journal of Advancing Justice. 2018;1:35–61.



Taking a Closer Look – Site

Example

King County, WA

Ensuring Equity and Inclusion

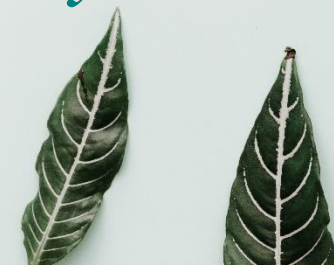


Video Presentation
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TA Resources



Family Drug Court Learning Academy

*Exploring Solutions Together
The Issue of Racial and Ethnic
Disproportionality
and Disparity*



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Family Drug Court Learning Academy

Video Presentation
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*Ensuring Equity and
Inclusion in Family
Treatment Courts*



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Standards #4-#8 5 Next Steps

Moving Beyond Guidance

A WALKTHROUGH



National Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards (Part 2)

California Association of Collaborative Courts | October 2019 | Alexis Balkey, MPA and Russ Bermejo, MSW



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*Lessons for
State and Local Leaders*

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Understanding Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Family Recovery: [A Guide for Child Welfare Workers](#)

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Family Drug Court *Orientation Materials*



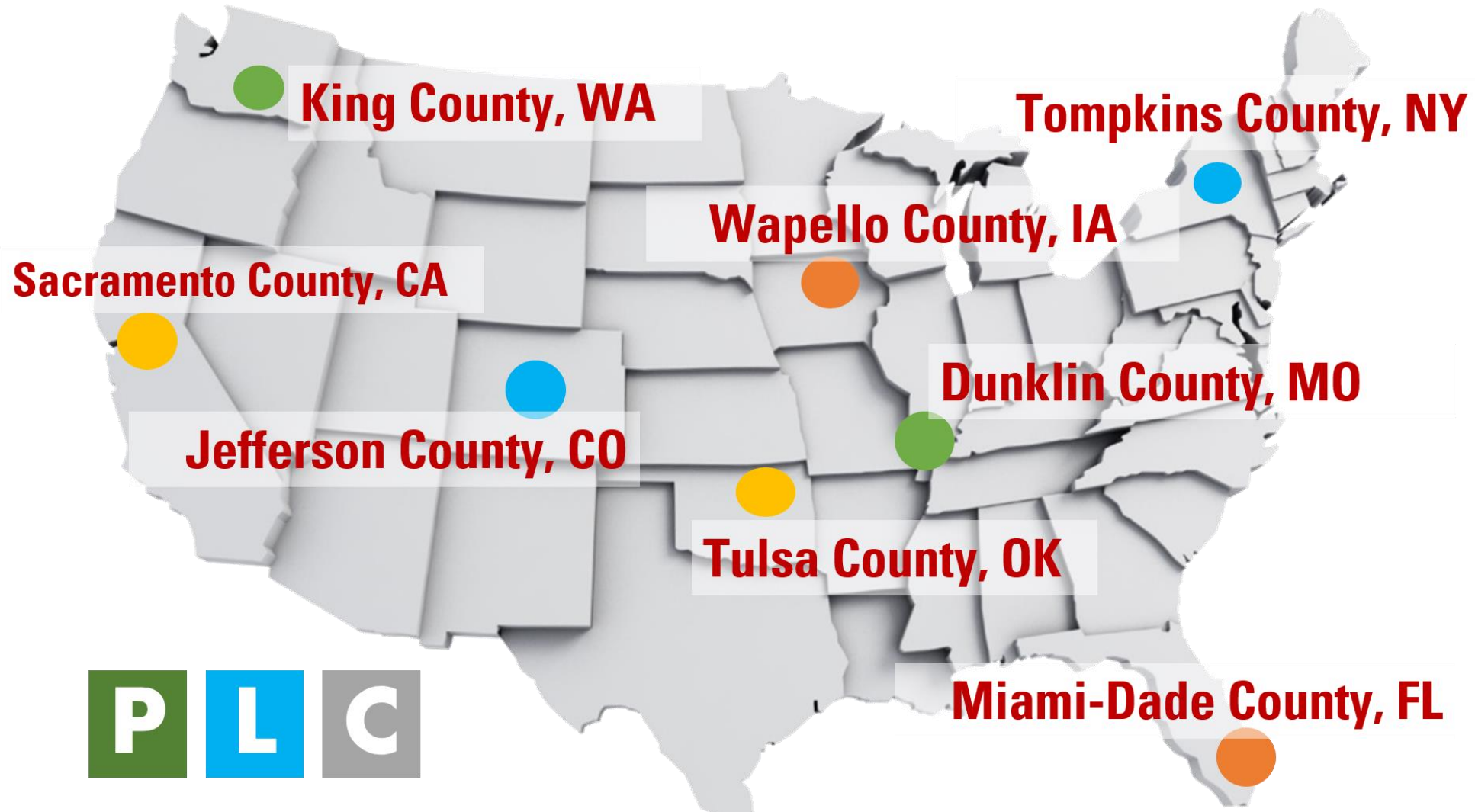
Discipline Specific

Child Welfare | AOD Treatment | Judges | Attorneys



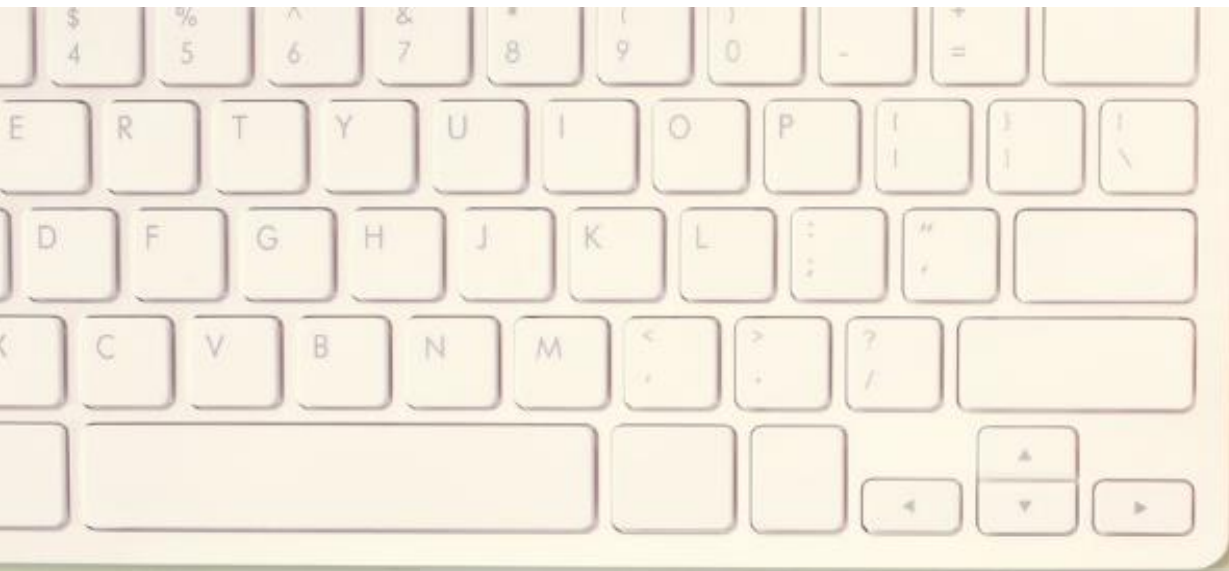
www.cffutures.org/national-fdc-tta-program/

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- Team Discussion Guides for selected presentations



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Video Presentation
Live Café Conversation
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Take Action Guide
TA Resources



Family Drug Court Learning Academy

Top Five Challenges in Responding to Participant Behavior in Family Treatment Courts



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- Certificate of Completion



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[rg](http://www.fdctutorials.org)

Family Drug Court *National Strategic Plan*

Vision:

Every family in the child welfare system affected by parental/caregiver substance use disorders will have timely access to comprehensive and coordinated screening, assessment and service delivery for family's success.

Expansion of
FDC Reach

Ensure Quality
Implementation

Build Evidence Base

National Strategic Plan
For Family Drug Courts

MARCH 2017



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TRANSITIONING TO A FAMILY CENTERED APPROACH:

Best Practices and Lessons Learned
from Three Adult Drug Courts



Children and Family Futures
National Drug Court Institute



Transitioning to a Family Centered Approach: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Three Adult Drugs Courts

To download a copy:

www.cffutures.org/publication/transitioning-to-a-family-centered-approach/

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- Webinar Recordings
- FDC Resources
- FDC News



[www.familydrugcourts.blogspot.co](http://www.familydrugcourts.blogspot.com)

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Discussion Guide *Understanding Treatment*



- For Child Welfare and Court Professionals
- Build stronger partnerships with treatment
- Ensure best treatment fit for families



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