PFR Program Overview

Established on March 14, 2008, the Robeson County Family Treatment Court (RCFTC) began as a component of the Robeson County Bridges for Families collaborative. The RCFTC has successfully partnered with the Robeson County Department of Social Services, Robeson County Guardian Ad Litem, and Robeson Health Care Corporation (RHCC) since its inception.

RHCC is a leader in North Carolina’s primary, preventative, and behavioral health care services. RHCC is a private nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and is accredited by the Joint Commission.

The PFR project will enable the collaborative RCFTC team to provide enhanced parenting services through Parents as Teachers and Celebrating Families! and also expand children’s services to include Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Play Therapy.

PFR Goals

- Increase family reunification and positive family relationships.
- Address recovery for parents with substance use disorders.
- Help families overcome trauma-related difficulties.
- Create an environment that will permit children to experience a high-quality atmosphere while helping to develop their cognitive, social and behavioral abilities.

Major FDC Program Services

Substance Use Disorder Treatment for Adults

- Residential/Treatment Transitional Housing (parents with children accompanying them)
- Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Non-Intensive Outpatient Treatment
- Aftercare/Continuing Care
- Trauma-Specific Services – Seeking Safety
- Gender-Specific Support Group Meeting for Women
- Medication Management

Recovery Support Services

- Primary Medical Care/Health Services Child Care
- Housing Assistance/Support Services
- Employment or Vocational Training/Education Transportation
- Support or Educational Groups for Children and Youth of FDC Parents

The Prevention and Family Recovery Project is generously supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Duke Endowment
Target Population

- FDC targets parents for admission who are addicted to illicit drugs or alcohol
- Parent/Guardian at risk of losing custody of their child(ren) due in part to substance use
- Parents with a petition filed with the abuse, neglect, and dependency court
- Parents with a plan of reunification as long as the parent is a FDC participant

Parenting Services/Family Strengthening

- Celebrating Families! (added for PFR)
- Parents as Teachers (added for PFR)

Cross-Systems Collaboration

- Domestic Violence Services
- Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- Robeson County Health Department

Children’s Services (Developmental and Therapeutic)

- Play Therapy (added for PFR)
- Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) (added for PFR)

FDC Partner Agencies

Child Welfare, Substance Use Treatment and Mental Health:

- Robeson Health Care Corporation
- Robeson County Department of Social Services
- Robeson County Guardian Ad Litem
- Community Behavioral Health Treatment
- EastPointe Managed Care Organization
- North Carolina Division of Social Services
- North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

Parenting, Child and Family Services

- Robeson Health Care Corporation
- Robeson County Health Department

Other Community and Supportive Services

- Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina (including Vocational Rehabilitation)
- North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Attorneys, Other Courts and Criminal Justice/Legal System

- Parent Attorneys
- 16B Judicial District: Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Court
- North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

Other Partners

- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Technical Assistance and Evaluation)
Key Accomplishments (Since PFR Inception)

(What is fundamentally different about how the FDC operates and serves families today?)

- **Parenting and Children’s Services** – Expanded capacity to address families’ needs through the successful implementation and integration of Celebrating Families, Parents as Teachers (PAT), Play Therapy and TF-CBT. Established a strong collaborative relationship with PAT providers.

- **Alumni Group** – Forming an alumni group with current and past FDC participants to serve as peer mentors and promote the efficacy of the court program.

- **Child Support** – Improved FTC engagement and retention and reduced fragmentation among systems by addressing the barrier of child support payments for FTC participants.

- **Child Focus** – A cultural shift in focus not only on treatment for the adult, but treatment for the child.

- **Addiction** – A cultural shift in the way the team and related partner systems understand, talk about and approach addiction.

Breakthrough Practice and Policy Strategies

(How did you achieve those accomplishments?)

- **Parenting and Children’s Services**
  
  - Conducted outreach and engaged the Robeson County Health Department and to build a strong and sustainable partnership (PAT).
  
  - FTC team members and the Parents as Teachers’ Parent Educators worked collaboratively to develop an effective referral process. Parent Educators attend FTC staffing to provide updates on families’ progress in the PAT program.
  
  - The judge uses a strengths-based approach to effectively engage participants when ordering services.
  
  - Robeson Health Care Corporation’s Prevention Team is considered an essential member of the FTC team. RHCC’s Prevention Team was trained in and delivers Celebrating Families! They work with the FTC team to identify appropriate referrals to CF! and attend FTC staffing to provide updates on families’ progress in CF!

- **Alumni Group**
  
  - The team researched other Alumni Group models, surveyed past and current participants’ interests in an Alumni Group, and evaluated resources needed to meet at least monthly.
  
  - We began with participants on the verge of graduation and other interested alumni and allowed the group to self-manage and monitor as necessary.

- **Child Support**
  
  - FTC team engaged and collaborated with the Division of Child Support Enforcement to waive all FTC participants’ child support cases while they are participating in FTC.

- **Child Focus**
  
  - The team revised court reports to include parenting and children’s services.
  
  - Parenting service staff attend FTC staffing to provide updates on parent, child and family progress.
  
  - The judge explicitly recognizes children’s strengths and needs in the courtroom, during his interactions with participants.

- **Addiction**
  
  - Revised our recovery language so that team members now respond to substance use in terms of lapse versus relapse and celebrate “sustained recovery” versus “clean time.” These changes were prompted after FTC staff and participants received a training on “Recovery Language.”
Plans to Build on the Momentum

*(Where will you focus your efforts moving forward?)*

- **Phases** - Revise current Phase system so it is more closely connected to progress towards reunification and more meaningful to participants.
- **Sustainability** - Develop a sustainability plan, which highlights FTC outcomes data, to obtain ongoing funding from the County Commissioners and institutionalize the FTC program in the county budget.
- **Capacity** – Continue to increase FTC capacity by increasing referrals to the FTC. Leverage the new FTC Case Manager to work more closely with Child Welfare on increasing referrals and to manage the current caseload.
- **Staff Development and Training** – Enhance the existing staff training and development plan to continue to improve cross-systems knowledge and staff understanding of substance use disorders and trauma among families in Robeson County. The team is very interested in visiting with the FDC Mentor Court in Savannah, Georgia to observe their processes and gain insight to hopefully further improve the operation and processes of the RCFTC.
- **Evaluation Capacity** – Improve cross-systems data collection and analysis with the goal of using data to garner support for FTC sustainability and make data-driven programmatic decisions.

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