Family Drug Court - Judge Specific Orientation Materials

Please visit email fdc@cffutures.org if you have additional resource or training needs website for updated materials.

General Family Drug Court Resources

- **Family Drug Court Tutorials** – The Family Drug Court tutorial is designed for anyone interested in gaining basic and introductory knowledge of the FDC model and operation. Newly hired team members, local community stakeholders, and members from partner agencies who are looking to become acquainted with the FDC model will find this tutorial particularly helpful. This tutorial delivers the latest best practices and research about FDCs using a user-friendly platform.

- **FDC Guidelines** - Guidance to States: Recommendations for Developing Family Drug Court Guidelines provides information on best practices and collaborative principles to develop and sustain Family Drug Courts, and incorporates up-to-date research supporting key strategies. The Guidelines will assist policy makers and practitioners to enhance and expand these programs.

- **National Strategic Plan for Family Drug Courts** - This National Strategic Plan was written by Children and Family Futures (CFF) with support and participation from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Children’s Bureau, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) along with other national, state and foundation stakeholders. This plan outlines a coordinated national strategy to enhance and expand the use of FDCs to improve outcomes for more children and families.

Discipline Specific Resources: Judicial Officer

- **Judicial Script** - FDCs expressed the need for additional judicial guidance specific to the recommended way Judge’s should respond to participant behavior. In response, we developed the Family Drug Court: Judicial Script. This Script is modeled off of Santa Clara’s Family Wellness Court and was taken from a training tool developed by Judge Yew for her judicial successor. Judge Yew is known as one of the most trauma-informed judges in the field. We adjusted her training tool so that it is generalized across court models and jurisdictions. This is a great training tool for Judges that are new to the FDC approach and can be used as an evaluation tool when observing court responses. We are in the process of updating this resource and should have a revised version sometime this summer. The updates will include a focus on child and family needs.

- **FDC Learning Academy Webinar: Role of Judicial Leadership and Ethical Considerations in Family Drug Courts** - This webinar will feature two prolific judicial leaders in the FDC movement - Judge Leonard Edwards and Judge Nicolette Pach - both of whom will speak formatively to this highly necessary discussion. Hypothetical scenarios that presiding FDC judges encounter will also be offered for discussion with guidance to enable FDCs to accomplish its mission without ethical violations.
• **FDC Learning Academy Webinar: Passing the Judicial Baton – Why Judicial Succession Planning Matters in FDC:** - The judge serves as a central figure of leadership in the FDC by serving as a team leader in bringing various systems together and overseeing the progress in treatment and recovery of participants in the FDC. The judge is also in a position to influence related reform efforts and keep colleagues and the community informed about the FDC. So what happens when such leaders either transition or rotate out of this position? This webinar presentation explores key considerations to effectively plan for judicial succession in the FDC. The presentation will include perspectives of two judicial officers and an FDC Coordinator who share knowledge about their experiences and strategies to ensure a smooth judicial transition.

• **Judicial Perspectives on Family Drug Treatment Courts** – written by Judge Leonard Edwards and Judge James A. Ray, this article is intended to give judges and others a judicial perspective on FDTCs, and to offer some assistance for those who are operating or who are considering creating one. This article reviews everything from the basics of FDTCs to strategies of innovation and sustainability.

• **The Drug Court Judicial Benchbook** – Although written for Adult Criminal Drug Court, there is still great information for Judges of all collaborative courts within this resource that can be transferred to the Family Drug Court arena. *The Drug Court Judicial Benchbook* brings evidence-based practices and best practices to the adult Drug Court field like never before. After years of compiling and synthesizing the collective knowledge and wisdom of thousands of judges, attorneys, treatment providers, probation officers, law enforcement officers, and research scholars, *The Drug Court Judicial Benchbook* provides key guidelines that will help judges improve client outcomes and increase cost savings.

• **Family Drug Treatment Courts: A place for Judicial Activism?** – This article, written by Honorable Angela Edwards Roberts is an oldie but a goodie. The objective of this article is to inform lawyers and judges about collaborative courts and to encourage judges to be involved in this innovation. This article asserts that family drug treatment courts allow for collaborative intervention without breach of judicial ethics when a team of professionals, led by the J&DR court judge, works collaboratively to help families effectively deal with substance abuse.

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