



Family Drug Court Learning Academy Team Discussion Guide

Part of the Problem or Solution – Ensuring Equity and Inclusion in Family Drug Courts

Introduction

After viewing the video presentation “*Part of the Problem or Solution – Ensuring Equity and Inclusion in Family Drug Courts*” use this Discussion Guide to facilitate further conversation within your team. These discussion questions are connected with a technical assistance resource to support meaningful discussions and action steps. Feel free to discuss the questions that are most relevant to your program. At the conclusion of the Discussion, formulate and assign specific action steps as a way to move forward.

Discuss Inherent Bias

1. What was your reaction to “*Black Male, Addicted & Underestimated?*” List out institutional and implicit bias towards African-Americans in the US? Fathers in the child welfare system? Substance use disorders – including parental substance use?

Data Collection & Utilization

1. What demographic or descriptive data are you currently collecting in your FDC program? What challenges have you encountered in collecting any of these elements?
2. What key outcomes would you like to collect along gender and racial and ethnic groups in your FDC? Why are those outcomes important for your program?
3. In general, what kind of challenges are you experiencing with utilizing data in meaningful ways in your FDC? In what ways would you like to become more data-driven in ensuring equity and inclusion?

Systemic Approach Toward Screening & Assessment

1. What is your current protocol for screening and assessment? What are your eligibility or exclusionary criteria for admission into your FDC?
2. In what ways can you become more systematic in your approach vs. relational and subjective?

Family-Centered and Community-Based Services

Which of the following service components would be priority for your FDC program? Select top three and discuss why.

- Family Group Decision-Making or Family Conferencing
- Gender responsive treatment for fathers
- Culturally-responsive programming for families of color
- Housing
- Employment or workforce development
- Other

Interagency Training & Accountability

1. What cultural-sensitivity or cultural competency training is currently being offered for FDC staff and/or partner agencies? What do you like about them? What do you think is missing?
2. What larger change or accountability initiatives are currently partnering with? Are any of these currently addressing equity and inclusion issues?
 - Local evaluation of your FDC program
 - State Family Drug Court Standards
 - Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
 - Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)
 - Court Improvement Program (CIP)

Next Steps

1. Download the [Journal for Advancing Justice](#) and review the articles, especially “*Exploring Racial and Ethnic Disproportionalities and Disparities in Family Treatment Courts: Findings From the Regional Partnership Grant Program*”
2. Download the Take Action Guide for next steps for your team.

Contact Information



For more information, including technical assistance,
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