

2024

Family Treatment Court Practice Academy

Pathways to Prevention



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2024 Family Treatment Court (FTC) Practice Academy Series

Navigating Risk: Disrupting the Cycle of Substance Use for Children and Adolescents

Digital Dialogue: May 7, 2024
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM PT | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET

Idea Exchange: June 27, 2024
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM PT | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET



Intentional Integration: How to Identify and Support Parents with Co-Occurring Disorders

Digital Dialogue: August 8, 2024
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM PT | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET

Idea Exchange: September 19, 2024
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM PT | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET



Sustained Recovery: Don't Make Aftercare an Afterthought

Digital Dialogue: November 12, 2024
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM PT | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET

Idea Exchange: December 3, 2024
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM PT | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET



Navigating Risk: Disrupting the Cycle of Substance Use for Children and Adolescents

Substance use disorders can have a genetic component but are preventable. For adolescents with adverse childhood experiences, substance use may be a mechanism to cope with trauma or unaddressed socioemotional or mental health concerns. Fortunately, prevention science has advanced in recent decades. Evidence-based research now focuses on risk and protective factors, a developmental framework, and a continuum of care. This Practice Academy reveals how professionals seeking to support family recovery must consider the risk factors, needs, and mental health of children and adolescents while strengthening family protective factors. FTC teams can help parents and caregivers implement science-based strategies and interventions that support positive childhood experiences to disrupt the cycle of substance use and co-occurring mental health challenges.



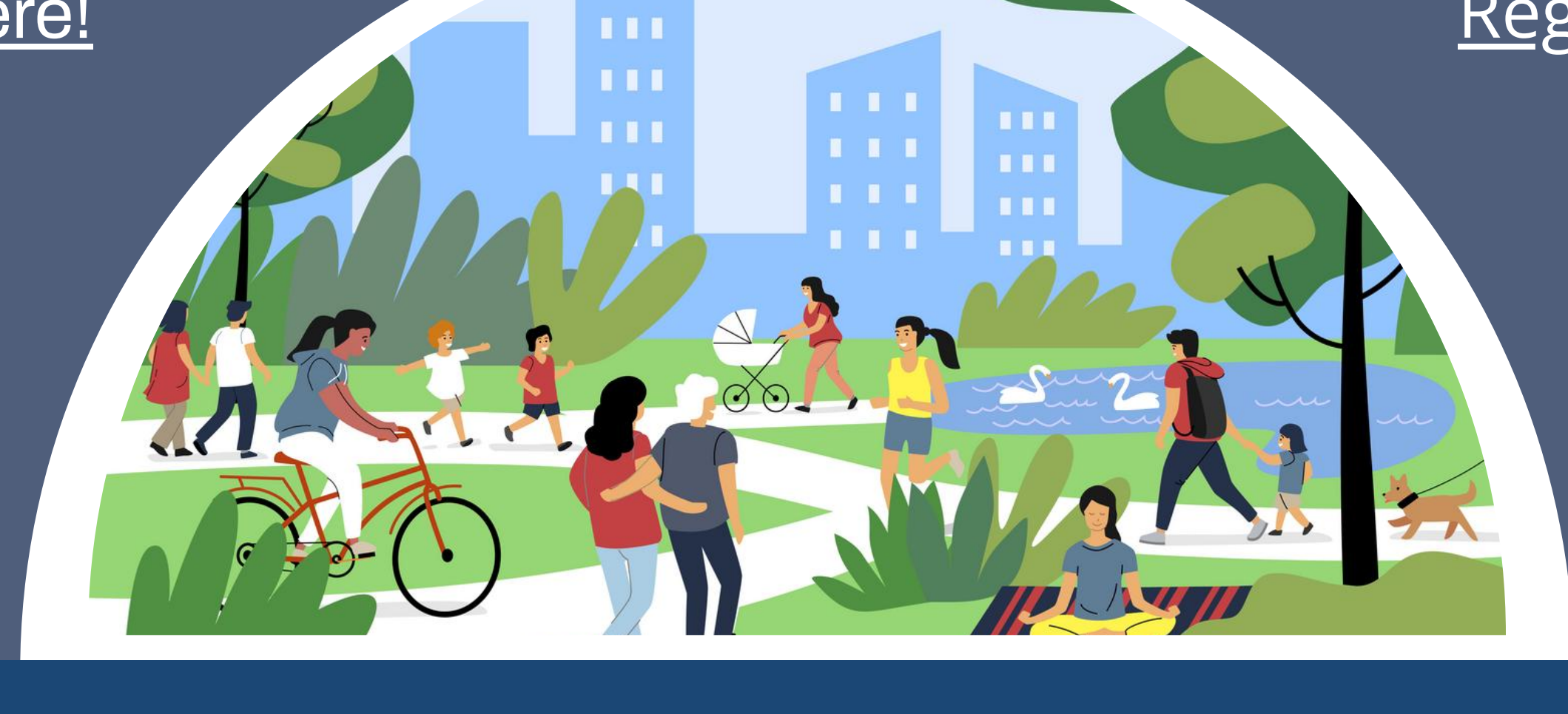
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Intentional Integration: How to Identify and Support Parents with Co-Occurring Disorders

FTCs, like all drug courts, historically focused on treating substance use disorders (SUDs). However, FTCs cannot maintain this singular focus since *45% of adults with an SUD in the general population also live with a co-occurring mental health disorder*. People with an untreated co-occurring disorder are less likely to complete substance use treatment or achieve sustained recovery; they are also more likely to experience unemployment, homelessness, child welfare involvement, incarceration, and suicide. Many dependency court professionals recognize the prevalence of co-occurring disorders. Still, due to complexities in screening, assessment, diagnosis, and securing mental health services, FTCs may not appropriately identify and treat parents with co-occurring disorders. This Practice Academy examines the interactive nature of substance use and mental health disorders while providing strategies for improved approaches and outcomes for parents and their children.



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Sustained Recovery: Don't Make Aftercare an Afterthought

Recovery is a process, and FTCs are a time-limited acute intervention in a family's life. FTCs must blend aftercare planning into their program design to best support parents and their children after case closure. Aftercare plans, also known as "continuing care plans," can provide parents with structure, accountability, and needed ongoing services to both parents and children after child welfare, treatment services, and the FTC no longer remain a central part of their lives. This Practice Academy shares the "do's and don'ts" of aftercare planning, highlights innovative approaches to continuing care, and offers strategies and examples that FTC teams use to support sustained family recovery.



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