Ready-Set-Go! 5 Key Planning Decisions as You Successfully Launch Your Family Drug Court

Alexis Balkey and Jane Pfeifer, Children and Family Futures | May 31, 2018
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Learning Objectives

- Identify key decision and planning points for all Family Treatment Courts
- Explore the important role of governance structure, leadership, and data during the planning process
- Learn from the experiences of FTC teams that have successfully launched a FTC and hear about a newly published resource, *Family Drug Court Planning Guide*
A Reflection

Hope

Strengthening Partnerships | Improving Outcomes
Part of Greater Whole

FTCs are part of larger systems

How can the FTC be a catalyst for change?

Do you know the total need or the scale of the problem?

Do you know how these systems work for all children and families?
Opportunity

- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
- Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)
- Plans of Safe Care (POSC)
Developing a Plan of Safe Care: What Your Family Treatment Court Needs to Know about Serving Pregnant and Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorders

Nancy K. Young, PhD, MSW | Children and Family Futures
Family First Prevention Services Act (2018)

**Makes changes to federal child welfare financing,** including allowing for federal Title IV-E dollars to reimburse states for substance use and mental health prevention and treatment services for children at imminent risk of being placed in foster care and their families.

- **Provisions Related to Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment for Families:**
  - Reimbursement for Family Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment
  - Use of Title IV-E Funds to Prevent Child Placement in Out-of-Home Care
  - Reauthorization of Regional Partnership Grants
A Road Map for the Movement

Family Drug Court

National Strategic Plan

Each session tied to one of these goals!

1. Ensure Quality Implementation
2. Expansion of FDC Reach
3. Build Evidence Base
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.
Session Name: __________________________________________________________

Presenter Name(s): ______________________________________________________

During this session, I identified the following **immediate action steps** that I can take in my role as a leader/champion in my state or jurisdiction to advance the FDC movement:

1) ________________________________________________________________

2) ________________________________________________________________

3) ________________________________________________________________

Every attendee after every session!
Ready-Set-Go!

5 Key Planning Decisions
Do you need a Family Treatment Court?

Using data to establish need for FTC
Recovery
Remain at home
Reunification
Repeat maltreatment
Re-entry into out-of-home placement
What proportion of the total CWs population will your FDC serve?
Data as Fuel

Drive decision-making
Demonstrate effectiveness
Secure resources
2. How will you organize your work?

Establishing a Governance Structure
Involved in Systems That Struggle to Serve Them

The lack of coordination and collaboration across child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, and family or dependency court systems has hindered their ability to fully support these families.
Executive or Oversight Committee

Planning Team

Steering Committee

Operational Team

Multi-level

Multi-agency
Collaborative Structure for Systems Change

**EXECUTIVE OR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
- Members – Senior officials or executives
- Primary Functions - Final review of approval of policy & practice recommendation, planning for sustainability, and seeking external, leveraged resources beyond the project grants, and engages in communication with external agencies and policy leaders about the project, explaining its goals and pointing out its results
- Convenes quarterly basis

**CORE PLANNING TEAM / STEERING COMMITTEE**
- Members – Cross-Agency leaders
- Primary Functions – responsible for overall planning and implementation of goals and strategies; ensures ongoing cross-system communication and serves as liaison between oversight committee and workgroups; formulate solutions of barriers identified by workgroups
- Convenes monthly basis

**WORKGROUP**
- Key stakeholders
  - Based on established priorities
  - Convene monthly or as needed

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Opportunities to Build a Strong Infrastructure

- Develop a timeline to hold each other accountable
- Identify the right people for the right committees and workgroups
- Be crystal clear about functions and membership
- Need strong leadership to pull and keep momentum in between meetings
- Ensure information flow between different committees and the Planning Team
3 What model will you implement?

Selecting a Structural Design for Your Program
Integrated vs. Parallel
Integrated Model

- One judge, one court
- FTC is embedded into regular dependency dockets with integrated case plans

Pros:
- Involves key systems – Court, CWS, Treatment
- All-encompassing view of family

Cons:
- Ex-parte communication and judicial ethics
- Limited scale
Parallel Model

- Different judges, separate dockets
- FTC is embedded into regular dependency dockets with integrated case plans

**Pros:**
- Confidentiality and protection of “privileged” information
- Opportunities to operate at higher scale

**Cons:**
- Communication and information challenges
- Can result in duplicative and poorly coordinated case plans
Key Considerations

• What is the need of your community or jurisdiction?
• Have you identified shared principles and developed goal statements?
• Have you weighed the benefits and challenges of each model
• Have you explored all challenges related to information sharing?
4 How will you set the course for success for families?

Develop key processes for identification, access to treatment and recovery support.
The Adoption and Safe Families Act

ASFA

(PL 105-89)

Time Clock
No Time to Waste

Child Welfare – 12-month timetable for reunification

Conflicting Clocks

Child Development
Impact of removal on the child and parent-child relationship

Treatment and recovery – ongoing process that may take longer
Early Identification

- At the earliest point possible – integrated with risk and safety assessment by CWS
- Multi-prong approach – including screening tools, drug testing, reports, observations
- Structured protocols that send clients with positive screen to timely assessment
- Warm hand-offs, follow-ups and communication are critical
The Court should ensure that structured clinical assessments are congruent with DSM-V diagnostic criteria.
Levels of Treatment Services Across A Continuum of Care

- **Early Intervention Services**
- **Outpatient Services**
  - (<9 hours per week)
- **Intensive Outpatient**
  - (>9 hours per week and possible Partial hospitalization)
- **Residential**
  - (Residential settings with 24 hour monitoring in a variety of residential settings)
- **Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient**
  - (Intensive 24 hour care in a Medically managed setting)

*Source: American Society of Addiction Medicine, 2016*
Entered substance abuse treatment faster after their children were placed in substitute care

Completed at least one course of treatment

Stayed in treatment longer

Significantly more likely to be reunified with their children

Source: Green, Rockhill & Furrer (2007)
Ongoing Recovery Support

Each phase has its own unique recovery needs and supports

- Identification Assessment Referral
- FDC participation
- Reunification
- Long-term Recovery Community

Peer Support
Warm hand-offs
Resource Linkages
Recovery Community
Titles and Models

- Peer Mentor
- Peer Specialist
- Peer Providers
- Parent Partner

- Recovery Support Specialist
- Substance Abuse Specialist
- Recovery Coach
- Recovery Specialist
- Parent Recovery Specialist

You need to ask:
What does our program and community need?

Experiential Knowledge, Expertise

Experiential Knowledge, Expertise + Specialized Trainings
Recovery Support Matters

A Randomized Control Trial – Cook County, IL (n=3440)

Comprehensive Screening & Assessment

Early Access to Treatment

Consistently High Reunification Rate

Recovery Support Matters

A Randomized Control Trial – Cook County, IL (n=3440)

Comprehensive Screening & Assessment + Early Access to Treatment = Consistently High Reunification Rate

5 How will you train stakeholders and partners?

Develop a plan for interagency training
Becoming Consumers of Quality Treatment?

• Is it evidence-based? Will you offer medication assisted treatment?
• Is it trauma-informed? Will you offer trauma-focused services?
• Is it family-centered? Will you offer services to focus on the parent-child relationship?
• Is it gender-responsive? Will you offer services specifically on engaging fathers?
• Is it culturally competent? How will you serve families of color?
Understanding Your Partners

- Legal mandates of each system, including ASFA timelines
- Information sharing, including confidentiality regulations
- Collaborative values
- Collaborative capacities
Educating Your Community about FTC Program

- Mission, goals, objectives
- Target population, eligibility criteria
- Referral process
- Phasing system
- Case staffing
- Court processing
- Desired shared outcomes
Assessing Collaborative Capacity

- Examine mission & values – where is there agreement and divergence?
- Conduct systems walk-throughs – how are clients moving through systems?
- Conduct drop-off analysis – what happens to clients?
- Data profile to establish data baselines – compared to what?
- Feedback from front-line staff and providers – what is really happening?
- Feedback from clients – what is their experience?
- Assess cross-training needs – where are there knowledge gaps?
Family Drug Court Online Tutorial

- Self-pace learning
- Modules cover basic overview of FDC Model
- Certificate of Completion

Start Learning Today

@ www.fdctutorials.org
NCSACW Online Tutorials Cross-Systems Learning

Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Legal Professionals

Understanding Child Welfare and the Dependency Court: A Guide for Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals


FREE CEUs!

www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/.org
Discussion Guide *Understanding Treatment*

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

[www.cffutures.org](http://www.cffutures.org)
Peer Learning Opportunities

Visit an FDC as a team
Awardees

King County, WA
Sacramento County, CA
Wapello County, IA
Jefferson County, CO
Dunklin County, MO
Tulsa County, OK
Miami-Dade County, FL
Tompkins County, NY

PLC Awardees
If you want to go fast, go alone
If you want to go far, go together

African Proverb
You can do this. We can help.
• Designed to provide step-by-step instructions
• Use Guide to gather needed information to present FTC concept
• Worksheet Activities
Resources

- Video presentation (30 minutes)
- Team Discussion Guide
- Café Conversation – IN, OH, FL (April 2018)
- Action Guide
Take Action Guide

- Take the next step
- Resources to help you move forward
- Contact us @ fdc@cffutures.org
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Visit our Exhibit Table!

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