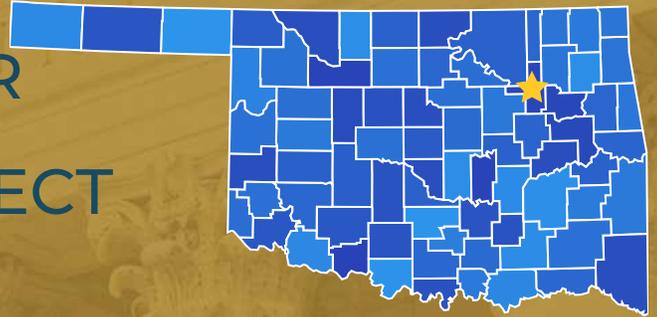


# TULSA COUNTY FAMILY TREATMENT COURT & SAFELY ADVOCATING FOR FAMILIES ENGAGED IN RECOVERY (SAFER) PROJECT



Tulsa County, Oklahoma

Pathway 1 Agency: Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Lead Local Agency: Tulsa County Family Treatment Court

Program Model: Integrated Family Treatment Court

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Tulsa County Family Treatment Court (TCFTC) program is to help reunite families through voluntary, court-guided parental substance abuse treatment. TCFTC is a non-adversarial, specialty court that combines judiciary aspects with treatment, social services, and education. The Court is focused on early identification of participants, training for parents involved in the program, and increased data collection to track trends and improve outcomes.

The TCFTC treatment provider, Center for Therapeutic Interventions (CTI) developed the SAFER Project, a program for pregnant and postpartum women and their families from conception through the first year. The program focuses on continued addiction treatment and recovery, increasing parental education and planning, enhancing family well-being, and advocating for and empowering healthy and safe families in the prevention of child maltreatment to avoid unnecessary child welfare involvement. Its mission is to educate and empower pregnant women, medical/clinical providers and the greater community about the positive effects of medication assisted treatment and recovery during and after pregnancy and the impact of decreasing substance use in pregnant women, thereby minimizing prenatal substance exposure to infants and improving health outcomes of women and children.

## TARGET POPULATION

TCFTC: caretakers who have an open child welfare case, whether through an in-home or out-of-home deprived petition, and substance use has been identified as a contributing factor in the case.

SAFER Project: pregnant and postpartum women who are engaged in outpatient substance use treatment and/or medication assisted treatment at the Center for Therapeutic Interventions who are at high risk of being referred to child welfare at the birth of their child due to prenatal substance exposure.

## TULSA COUNTY QUICK FACTS



The Tulsa County Family Treatment Court served 72 adults and 75 children in 2019.



In 2019, the Tulsa County Family Treatment Court gave out 2,559 incentives compared to just 398 sanctions (6.43:1 ratio)



Through the SAFER Project's first eight months of operation, 15 pregnant mothers have delivered healthy infants with no subsequent child welfare involvement.

# PROJECT GOALS

Goal 1: Increase the number of participants enrolled in Tulsa County Family Treatment Court who have infants or children under the age of five with identified prenatal substance exposure, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder diagnoses by at least 20 each year of the initiative for a total of 40 participants over the remainder of the grant period.

Goal 2: Increase the number of Plans of Safe Care implemented for infants with identified prenatal substance exposure, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder diagnoses and their parents/caregivers in Tulsa County by at least 25%.

Goal 3: Improve substance use treatment and permanency outcomes for TCFTC participants by developing and implementing Plans of Safe Care for TCFTC families with qualifying infants or children under the age of 5 years.

Goal 4: Endeavor to improve the maternal/fetal outcomes of pregnant women experiencing substance use disorder in Tulsa County and decrease the recommended level of OKDHS postnatal intervention through the implementation of prenatal plans of safe care via the SAFER Project.

Goal 5: Engage in ongoing program improvement by presenting regular TCFTC and QIC-CCCT program and outcome data to Governance Committees for analysis and assistance with identifying procedures and policies that may require improvement or modification in order to enhance participant and program outcomes.

# LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS

## Court Services

Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice (TCFCJJ)

## Child Welfare

Oklahoma Department of Human Services – Tulsa County

## Treatment Services

Center for Therapeutic Intervention

# SUCCESS STORY

When his children were placed in out-of-home care in 2017, this father had been largely absent from the lives of his three biological children and stepdaughter. The family had an extensive child welfare history, which extended back several years and included numerous referrals. He was homeless, engaged in daily methamphetamine use, and riding his bicycle back and forth to a temporary job. In addition, his substance use was negatively impacting his health. The father expressed that his children were all he had and that he feared losing custody of them, saying he would do whatever it took to reunify.

The father entered the TCFTC in early 2018. At the beginning, he struggled with his methamphetamine addiction and could not maintain sobriety. The

treatment provider advocated for the father to enter residential treatment and although he was resistant at first, he entered a six-month residential substance abuse treatment program. While in treatment, he excelled and opted to stay an additional three months to participate in the facility's work program. After graduating from residential treatment, the change in the father was evident. When he returned to TCFTC, he continued to actively engage in recovery, participate in court activities, and ultimately, obtained regular employment.

When the father spoke at the TCFTC Graduation in December 2019, he had done what many feared was impossible: he had made the journey through recovery, had a loving relationship with all four of his children, and was providing a safe and healthy life for their family.

# PROJECT CONTACTS

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