

Families With Infants and Toddlers (FIT) Court

Palmer, Alaska

Basic Information

The mission of the FIT Court is to meet the unique developmental needs of young children in foster care. The primary goals are to achieve permanency within twelve months and to reunify young children with their families of origin. The FIT Court seeks to build strong supports around the family in order to prevent repeat child maltreatment.

Population

The FIT Court serves the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Borough and opened its doors in February 2018. The courthouse is located in Palmer, Alaska, 42 miles northeast of Anchorage.

Mat-Su Borough has 101,000 residents, representing 13.6% of Alaska's total population. Ten percent of the Borough's population is Alaska Native. The Borough spans approximately 25,000 square miles, an area larger than the state of West Virginia, and includes two federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes.

Capacity Year 1: 12 Families

Capacity Year 2: 24 Families

Quotes from Participants

"I became a FIT Court parent for my children so that I can raise them as a family in a safe environment."

"The most valuable things I've learned from FIT Court is to be honest and ask for help."

"I've never felt so special."

"FIT Court taught me how important it is for me to be able to meet my child's needs, on time."

Core Program Components and Services



Child Services

- Intensive Multi-Disciplinary Pediatric Screening
- Child-Parent Psychotherapy
- Enhanced Visitation
- Additional wrap-around services as needed

Parent Services

- Expedited entrance into mental health and substance abuse treatment services
- Peer Navigation services assist with transportation, family contact supervision, promoting healthy family/social relationships, parent coaching, employment, and parent education
- Monthly case planning to identify and address parents' rehabilitative needs
- Financial assistance for mental health and substance abuse treatment

Key Partners

- AK Court System
- AK Court Improvement Program
- Dept. of Health & Social Services
- AK Public Defender Agency
- AK Dept. of Law
- AK Office of Public Advocacy
- Knik Tribal Council
- Chickaloon Council
- Mat-Su Regional Medical Center
- ROCK Mat-Su
- AK Family Services
- Co-Occurring Disorders Institute
- Ptarmigan Connections
- Set Free Alaska
- Mat-Su Health Foundation

Goals for QIC-CCCT

Through this initiative, the FIT Court seeks to:

- Ensure that our early strategic development is appropriate
- Develop our team cohesion and sense of shared mission
- Engage in evaluation

This initiative will also allow the FIT Court to provide comprehensive education to our court team and community partners ensuring the needs of infants and young children are met through evidence-based best practices.

Contact Information

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