

Introduction to the National Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

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Children and Family Futures

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Family Treatment Courts

*Improving
Family
Outcomes*

*Strengthening
Partnerships*



Our Mission

To improve safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes for children, parents and families affected by trauma, substance use and mental health disorders.



Center for Children and Family Futures
Strengthening Partnerships, Improving Family Outcomes

Acknowledgement

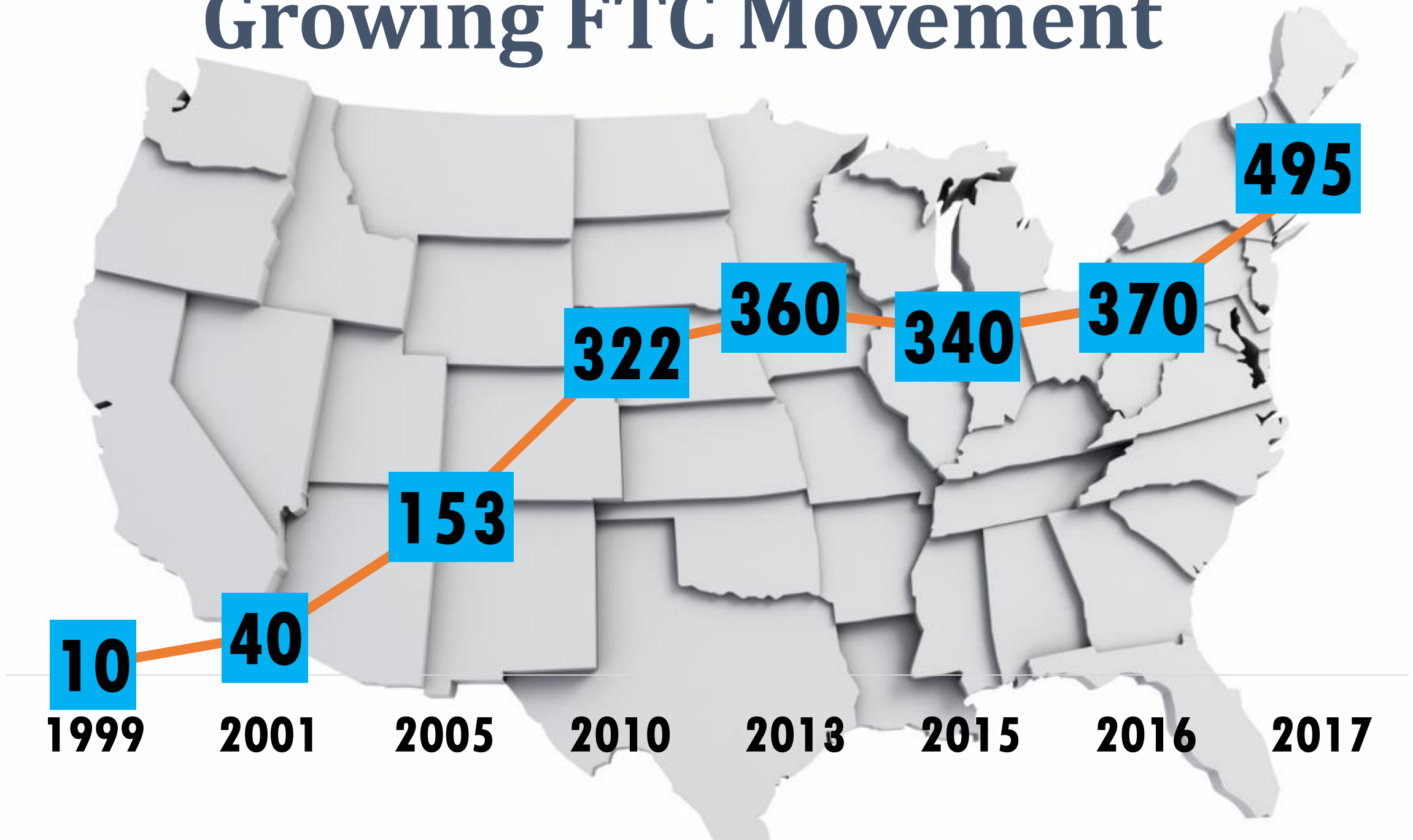
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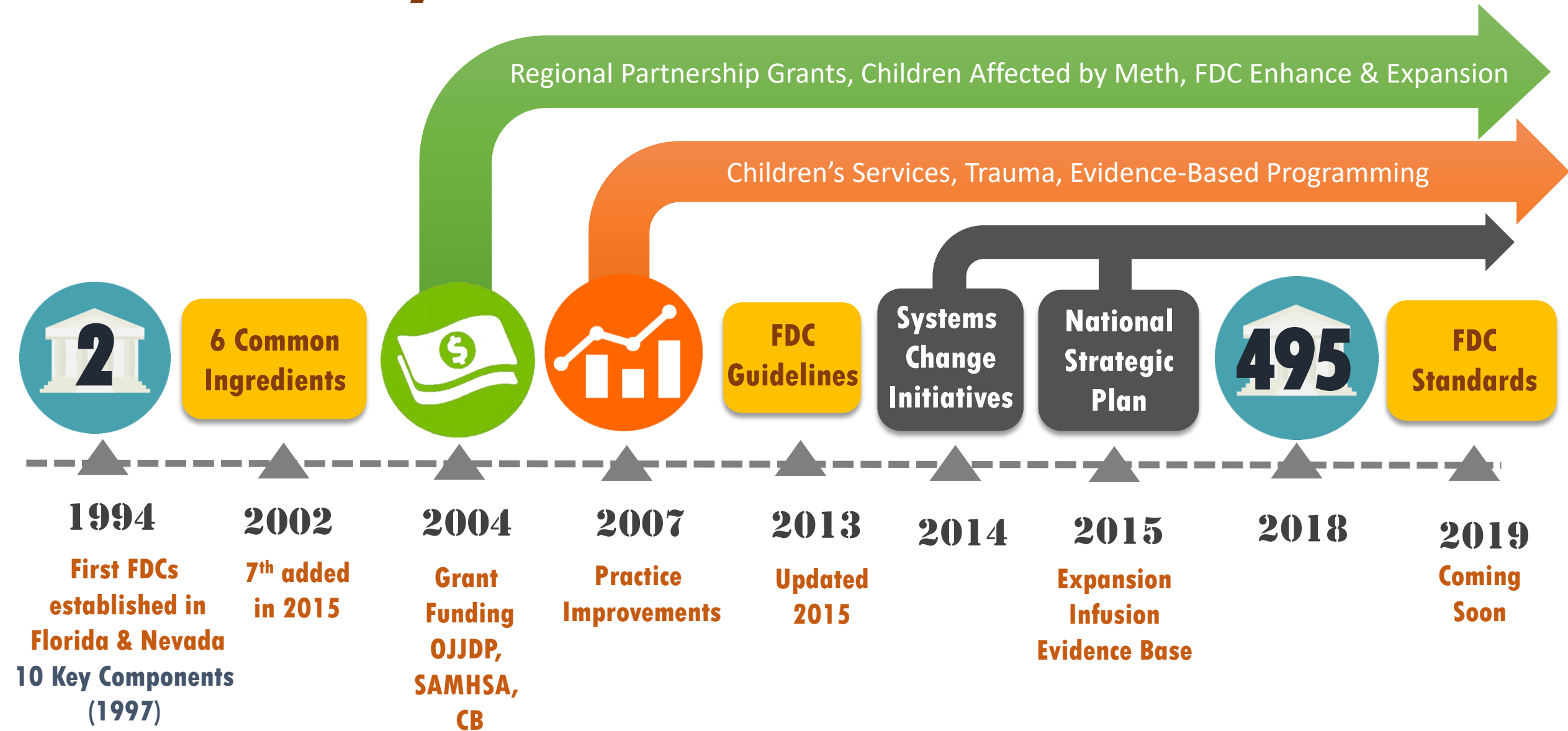
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How did we get here?

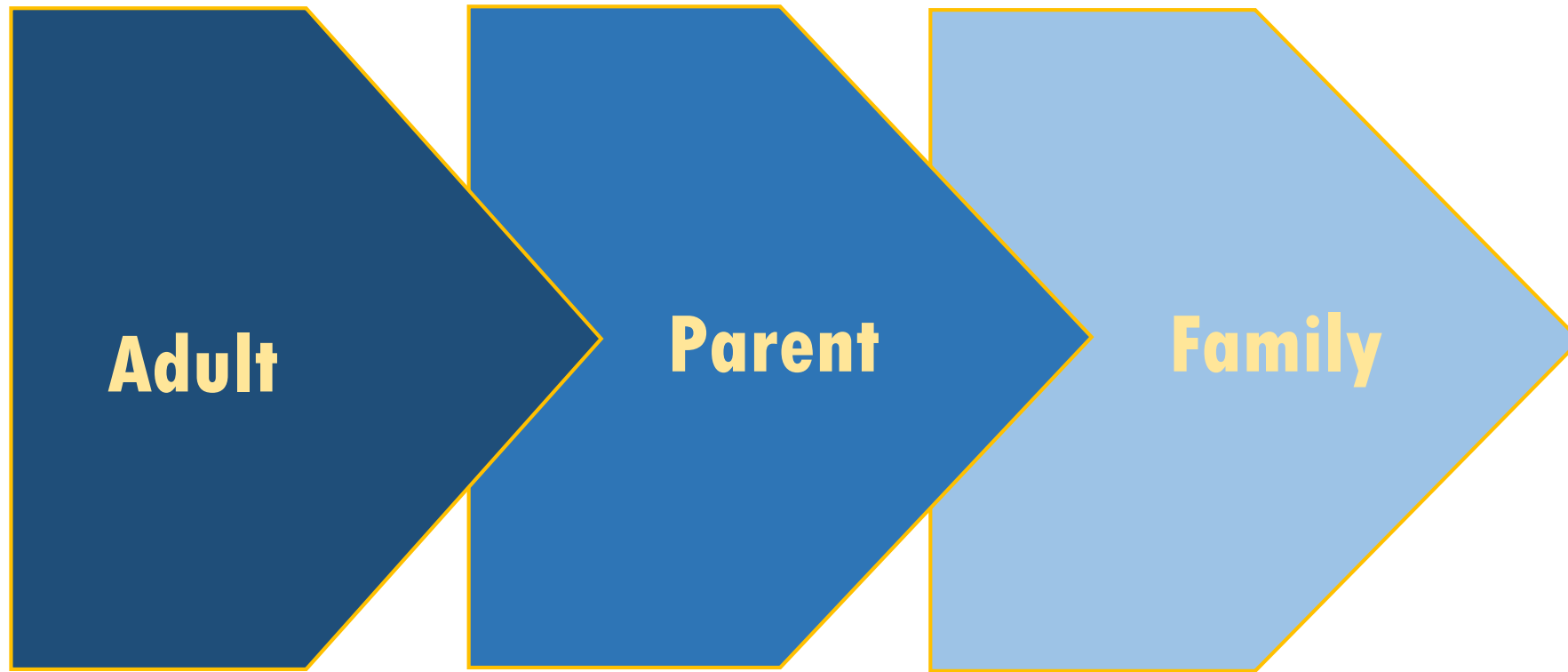
Growing FTC Movement



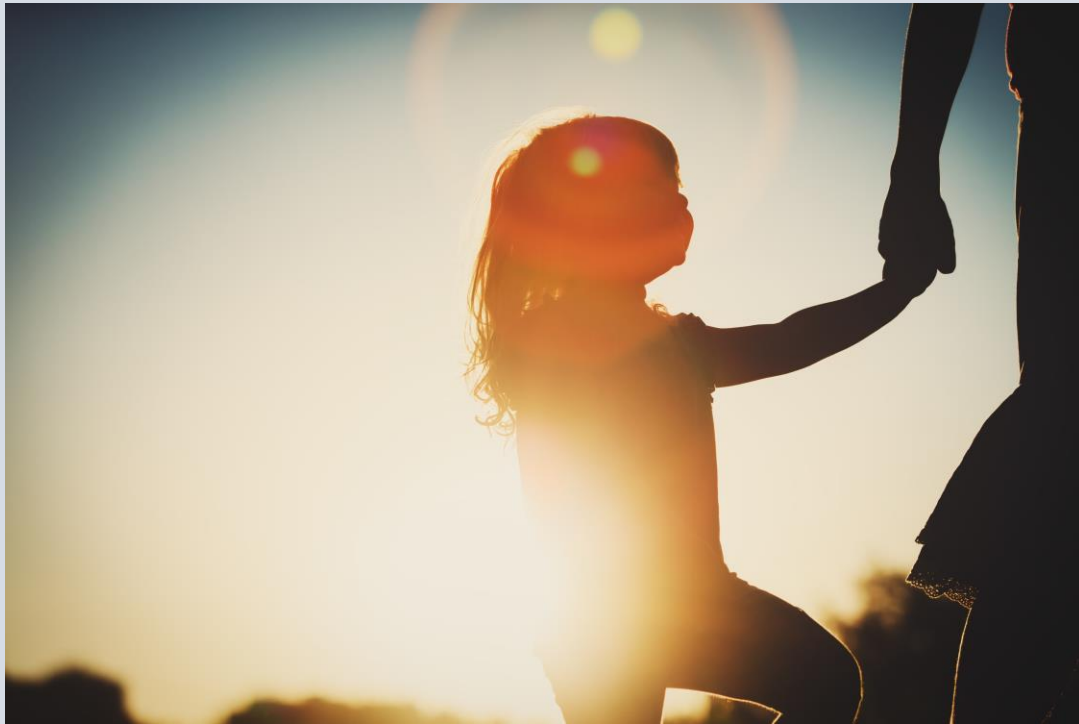
Family Treatment Court Movement



Family Treatment Court model transforms how we Operate



Family Treatment Court Standards
are a blueprint for building
Family Treatment Courts
to best serve **families**



Models Work Together

**Healing to
Wellness Court
Key Components**

**Family
Healing &
Recovery**

**Family Treatment
Court Best
Practice
Standards**

Paradigm Shifts



Adult Recovery



Family Healing & Recovery

Defining parent progress and success:

From compliance and attendance to ...

→ desired behavioral changes

Changing the language used:

From visitation to ...
From relapse to ...
From clean time to ...

→ parenting time
lapse
sustained recovery

Responding to relapse or lapse:

From automatic change in permanency plan or return to FDC phase one to ...

→ comprehensive assessment of situation and therapeutic adjustments

Broadening scope of goals:

From a primary focus on rapid or early reunification to ...

→ successful reunification with lasting permanency

Reframing decision making:

From a primary focus on risk factors (what could happen) to ...

→ established safety supports and protective factors

Engaging participants:

From service referrals as a sanction to ...

→ service referrals as an incentive and acknowledgment of a parent's progress

Redefining the client:

From individual parent participant to ...

→ the whole family

National FTC Standards

Family Treatment Court

Best Practice Standards

1

Organization
and Structure

2

Role of the
Judge

3

Equity and
Inclusion

4

Early
Screening
and
Assessment

5

Timely,
Quality
Treatment

6

Case
Management

7

Therapeutic
Behavior
Response

8

Monitoring
and
Evaluation

Structure of FTC Best Practice Standards

Description – Each Standard begins with a descriptive summary paragraph

Provisions – these expand on the description and are mandates stating what FTCs should do; they are designed to be as directive and measurable as possible

Rationale – describes the reasoning and applicable research base for each provision, drawing upon both practice-based evidence and empirical studies from a wide range of related fields of study

Key Considerations – provide additional explanation of the provision and practical implementation advice

References – are included at the end of each section

Family Treatment Court

Best Practice Standards

1

**Organization
and Structure**

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Equity and
Inclusion

Early
Screening
and
Assessment

Timely,
Quality
Treatment

Case
Management

Therapeutic
Behavior
Response

Monitoring
and
Evaluation

Use a multidisciplinary, systemic collaborative approach



Elements of Family Wellness Court Organization and Structure

- Partnerships
- Governance
- Mission & vision
- Communication
- Cross-training
- Family-centered, culturally relevant, trauma-informed
- Policy manual
- Pre-court staffing and Review Hearing

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Convener and team leader

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Equitable access, retention,
completion, and behavior response

Where to Monitor Equity and Inclusion

Admission

Retention

Treatment

Responses

Family Treatment Court

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Prompt, systematic, universal
screening and referral to FTC

Early Identification

- At the earliest point possible – integrated with risk and safety assessment by child welfare system
- 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

Challenges & Barriers

- Target population unclear
- Restrictive and/or subjective eligibility criteria
- Screening and identification conducted late
- Lack of utilization of standardized screening protocols
- Referral process with weak hand-offs, lack of tracking



Engagement is Everyone's Job

Engagement begins during the first interaction and continues throughout the entire case

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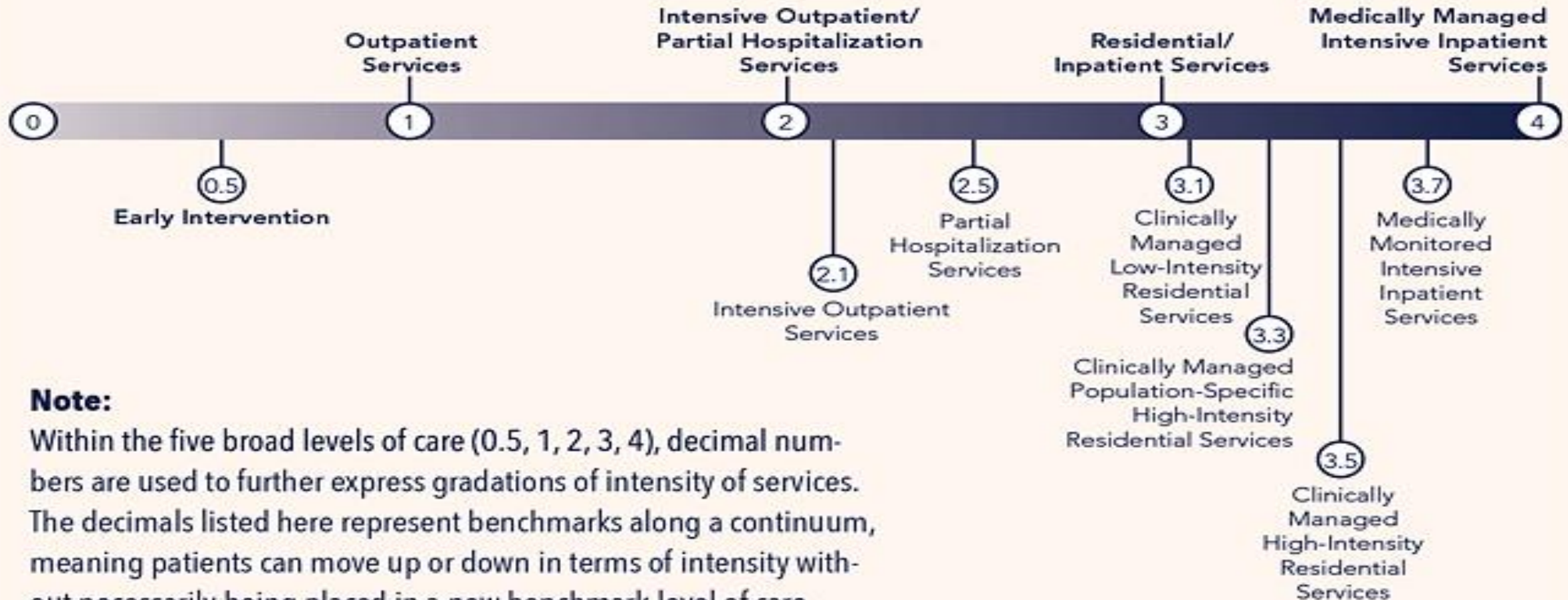
8

Monitoring
and
Evaluation

Individualized, family-centered
treatment

ASAM Criteria & Continuum of Care

REFLECTING A CONTINUUM OF CARE



Note:

Within the five broad levels of care (0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4), decimal numbers are used to further express gradations of intensity of services. The decimals listed here represent benchmarks along a continuum, meaning patients can move up or down in terms of intensity without necessarily being placed in a new benchmark level of care.

Overview of the Treatment Processes



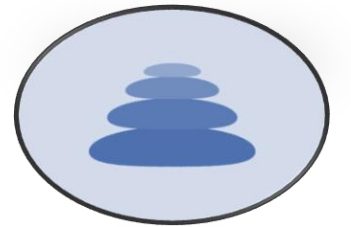
**Early Identification, Screening,
and Brief Intervention**

Done at earliest point possible



**Comprehensive
Assessment**

Determine extent and severity of
disease



Stabilization

Via medically supervised
detoxification, when necessary



**Timely and Appropriate
Substance Use Disorder
Treatment**

Address substance use disorder and
co-occurring issues



**Continuing Care and
Recovery Support**

Help parents sustain recovery,
maintain family safety and stability

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Comprehensive, family-centered clinical
and community support services

Services to Consider

- Intensive case management
- Family case planning
- Recovery supports
- High-quality Parenting Time
- Family Strengthening Programs
- Reunification Supports
- Trauma Services
- Children's Services
- Complementary Services (housing, transportation, etc.)
- Early intervention services for children
- Substance use prevention programs for youth and children

A Family Focus on Treatment and Recovery

Parent Recovery

- Parenting skills and competencies
- Family connections and resources
- Parental mental health
- Medication management
- Parental substance use
- Domestic violence

Family Recovery and Well-being

- Basic necessities
- Employment
- Housing
- Child care
- Transportation
- Family counseling
- Parenting Education that includes children so parents can practice new skills including family play and family structure
- Family Time

Child Well-being

- Well-being/behavior
- Developmental/health
- School readiness
- Trauma
- Mental health
- Adolescent substance abuse
- At-risk youth prevention

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Engage families using treatment
adjustments, complementary service
enhancements, and incentives and sanctions

**Therapeutic
Behavior
Response**

8

Monitoring
and
Evaluation

Essential Elements of Responding to Behavior

Treatment
adjustments

Complementary
service
modifications

Incentives and
sanctions

**Increased or decreased parenting time is never
used as an incentive or sanction.**

**Parenting-time is a right,
not a tool to reward or sanction the parent**

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**Monitoring
and Evaluation**

Collect and review data to evaluate outcomes
and improve practice

What Outcomes *Are We Trying to Achieve?*



Healthier
children



Healthier
parents



Remain
together



Stronger
families



Stronger
communities

When Systems Work Together, Families Do Better

Recovery

Remain at home

Reunification

Repeat maltreatment

Re-entry

5Rs



Q & A
Discussion

Resources



Family Treatment Court

PLANNING GUIDE

- **Designed to provide step-by-step instructions**
- **Use Guide to gather needed information to present FTC concept**
- **Worksheet Activities**



Thank you!

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