

Overview of Family Treatment Court Best Practices

Children and Family Futures

TLPI Enhancement Training | October 1, 2020

Family Treatment Courts

Improving
Family
Outcomes

Strengthening
Partnerships



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





BEFORE WE BEGIN...

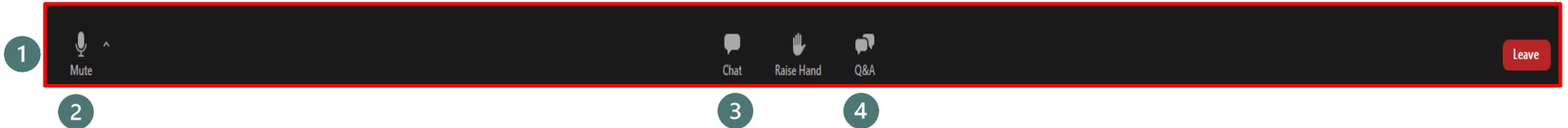
Here are some friendly housekeeping reminders

- 1 Your control panel will appear at the bottom of your user screen. (As shown below)
- 2 All attendees will be muted during the presentation.
- 3 Use the Chat box to submit a comment to “All Presenters” or “Presenters & Everyone”
- 4 If you have a question, please type it in the Q&A box.

Please complete the CE Sign-in form, when the link is dropped in the chat box.

Please complete a workshop session evaluation.

This session will be recorded. Recordings will be available on this platform and [EnhancementTraining.org](https://www.enhancementtraining.org).



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



Acknowledgment

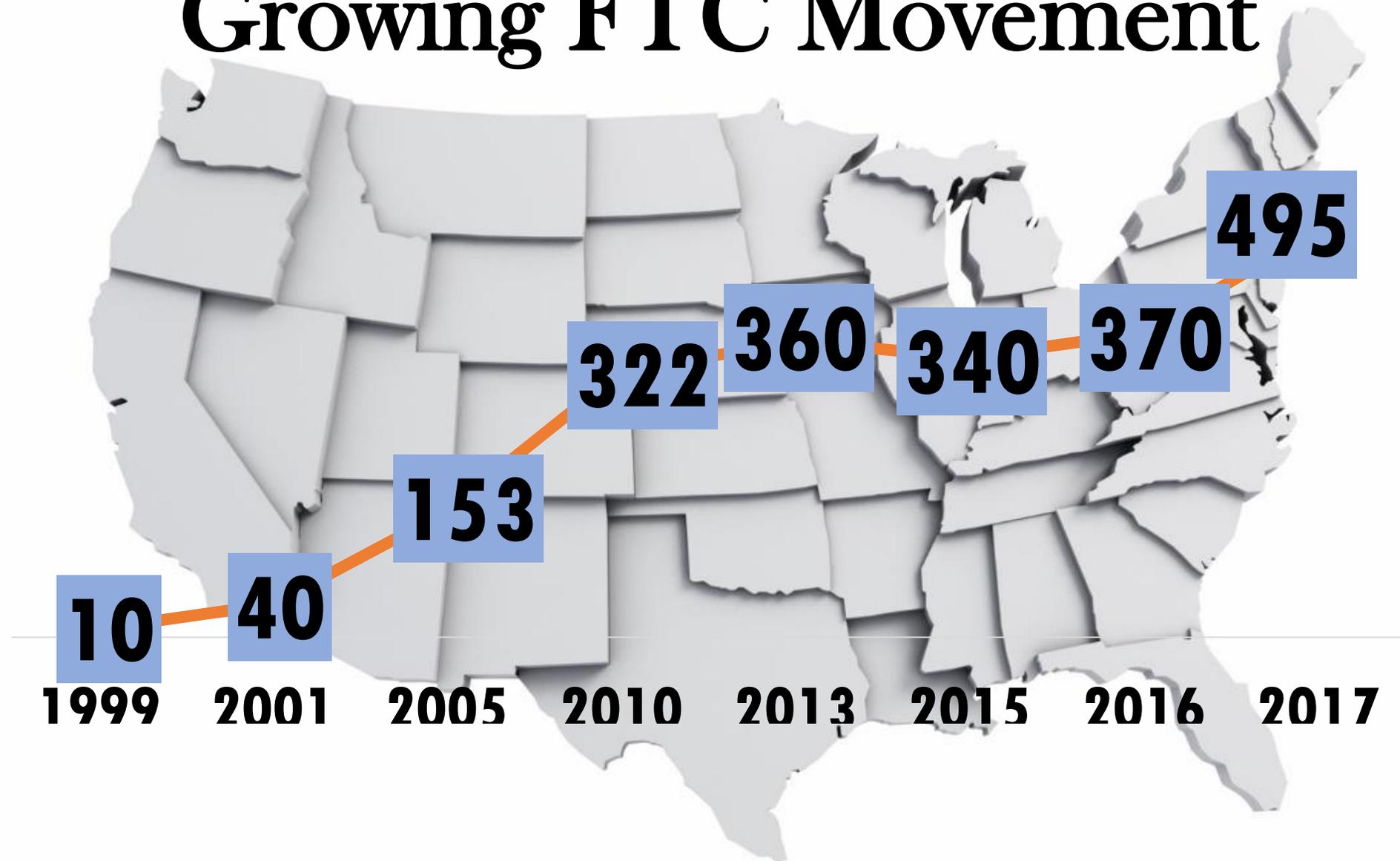
This presentation is supported by Grant #2019-DC-BX-K013 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



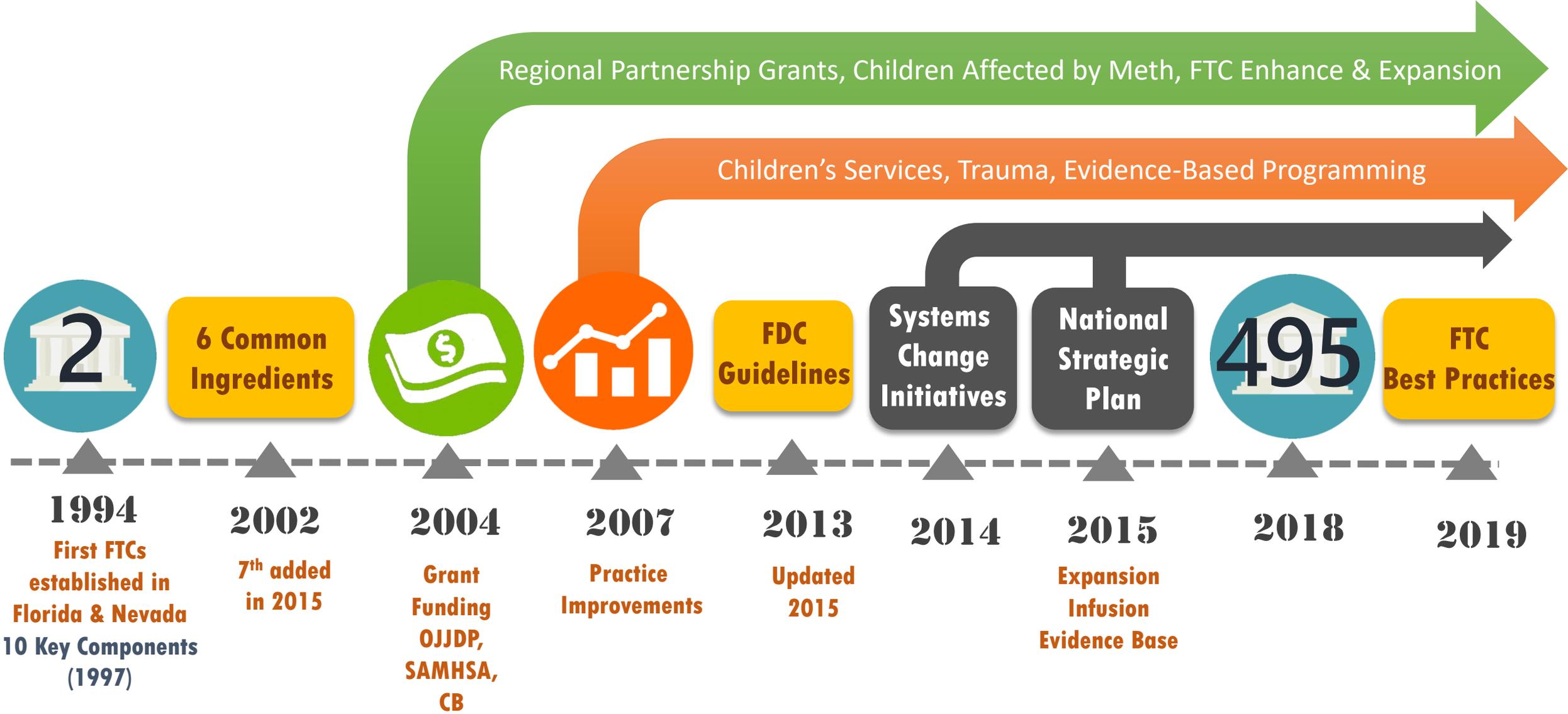
This project is supported by Grant # 2019-DC-BX-K013 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

How did we get here?

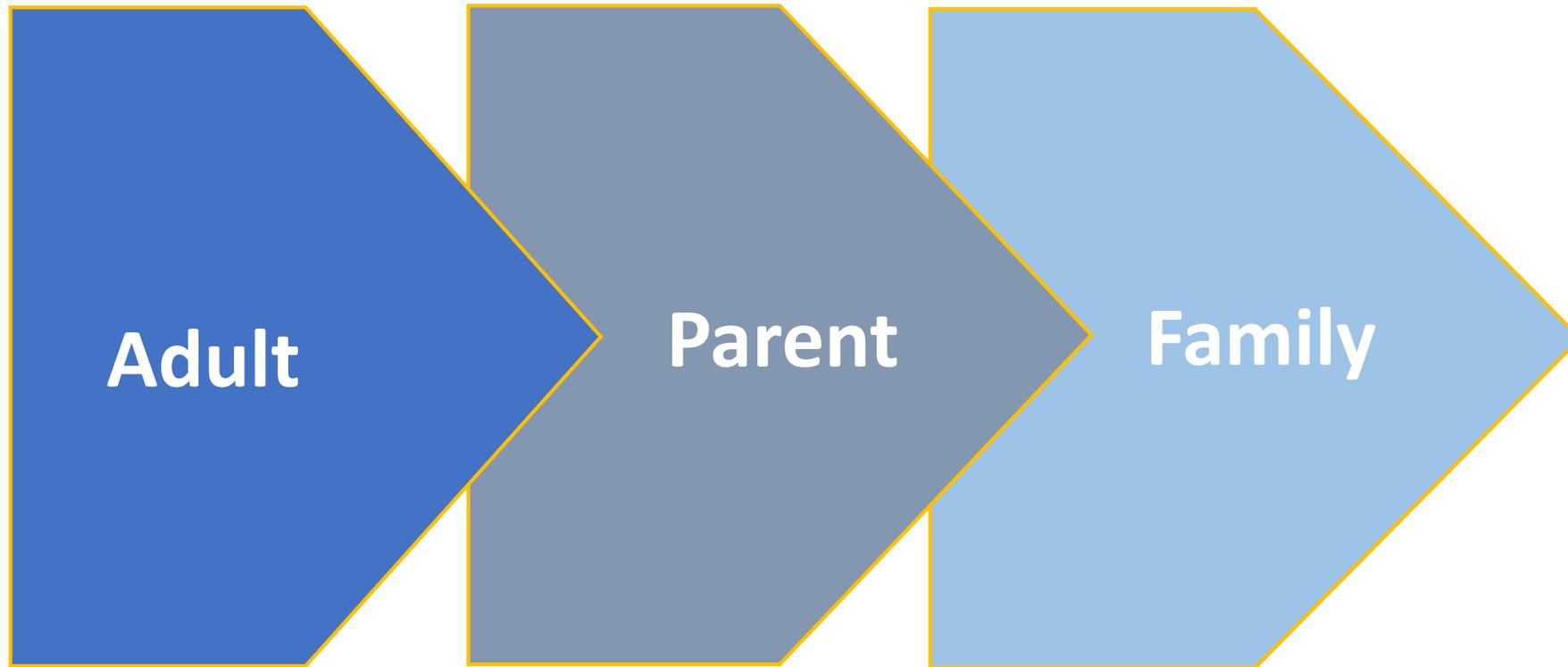
Growing FTC Movement



Family Treatment Court Movement



Family Treatment Court Model Transforms How We Operate



Family Treatment Court Best Practices
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
Practices**

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 FTC 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:

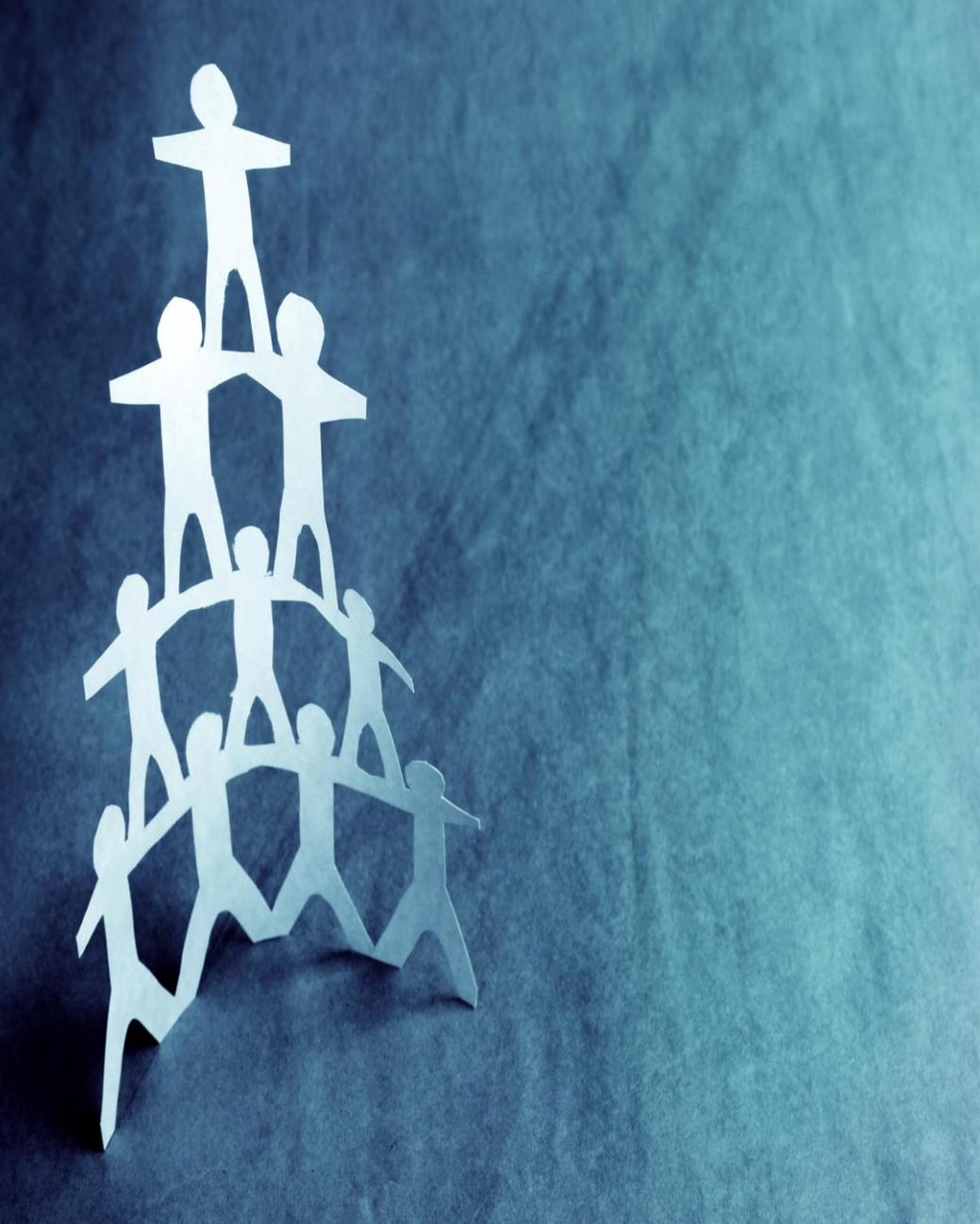
From individual parent participant to ...

→ the whole family

***Family Treatment Court
Best Practices***

Organization & Structure

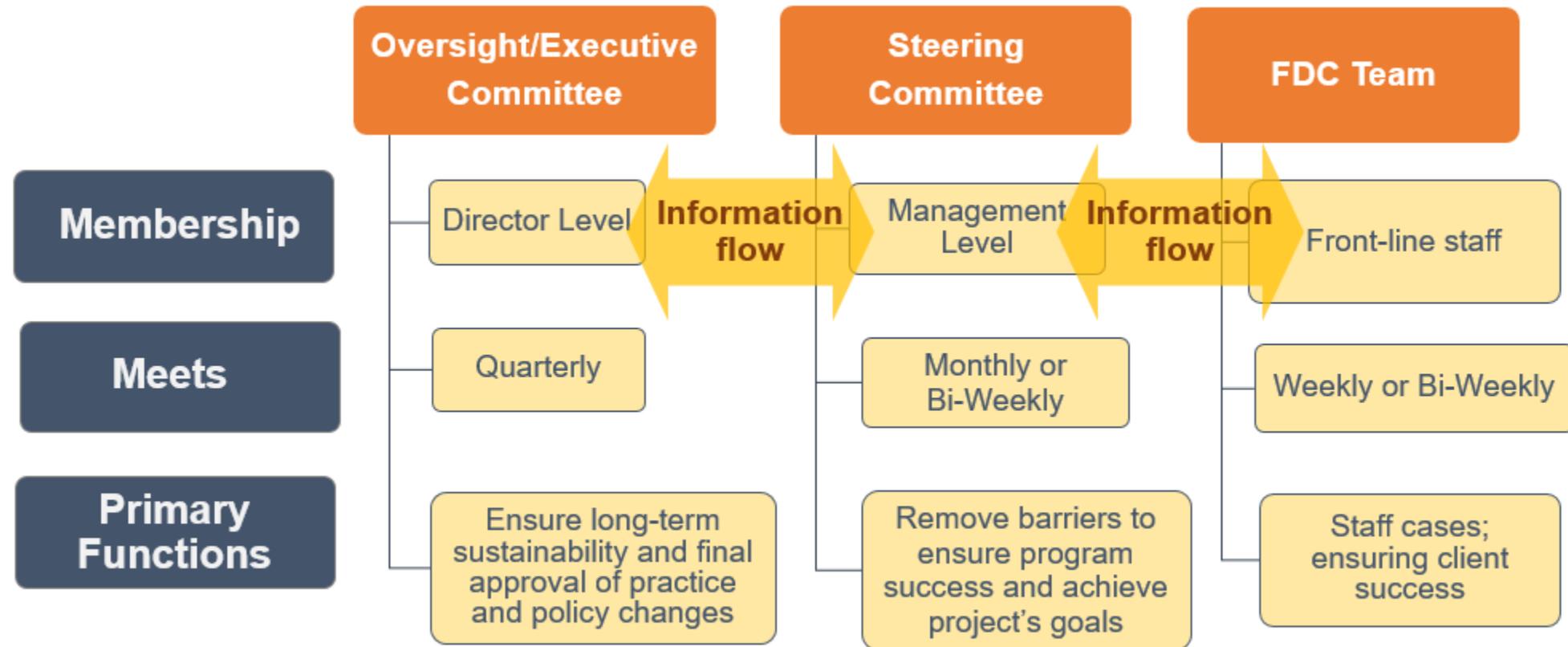
The family treatment court (FTC) has agreed-upon **structural and organizational principles** that are supported by research and based on evidence-informed policies, programs, and practices. The core programmatic components, day-to-day operations, and oversight structures are defined and documented in the FTC policy and procedure manual, participant handbook, and memoranda of understanding (MOUs).



Elements of Family Wellness Court Organization and Structure

- Partnerships
- Governance
- Mission & vision
- Communication
- Cross-training
- Family-centered, trauma-informed, individually responsive
- Written policies
- Pre-court staffing and Review Hearings

The Collaborative Structure for Leading Change



Role of the Judge

Judicial leadership is critical to the effective planning and operation of the FTC. The FTC judge works collectively with leaders of partner agencies and other stakeholders to establish clear roles and a shared mission and vision . He or she has the **unique ability to engage the leaders and stakeholders** in the development, implementation, and ongoing operations of the FTC. The judge is a vital part of the operational team, **convening** meetings that encourage team members to identify shared values, voice concerns, and find common groups. Additionally, the judge's development of **rappport with participants** is among the most important components of the FTC.

Research

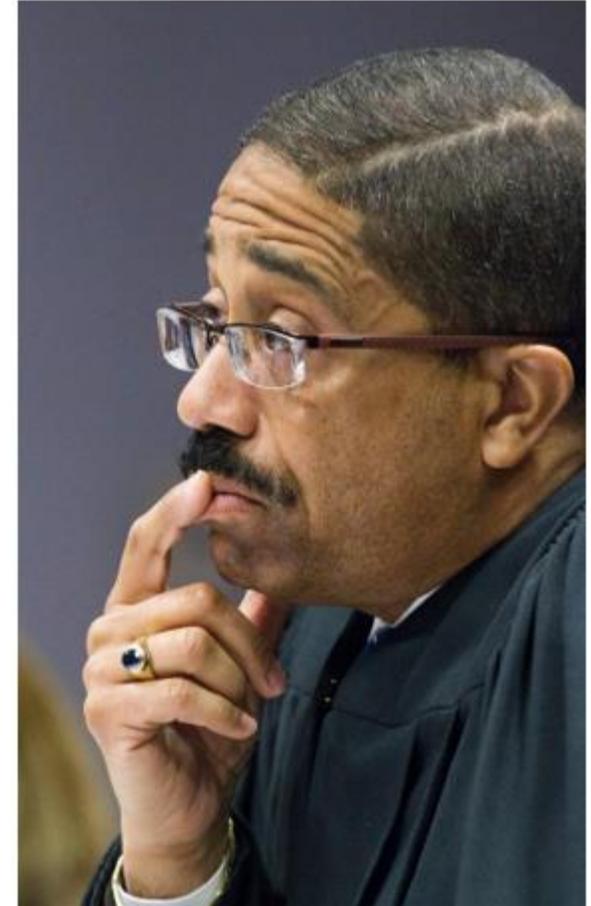
When a single judge presides throughout a child welfare case, the parents are more likely to feel the dependency court cares about their child and outcome of their case; having a single judge also increases the likelihood that the parents will perceive the FTC process as fair.

(Source: Shdaimah and Summers, 2014)



“Judge Effect”

- The **judge was the single biggest influence** on the outcome, with judicial praise, support, and other positive attributes translating into fewer crimes and less use of drugs by participants (Rossman et al., 2011)
- Positive supportive comments by judge were correlated with few failed drug tests, while negative comments led to the opposite (Senjo and Leip, 2001)
- The ritual of appearing before a judge and receiving support, accolades, and “tough love” when warranted and reasonable, helped them stick with court-ordered treatment (Farole and Cissner, 2005, see also Satel, 1998)



Assessing Program Demographics

Family treatment court (FTC) has an affirmative obligation to consistently **assess its operations and those of partner organizations** for policies and procedures that could contribute to unequal outcomes. The FTC actively **collects and analyzes** program and partner organization **data** to determine if any dissimilar outcomes exist. If any are found the FTC **implements corrective measures** to eliminate them.



Timely Access to Quality Treatment

Equal Outcomes

Where to Assess Program Demographics

Admission



Retention



Treatment



Responses



Early Identification, Screening, and Assessment

FTC team members screen and assess all referred families using objective eligibility and exclusion criteria. Team members **use validated assessment tools and procedures** to promptly refer children, parents, and families to the appropriate services and levels of care.

- Validated assessments of children, parents, and families are conducted and barriers to recovery and reunification are identified and addressed
- Service referrals must match the identified needs and connect to evidence-based interventions, promising programs, and trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and family-centered practices.

Early Identification

- **At the earliest point possible** – integrated with risk and safety assessment by child welfare
- **Multi-prong approach** – including screening tools, drug testing, reports, and 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

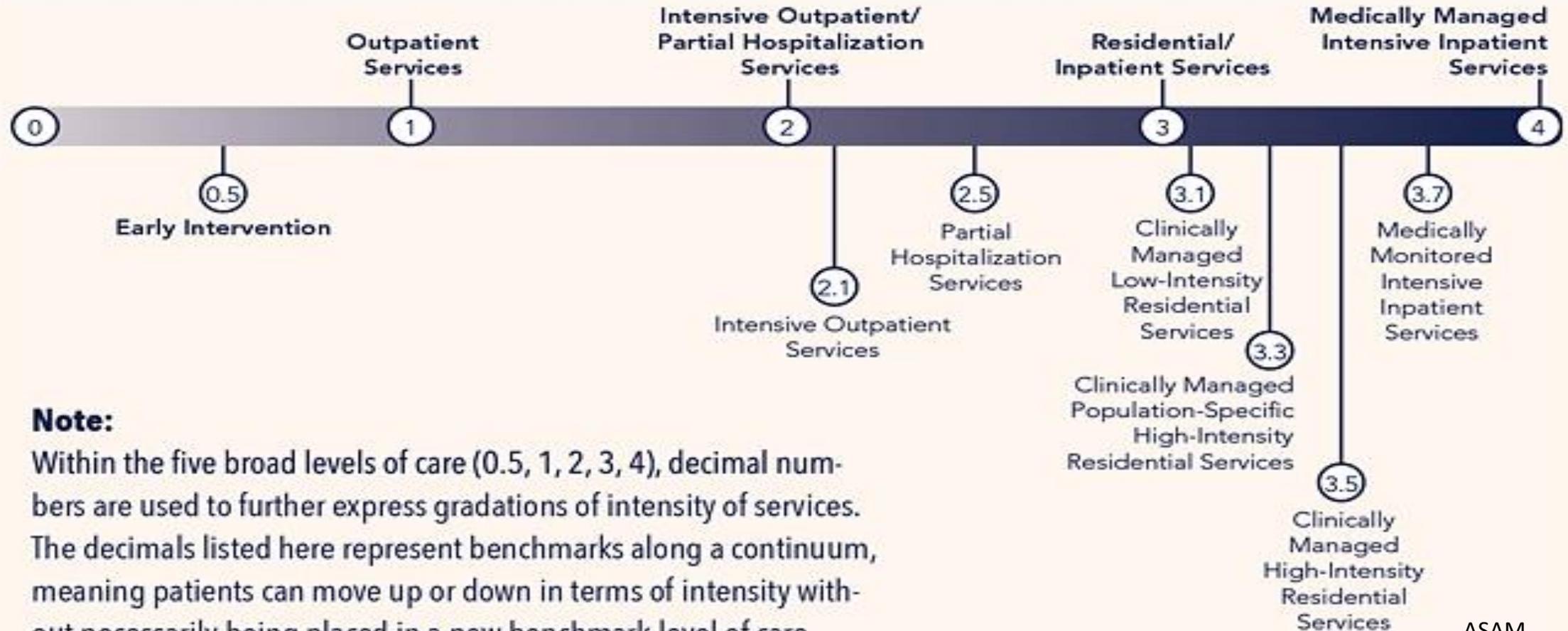
Timely, High Quality, and Appropriate Substance Use Disorder Treatment

SUD treatment is provided to meet the unique substance-related clinical and supportive needs of persons with SUDs. For participants in FTC, it is important that the SUD treatment agency or clinician:

- Provide services in the context of the participants' **family relationships**, particularly the parent-child dyad, and understand the importance of and responsibility for **ensuring child safety** within the Adoption and Safe Families Act timeline for child permanency.
- Offer a **continuum of services** including early identification, screening, and brief intervention; comprehensive standardized assessment; stabilization; appropriate, manualized, evidence-based treatment including medications if warranted; **ongoing communication** with the FTC team; and continuing care.
- Develop a treatment plan based on individualized and assessed needs and strengths.
- Provide services in a timely manner including concurrent treatment of mental health and physical health.

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



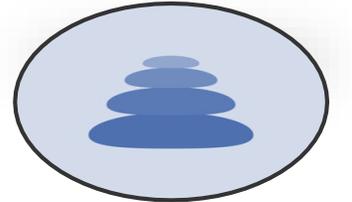
**Early Identification, Screening,
and Brief Intervention**

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

Comprehensive Case Management Services and Supports for Families

FTC ensures that children, parents, and family members receive comprehensive services that meet their assessed needs and promotes sustained family **safety, permanency, recovery, and well-being**. In addition to **high-quality** substance use and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment, the FTC's **family-centered** service array includes other clinical treatment and related clinical and community support services. These services are **trauma responsive**, include family members as active participants, and are grounded in cross-systems collaboration and **evidence-based or evidence-informed** practices implemented with fidelity.

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
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Family counseling
- Parenting Education that includes children
- Family Time

Child Well-being

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

Therapeutic Responses to Behavior

The FTC operational team applies therapeutic responses (e.g., child safety interventions, treatment adjustments, complementary service modifications, incentives, sanctions) to improve parent, child, and family functioning; ensure children's safety, permanency, and well-being; support participant behavior change; and promote participant accountability. The FTC recognizes the complexities of supporting participants through behavior change **to achieve sustainable recovery, stable reunification**, and resolution of the child welfare case. When responding to participant behavior, the FTC team **considers the cause** of the behavior as well as the **effect of the therapeutic response** on the participant, the participant's children and family, and the participant's **engagement in treatment** and supportive services.

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**

Monitoring and Evaluation

The FTC collects and reviews data to monitor participant progress, engage in a process of **continuous quality improvement, monitor adherence to best practice, and evaluate outcomes** using scientifically reliable and valid procedures. The FTC establishes performance measures for shared accountability across systems, encourages data quality, and fosters the exchange of data and evaluation results with multiple stakeholders. The FTC uses this information to improve policies and practices in addition to monitoring the strengths and limitations of various service components. Evaluation results and data are also critical components of effective stakeholder outreach and sustainability, helping the FTC “tell its story” of success and needs.

What Outcomes *Are We Trying to Achieve?*



Title Goes Here

Healthier
children



Title Goes Here

Healthier
parents



Title Goes Here

Remain
together



Title Goes Here

Stronger
families



Title Goes Here

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 Best Practice Standards**
- **Family Treatment Court Planning Guide**
- **Plans of Safe Care**
- **Supporting Pregnant & Postpartum Women**
- **Peer and Recovery Specialist Support**



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



Family Treatment Court

PLANNING GUIDE

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

Evaluations

Please remember to fill out the workshop evaluation.

Workshop Information:

Thursday, October 1, 2020

9:30 am - 10:45 am

D1: Overview of Family Treatment Court Best Practices



Contact Information

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Thank you!