

Best Practice Standards 1-8

Washington Family Treatment Courts will share an example of a best practice standard being applied in their court.

Best Practice Standard 1: Organization & Structure

Okanogan County
Family Treatment Court
Krisana Shrable

Best Practice 1: Structure and Organization

Brief Summary from 2019 Best Practice Standards: 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).



Governance Structure; Okanogan County

- ***Policy Team***-meets monthly to discuss the overall operations of FTC to include ways to improve program practices, identify upcoming trainings, identify and examine progress and direction of FTC. Includes Staffing Team representatives and other community partners who have a vested interest in the day to day operations of FTC.
- ***Staffing Team “Core FTC Team”***-meets bi-weekly (more often as assessed and needed) to discuss families., led by our FTC Judge and Core FTC Team. Also responsible for reviewing referrals, applications and level advancements. Staffing’s include Parent/s, Child/ren and Family (holistic approach)
- ***Steering Committee*** – *needed in order for our FTC to be sustainable. What does our community need in order to provide support and services to children, parents and families? Need to identify community partners, seeking members/volunteers. Possibly meeting quarterly? Identifying direction, resources and funding.*

FTC Team: A Multidisciplinary Approach

Okanogan County's FTC Team consists of:

Judicial Officer, FTC Coordinator, FTC Case Manager, SUD Provider, MH Provider, Parent/s Attorney, Child/ren Attorney, Assistant Attorney General (DCYF), DCYF Supervisor and Community Partners (Worksource and Hope Transportation)

- Parent Ally, FTC Designated Social Worker and Recovery Coach are also components of the team we've had discussion about and are looking into



Best Practice Standard 2: The Role of the Judge

Whatcom County
Family Treatment Court
Commissioner Henley

Establish and Maintain Rapport with FTC Participants at Court Hearings

1. Forge a positive relationship with FTC participants in the short time you have with them at each court hearing
2. Build FTC participants' self-confidence and strengthen their connection to the FTC process by providing them mostly positive feedback
3. Overcome the dynamics of the power imbalance between you and the FTC participants by helping them feel comfortable talking with you in the court room
4. Rely on your FTC team members for positive information about FTC participants and how best to motivate them to succeed

Best Practice Standard 3: Ensuring Equity & Inclusion

Scenario for Discussion with Local Operational Team

Best Practice 3 Scenario (on website and chat)

Sara a mother of 2 children, ages 2 months and 4 years old has recently entered into your FTC. Sara identifies as a Black woman and her children are Black as well. The biological father of both children is currently in another state and is not a viable placement for the children, so they are residing with Sara's mother. Treatment reports that Sara is fully engaged and is working well in one on ones with her treatment provider. She has also been present and interactive in family time, and is overall meeting all of her plan goals. However Sara can be argumentative and angry in court. She is often quiet, rarely makes eye contact with the Judge or her lawyer, and shakes her head as her social worker and the attorney for DCYF are talking. She has mentioned that she feels like FTC is "out to get her" and that she knows she "can't trust the court."

- Discuss what, if any, cultural issues might be present here.
- Discuss what, if any, trauma issues might be present here.
- Look at this from Sara's perspective, how might she see this situation differently than the members of your team?
- Discuss a response to this behavior that is in line with the best practice standards and any issues you have noticed above.
- What are some trauma-responsive practices you could put into place to make Sara feel comfortable? Could you put any of these into place now?

Scenario Debrief

Some topics that may have come up:

Systemic Racism:

- Distrust of the Court System as a whole based on treatment of Black community members
- Stereotypes/checking personal bias
- Trauma from historic oppression

Power Dynamics

Trauma Responses – quiet, anger, frustration, inattentiveness, misperception

Advocating for yourself vs presenting emotion in court

How can we make this participant more comfortable?

Patience

Recognition of past experiences. Name them, talk about them when appropriate

Create a multicultural, trauma-sensitive environment

Build relationships, be humans

Reduce Power dynamics where possible – can your judge join a casual meeting with the coordinator?

Hire with an eye for people who value all of our participants and have an understanding of their experiences

Best Practice Standard 4: Early Identification, Screening and Assessment

Pierce County
Family Recovery Court
Cathie Case

Best Practice Standard 4: Early Identification, Screening, and Assessment

Treatment Provider

Department

Parent Attorney

PRE SHELTER CARE IDENTIFICATION:

Working together:

Department, Treatment, and Parent's Attorney and getting early screening hearings (early engagement)

SHELTER CARE-FF IDENTIFICATION:

Parent's Attorney referrals

It is never too late: screening within 6 months but special circumstances could apply.

SCREENING HEARING:

Parent's Attorney needs to explain program and documents

Parent can participate in Treatment early (no need to wait until screening hearing to get Tx date).

TREATMENT ASSESSMENT:

Goes over program and treatment requirements, gets assessments, gets evaluated for all supportive services/needs, gets visits set up, emails to all parties with update, work on detox/inpatient if needed.

Best Practice Standard 5: Timely, High-Quality, and Appropriate Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Zach Mezel

Pierce County

Family Treatment Court

Timely, High-Quality, and Appropriate Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Brief Summary from 2019 Best Practice Standards: Substance use disorder (SUD) treatment is provided to meet the individual and unique substance-related clinical and supportive needs of persons with SUDs. For participants in family treatment court (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. A Treatment provider's continuum of services includes 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. The parent, child, and family treatment plan is based on individualized and assessed needs and strengths and is provided in a timely manner including concurrent treatment of mental health and physical health.

Timely, High-Quality, and Appropriate Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- Pierce County Alliance Family Recovery Court has two SUD counselors working directly with all FRC participants entering the program
- Treatment Providers participate in weekly staffing, FTDM staffing and PP staffing to discuss participant progress, barriers to success and level of care
- Specific unique needs ideally identified in assessment process, continually evaluated and adjusted as necessary through FTC/Treatment Process
- Focus on integrating expedited access to treatment
- Curriculum that incorporates SUD and parenting skills
- Incorporation of SUD and DCYF goals into milestones for better participant understanding

Best Practice Standard 6: Comprehensive Case Management, Services, and Support for Families

Mason County

Family Therapeutic Court

Renee Cullop, Daniel Goodell



Needs Assessment

environment Basic identification WORK Administrative on-site operation compliance Hygiene Division particular Client PICIS map Assessment's Shareworld community start COP
safe Worker applies road completion Complyworks Shop/Warehouse healthy Program Policy Audit Industrial Training health Claims specific
workplace Management assist Procedures must Services develop become

Name _____ Date _____

While participating in the Mason County Therapeutic Court Program, I plan to accomplish or overcome the following needs:

Transportation

Need Help **Done** **Still Need**
With **Help With**

_____ _____ _____ Transportation
 _____ _____ _____ Obtaining Driver's License

Pro-Social

Need Help **Done** **Still Need**
With **Help With**

_____ _____ _____ Having fun sober
 _____ _____ _____ Recovery environ.
 _____ _____ _____ Sponsor/Mentor

Employment

Need Help **Done** **Still Need**
With **Help With**

_____ _____ _____ Employment
 _____ _____ _____ Resume
 _____ _____ _____ Job Search
 _____ _____ _____ Interview Skills
 _____ _____ _____ Interview Clothing
 _____ _____ _____ Family Counseling

Health & Wellness

Need Help **Done** **Still Need**
With **Help With**

_____ _____ _____ Medications
 _____ _____ _____ Dental Care
 _____ _____ _____ Medical Care
 _____ _____ _____ Mental Health
 _____ _____ _____ Trauma Counseling
 _____ _____ _____ Nutrition/Cooking
 _____ _____ _____ Fitness
 _____ _____ _____ Childcare

Housing

Need Help **Done** **Still Need**
With **Help With**

_____ _____ _____ Clean and sober housing

Legal/Other

Need Help **Done** **Still Need**
With **Help With**

_____ _____ _____ Obtaining State ID
 _____ _____ _____ Parenting Plan
 _____ _____ _____ Letter of support/
 Recommendation

Education

Need Help **Done** **Still Need**
With **Help With**

_____ _____ _____ Education/GED
 _____ _____ _____ Finances/Budgeting
 _____ _____ _____ Time Management/Organization
 _____ _____ _____ Stress Management
 _____ _____ _____ Parenting Classes
 _____ _____ _____ Domestic Violence/Anger Management

Best Practice Standard 7: Therapeutic Responses to Behavior

Cowlitz County

Hope Court

Michael Evans, Adam Pithan, Jade Cassio

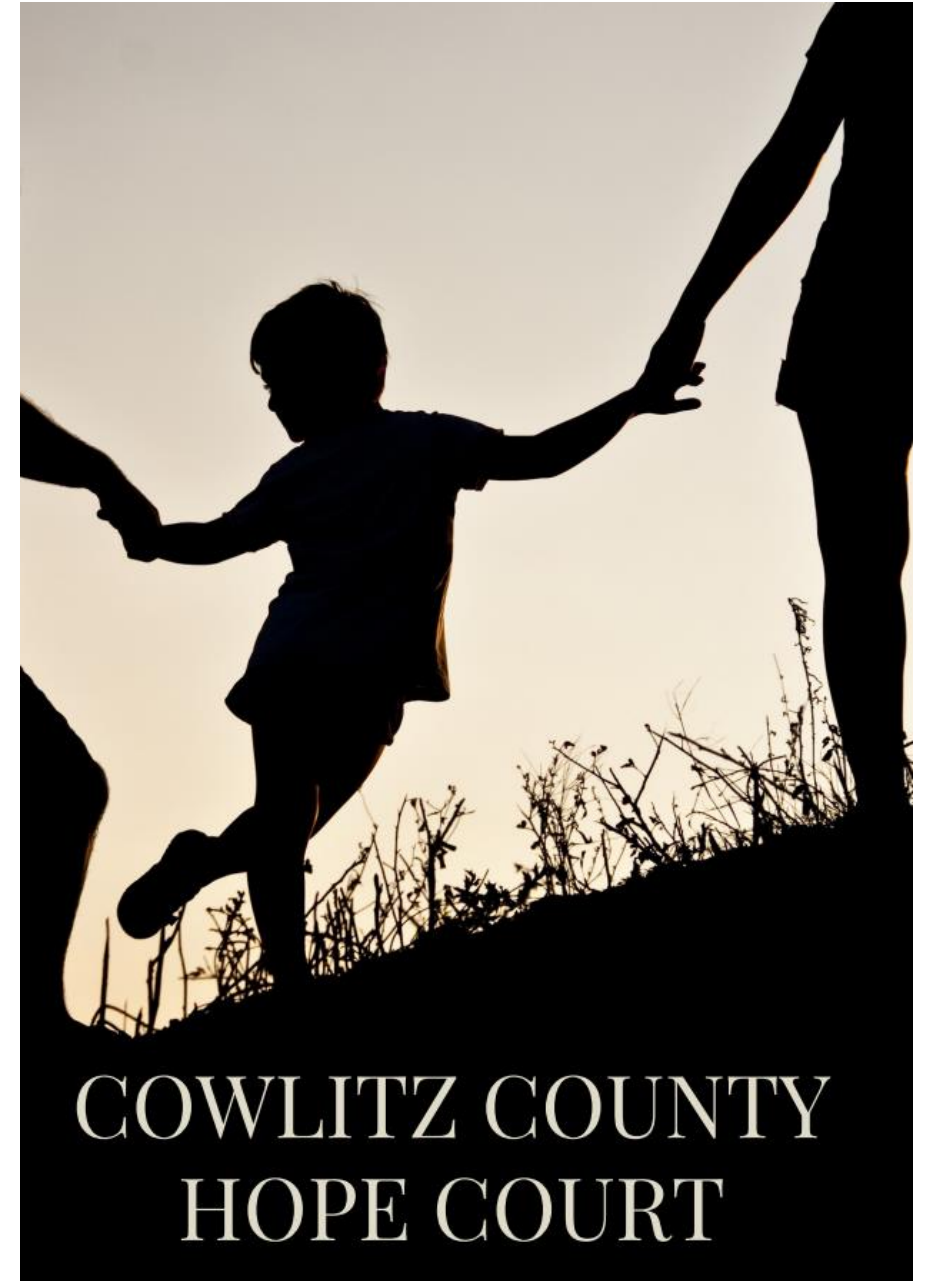
Therapeutic Responses to Behavior

Cowlitz County HOPE Court

Judge Michael Evans

Adam Pithan – Therapeutic Courts Manager

Jade Cassio – HOPE Court Case Manager



**COWLITZ COUNTY
HOPE COURT**

BP 7 Scenario (on website and chat)

Amber successfully completed long term inpatient treatment three weeks ago and returned to the community. Her children (ages 8 months and 2 ½ years) are on a Trial Return Home (they were placed with her while she was inpatient). Amber is struggling to attend all of her services and feels overwhelmed. She just passed her 6 month sober date. Although Amber has provided all random UAs (results negative), she is not making all of her outpatient groups. Amber is supposed to attend two sober supports/week and didn't turn in any slips.

- What might be the underlying cause of Amber's attendance/compliance struggles?
- Identify the specific behavior(s) we are helping Amber to change (hint, there are more than one)
- What therapeutic response might support Amber's continued success?
- Are there other responses you'd like to suggest for Amber?

Scenario Debrief

What behavior(s) did you identify in this scenario?

- Time-management, meeting commitments, prioritizing
- Reaching out for help when overwhelmed
- Timely and honest accounting of needs

Some praise deserved for:

Six month sober date, making UAs, kids are safe

Information Needed: Does she have transportation? Does she have childcare during meetings? Health needs? Emotional Needs? Has she talked to providers? Is she being honest?

Help needed: Environment is less structured

Best Practice Standard 8: Monitoring & Evaluation

King County
Family Treatment Court
Jill Murphy

Monitoring and Evaluation

Brief Summary from 2019 Best Practice Standards: The family treatment court (FTC) collects and reviews data to monitor participant progress, engage in a process of continuous quality improvement, monitor adherence to best practice standards, 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

Monitoring and Evaluation

Summarize the process of data collection in your court, particularly focusing on how you use the data you collect to modify and improve your services, equity, and policies/procedures.

Consider adding information from one or two these prompts (if applicable to your court) related to best practices. Remember, you only have 5 minutes so focus on telling a specific story with the information rather than discussing all the prompts.

- Give a specific data “story” – information you collected that helped you identify a problem (and how), what changes you made, and how the data changed as a result
- Walk us through a report you would use in staffing, how data is received from service providers, and how that report is used to make informed decisions in staffings and court.
- Discuss a process of change in your data collection – why you made that change, what help you received, and if there has been a positive or negative impact on the practices
- Do you have a process for evaluation of service providers? Discuss that process and what is involved?
- How often do you provide data to stakeholders outside your local team? What methods have you used to keep stakeholders up to date?

King County FTC Monitoring and Evaluation Tips!

Quarterly and Annual Reporting to
Governance Structure Levels

Drop Off Analysis for Equity Checks and
Balances

Using data to advocate for needed services

A local MIS is key, but so are external
evaluations!

Programs evolve and databases need to as
well:

- What reports are needed?
- What fields are important?
- What are the data entry timelines?
- Who enters the data?

