



Washington Family Treatment Courts Best Practice Standards Training

Best Practice 2: The Role of the Judge

Facilitator: Meghan R. Fitzgerald, PhD

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Learning Goals

Best Practice Standard 2: The Role of the Judge

Understand the 6 basic provisions identified in the Best Practice guide regarding the role of a judicial officer

Gain clarity about how each member of a local Family Treatment Court supports the judicial officer in their role



*Family Treatment Court
Best Practice Standards*



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



A moment for reflection

- Does the judge or commissioner of your FTC set a tone for the court that you believe is in line with best practice standards?
 - Does the court feel inclusive? Are concerns addressed? Do professionals feel heard and included? Do participants feel safe and supported? Are inequities and biases addressed?
 - Identify qualities that seem critical to being effective in this role.



LEADERSHIP
OF LOCAL FTC TEAM

JUDICIAL OFFICER



**BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS**
INTERACTIONS WITH THE JUDGE
IMPACT PARTICIPANTS



**BRING TOGETHER
PARTNERS**
LEVERAGE CONNECTIONS AND
GATHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

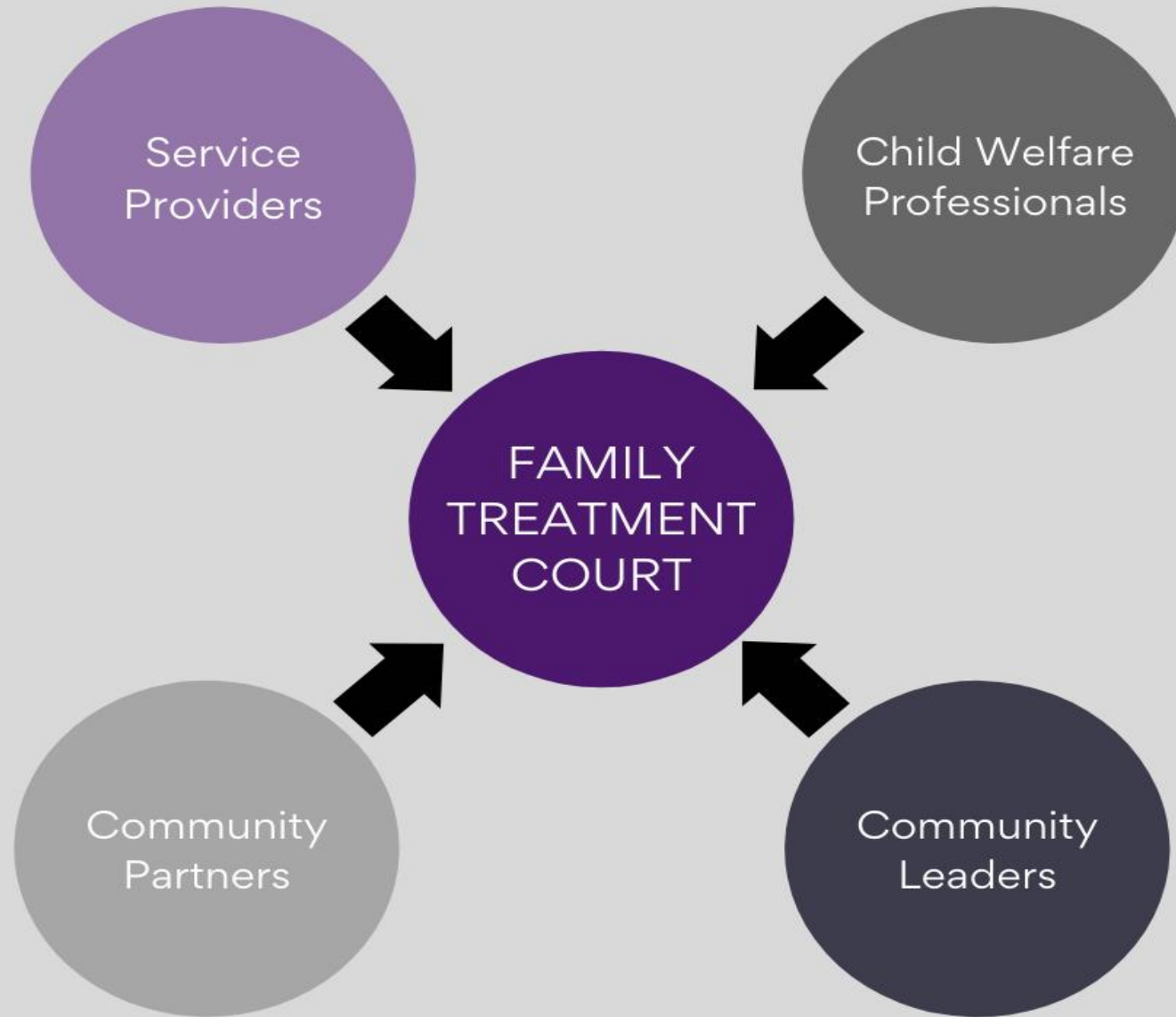
6 provisions in Best Practice 2

- A. Convening Partners
- B. Judicial Decision Making
- C. Participation in FTC Pre-Court Staffing
- D. Interaction with Participants
- E. Professional Training
- F. Length of Judicial Assignment to the FTC

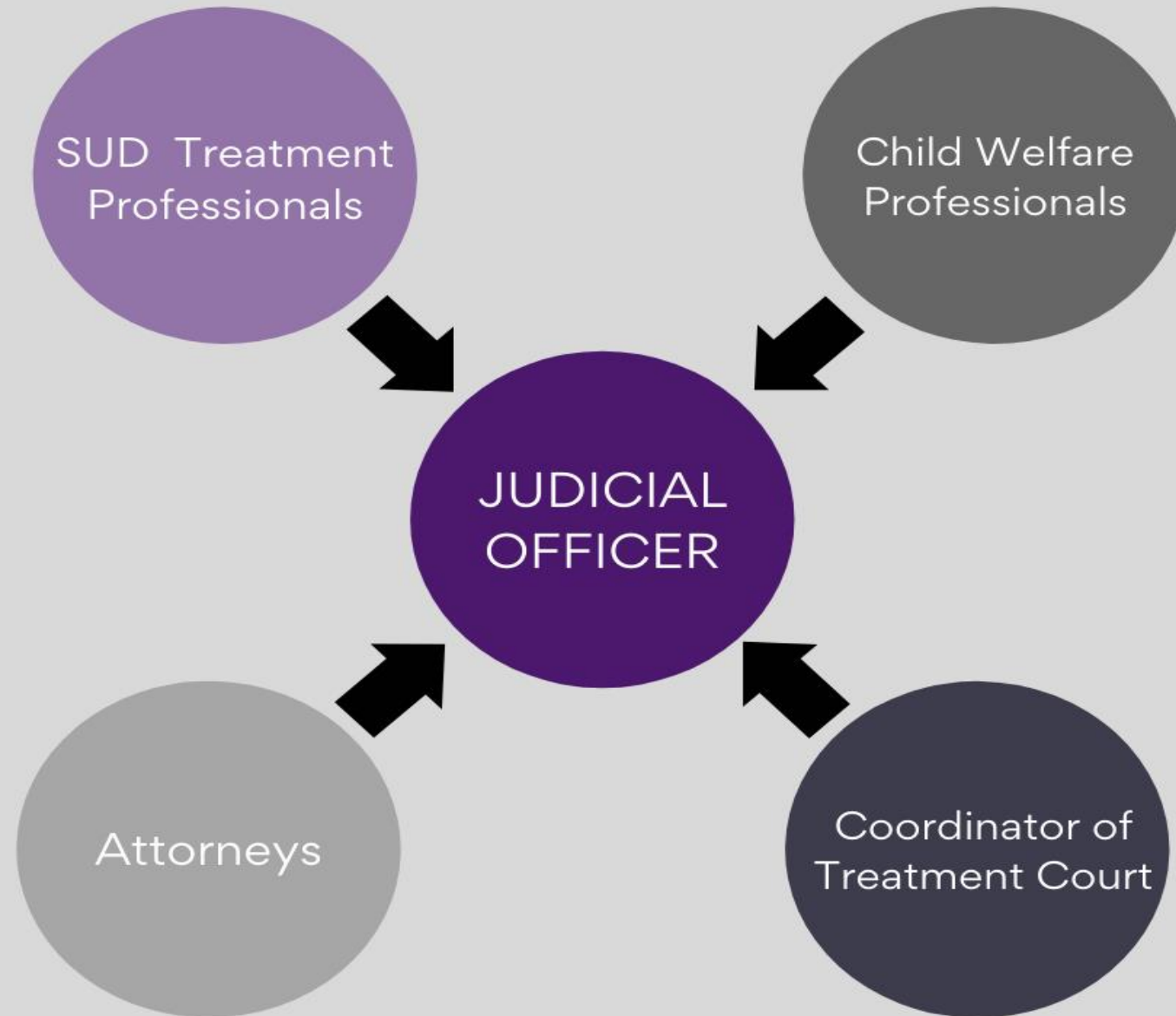


TOGETHER

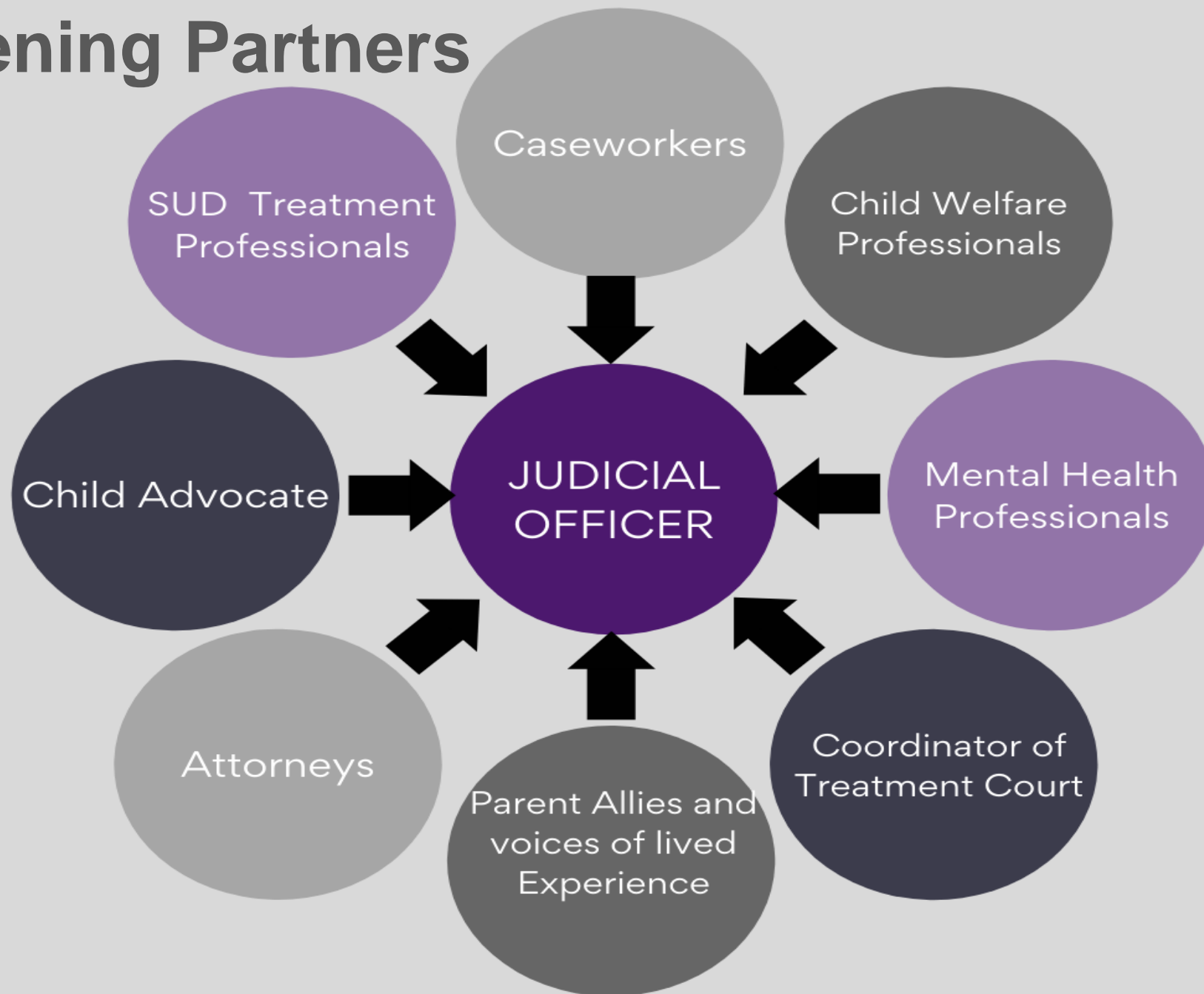
A. Convening Partners



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A. Convening Partners



Pre-court staffing quiz

A four question quiz will show on your screen

For CLEs, CJE's, or a certificate of completion. Please use your full name and email address to complete this quiz.

C. Participation in Pre-Court Staffing

An analysis of the data from three major studies including **125 evaluations and 32, 719 participants** in drug courts across the nation found that

“Team Engagement” in which **all** of the team members attend case staffing and court sessions

was one of 7 practices that related to “higher graduation rates, lower recidivism, and greater costs savings”

[Download the pdf from NPC research here](#), The citation is also found on page 38 of your FTC best practice manual

C. Pre-court staffing

Leadership

Listen and Learn Question

Focus on strengths and solving problems

Judicial and case law expertise

Set the tone

Ethical court conduct and responses

Confronting bias

Equity is enforced and objectivity is the goal

B. Judicial decision making

“The judge is ethically bound to exercise independent discretion and make independent decisions after hearing from all parties and reviewing the relevant facts and applicable laws.”

Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards p. 34

E. Professional training

Your FTC team, AOC, and CFF offer trainings on a regular basis that we've seen many of our judicial officers attend.

Three areas that should be considered for both the judicial officer and for your whole team are:

- 1) Training on relevant topics to the whole FTC or to the judicial role.
- 2) Cross-training within the operational team
- 3) Shared learning experiences, consultation, and networking with other judicial officers, both from a learning perspective and from a teaching perspective when that's appropriate

F. Length of judicial Assignment to the FTC

The best practice standard:

“a judge presides over the FTC for at least two consecutive years to maintain continuity for children, parents and for families”

+ Plan for succession

D. Interaction with Participants

3 minutes with each participant

- ✓ Strengths based
- ✓ Family Focused
 - Ask about parenting goals
 - Parenting Time
 - Medical and Educational needs from parents perspective
 - Parenting Challenges
- ✓ Explains decisions
- ✓ Allows the participant to feel heard

