Welcome. This training is focused on the family treatment court Best practice Standards published in 2019 by Center for Children and Family Futures and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (otherwise known as CFF and NADCP).

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Family Treatment Courts are working across Washington state to meet and exceed these Best Practice Standards. In our Washington State Administrative Offices of the Courts (AOC) we were fortunate to be funded by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to assist local Family treatment Courts to reach their best practice goals. In this, AOC partners with CFF who you likely know from their wonderful technical assistance program that many of you work with already. We also are joined by The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF). They are partnering with us on a data sharing initiative, as well as joining us on planning committees, the state steering committee, and their tireless work at the local level. We are honored to be joined by these partners as well as our many esteemed judicial officers and our treatment court professionals

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To start off this training I will mention a few services and materials we have available on our website in case you were not aware. There is a full transcript and closed captioning of our video resources. We also have accessible handouts for each module that are available as PDF and also editable word documents. You are welcome to share those with your team. These materials are all licensed under what is called a NonCommercial ShareAlike Creative Commons Attribution this means, you can download them, you can even change or modify them but you can't sell them. We also love it if you’d give us a quick citation when you do use them. Please share. We’d be happy to help more people access this important material! I bring up accessibility here for two reasons, one because our team is dedicated to creating training materials that have an equitable access to information and two, because it may give you some ideas for your own courts and how to make them more accessible. Please give us feedback if you see any ways that we can improve, or you want idea for what you can do within your own court system.

Next I’d like to give a land acknowledgement as we begin, but first I will take a moment to discuss why I think a land acknowledgement is appropriate for this virtual space. In Washington State, there are 29 federally recognized tribes, and a further 12 that are not recognized or are located across state lines but have ancestral territories in what is now Washington State. At a conference I attended recently, the Director of the National Native Children’s Trauma Center, Dr. Maegan Rides At The Door, made a comment the really struck me. She said that when we work with people who have experienced trauma we need to start changing the question from “what is wrong with you?” to “what *happened* to you” and when we think of systemic traumatic experiences like the historic and present-day trauma of colonization on Native American and Alaskan Native people we need to do the same. The question isn’t “what is wrong with your community? It is “what happened to your community” because we cannot have healing until we are addressing the right problem.

So, if we could take a moment to learn from our Native American colleagues and friends, let us take some time to reflect on the history of the land we stand on, geographically, ecologically, and from a human historical perspective. Let us hope that this helps us to center ourselves on the work we have to do today, as well as to remember all of the people who worked, often by force, to help our community to reach a place where we can come together, now virtually, to learn.

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I would personally like to acknowledge that while the administrative office of the courts is from Olympia Washington, Bellingham Washington is my home and where I am currently doing this work. The beautiful land pictured here is the Bellingham Bay and surrounding areas and I am truly fortunate to be surrounded by an amazing bounty of nature. All of the land pictured here was originally the ancestral home of the Lummi and Nooksack tribes. Those tribes were moved, and their lives were changed greatly by the Treaty of Point Elliott in January of 1855. That treaty was never fully enforced, and now some small reservations are the only areas left in the control of the native people for which they were named. Prior to those colonial times, the Lummi moved throughout the Bellingham Bay and San Juan Islands. The Nooksack moved seasonally through the Upper Bay Area all the way out to Mount Kulshan, which you can see in the background of this photo. You can find out more information on the link shown here, and on the slides available on our website. If your court would like to create a land acknowledgement specific to your local area, our website also has a one hour meeting guide for FTCs to use for this purpose, with recommendations from Washington state tribes.

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I’ll finish off this introduction by introducing our learning goals for this training. The primary goal will be to understand the background and development of the best practice standards for Family Treatment Courts. Most of you have heard that the standards are evidence based, but that statement isn't always clear, because it can have different meanings in different contexts. We will also discuss where you can find more information about the best practice standards and how to implement them within your own court. We expect that we are all coming from a place of learning and progress is made over time. Virtual learning can make focus difficult, so set reasonable goals for yourselves and make time for reflection and conversation. Consider doing this training with a partner or with your whole team. Take notes, take breaks, and take care of yourselves.

As one of our lovely FTC Caseworkers, Gabbi, once told me, sometimes you have to sit on the egg until it’s ready to hatch. The same is true for online learning – sometimes the best ideas come afterwards when you’ve let the ideas stew for a while. We know that you are working hard every day to help families impacted by substance use disorders. We appreciate you taking the time to learn more and can’t wait to continue working with you over the next few years.