



# Washington Family Treatment Courts Best Practice Standards Training

## Best Practice 1: Organization and Structure

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# Funding and Partners Acknowledgement

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# Learning Goals

## Best Practice Standard 1: Organization and Structure

Understand the 10 provisions identified in the Best Practice guide regarding the structure and organization of an FTC

Gain clarity about how each member of a local Family Treatment Court supports the structures and organization development of the FTC.

To make actionable goals to create sustainability in your local FTC.



*Family Treatment Court  
Best Practice Standards*



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



# Materials

- Mindfulness tools
- FTC Best Practice Pdf or Printed Booklet
- Note taking tools
- Materials from your court: Policy and Procedure Manual, MOU documents, Participants Manual, and any other developed materials that could use review.
- Prepare to pause and reflect

# Summary of Best Practice 1

“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)”

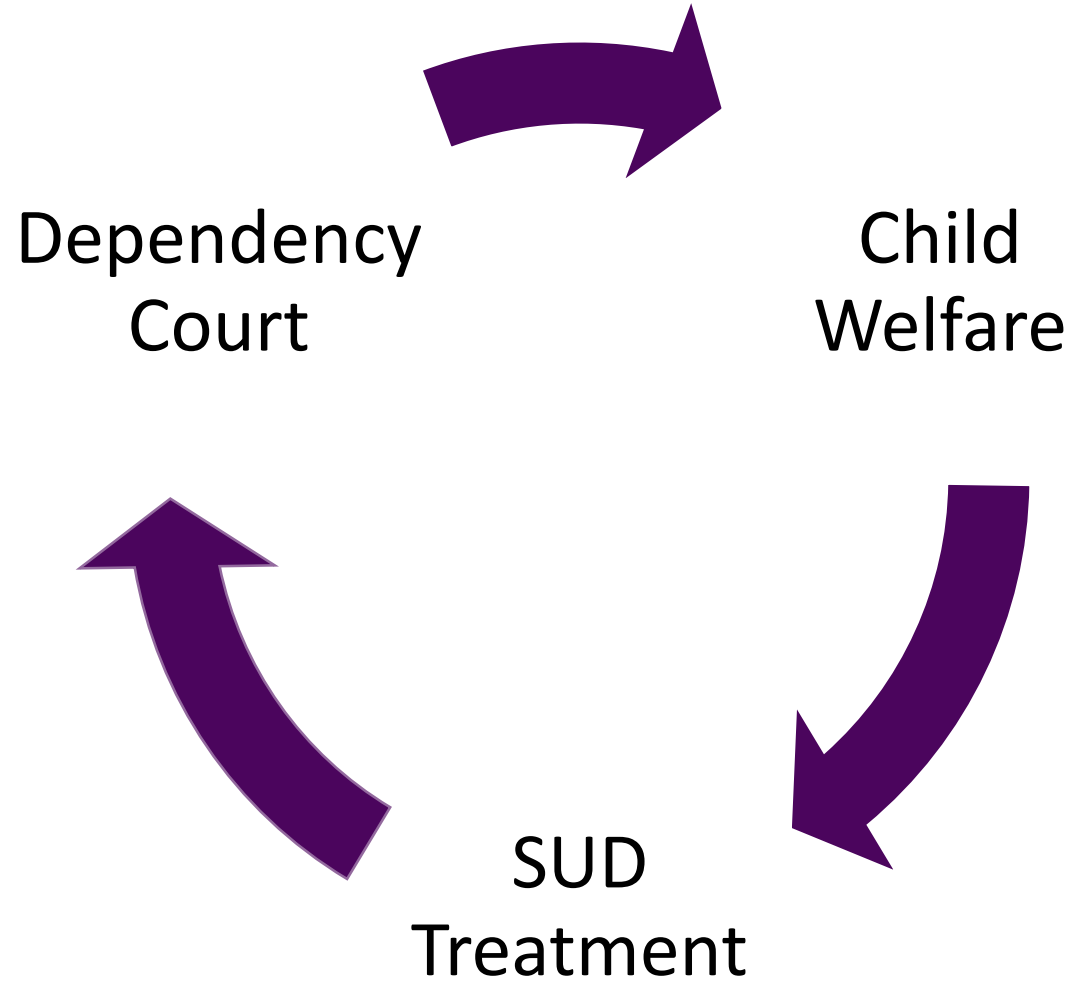
*Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards p. 10*

# Provisions of Best Practice 1

- A. Multidisciplinary and Multisystemic Collaborative Approach
- B. Partnerships, Community Resources, and Support
- C. A Multidisciplinary Team
- D. Governance Structure
- E. Shared Mission and Vision
- F. Communication and Information Sharing
- G. Cross-Training and Interdisciplinary Education
- H. Family-Centered, Culturally-Relevant, and Trauma-Informed approach
- I. FTC Policy and Procedure Manual
- J. FTC Pre-Court Staffing and Court Review Hearing



# A. Multidisciplinary and Multisystemic Approach Rationale





# A. Difficulties of Working With a Diverse Team

Difficulties that arise from this approach:

- The partner organizations and agencies working to support families entering into a Family Treatment Court have different approaches and different roles to play within the model. This may cause friction within the team if not addressed, which will translate into lower success for clients.

# A. Ameliorating the Difficulties

- Developing shared agreements for working together with a broad range of partners that are able to address a family's needs at all levels
- Ensuring that all members have clear responsibilities and expectations
- Open Communication and an understanding of a common goals are critical
- Agreements, team goals, roles and responsibilities should all be documented for clarity and accountability



# Take moment to think

- What “agreements” are important to you to be successful in a collaboration?
- Has your team ever discussed what helps them work best together?
- Take a second to look over your policy and procedure manual – is there a section that defines the roles and responsibilities of members of the FTC Team? Does it include what happens in members are not meeting those expectations?
- Can you think of any strategies to bring back to your team to start documenting these needs?

W E L C O M E

B A C K !

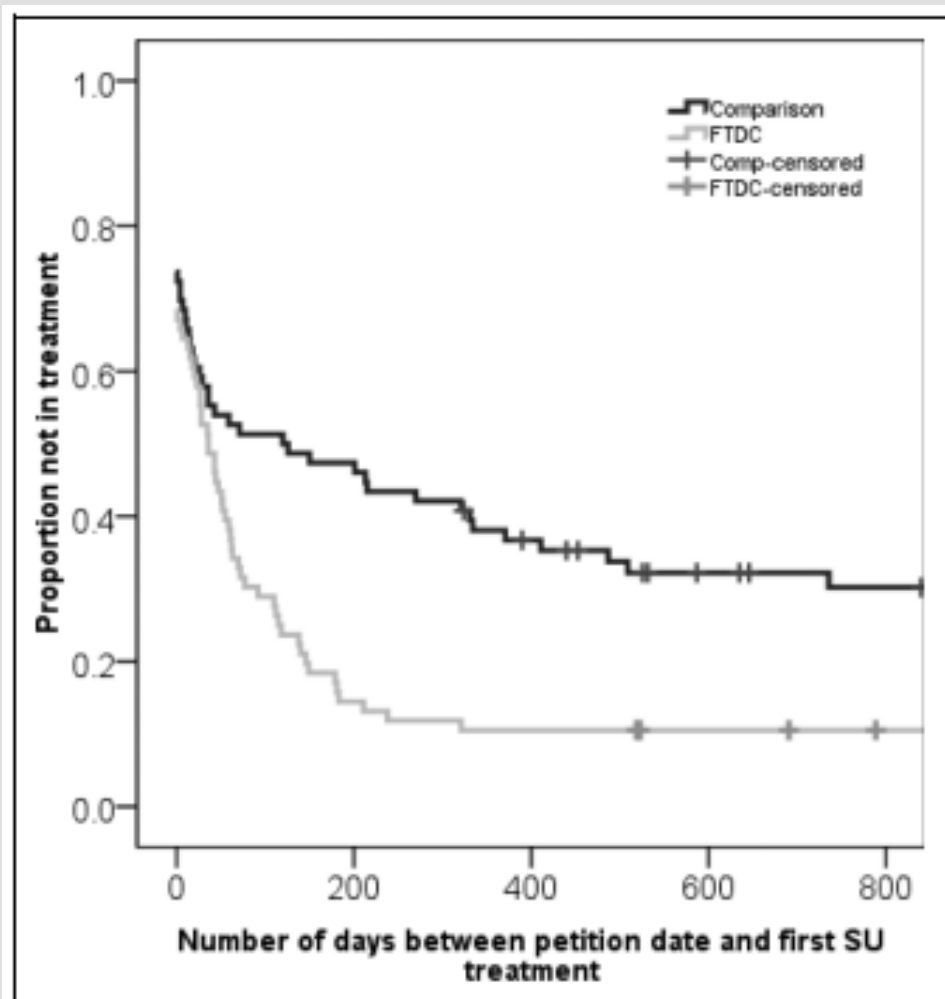


# Sample of the research behind these recommendations

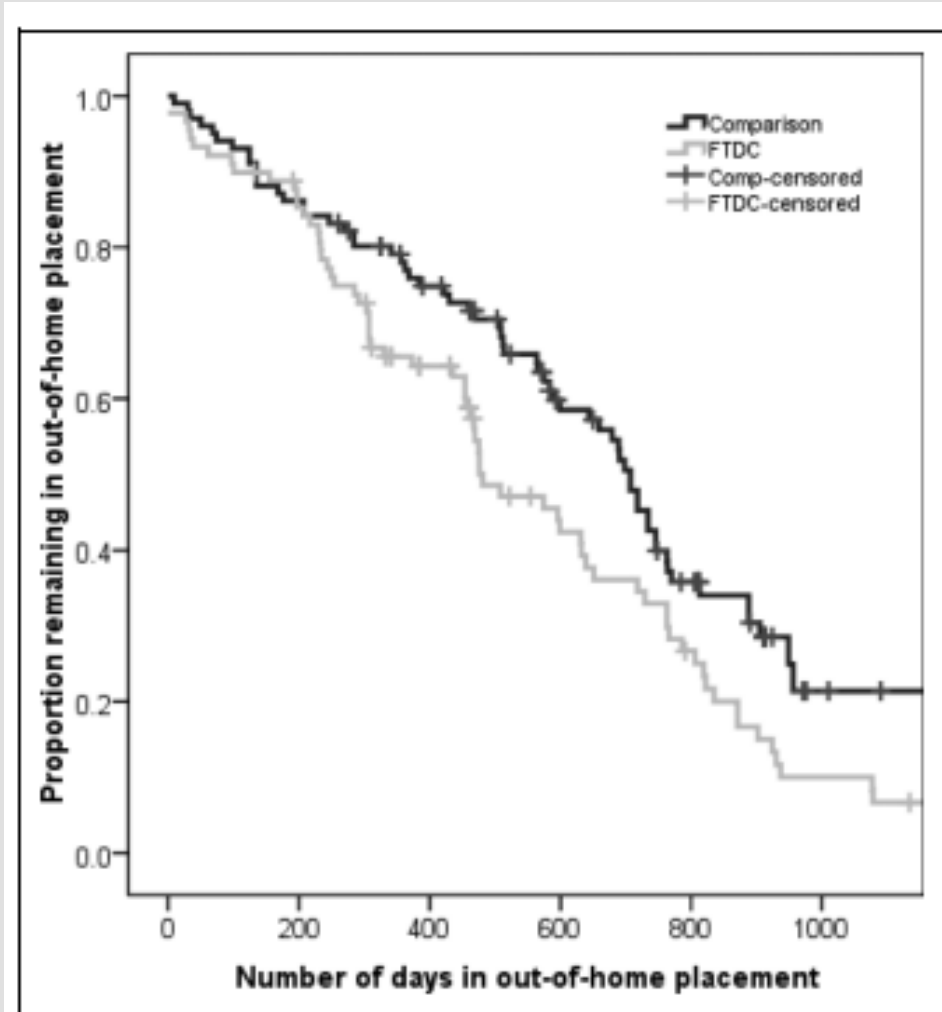
Bruns, E. J., Pullmann, M. D., Weathers, E. S., Wirschem, M. L., & Murphy, J. K. (2012). Effects of a Multidisciplinary Family Treatment Drug Court on Child and Family Outcomes: Results of a Quasi-Experimental Study. *Child Maltreatment*, 17(3), 218–230.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559512454216>

# Effects of an FTC on Child and Family Outcomes



**Figure 1.** Kaplan-Meier analysis of days until treatment entry by FTDC and comparison groups.



**Figure 2.** Kaplan-Meier analysis of number of days until out-of-home placement ended by FTDC and comparison groups.

## Some Final results from Bruns et al.

At the end of the study Children whose parents participated in FTC were 2.5 times more likely to be returned home and case dismissed (27 of children in FTC vs 11 in comparison).

If case still ongoing at the end of the study, less kids remained in an out-of-home placement at the end of the study window (24 children in FTC vs 46 in comparison group).

# A quiz on provision A