



*Family Treatment Court
Best Practice Standards*



**Family Treatment Court Best
Practice Standards**

**1F: Communication and
Information Sharing**

**1G: Cross-Training and
Interdisciplinary Education**

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Best Practice 1 Provisions check in

Provision A: Collaboration

Provision B: Community Partnerships

Provision C: Multidisciplinary Team

Provision D: Governance Structure

Provision E: Shared Mission and Vision

Provision F: Communication and Information Sharing

Provision G: Cross-Training and Interdisciplinary
Education

Provision F: Communication and Information Sharing

Reporting

- Reports from Social workers, Treatment & Mental Health Providers, and/or any other Professionals that can give progress information to the FTC Operational Team
 - Typically given to FTC Coordinator a few days before court hearing is scheduled – dependent on policy and MOUs
- Staffing Report
 - FTC Coordinator coalesces that information in a clear, efficient way that focused on *problem-solving* for that case
 - Reports are given out and read by all team members prior to staffing

Sample Staffing Report

ISLAND COUNTY FAMILY REUNIFICATION COURT PRE-HEARING STAFFING

REPORT For: *Date*

Name of Parent:	Case Name:	Cause No.:
DOB:	Dependency Petition Filed:	Dependency Finding:
Entry into FRC:	Current Phase/Date: Phase 3	Sobriety Date (if applicable): date Earlier self reported relapse date

Name(s)/DOB(s) of Child(ren):	Current Placement: Trial Return Home	Primary Permanent Plan: Return Home
		Next Dependency Review date

Parent Attorney:	DCYF Social Worker:	Child Attorney OR V-GAL:
OPD Social Worker:	Tribal Attorney (If applicable)	Other:

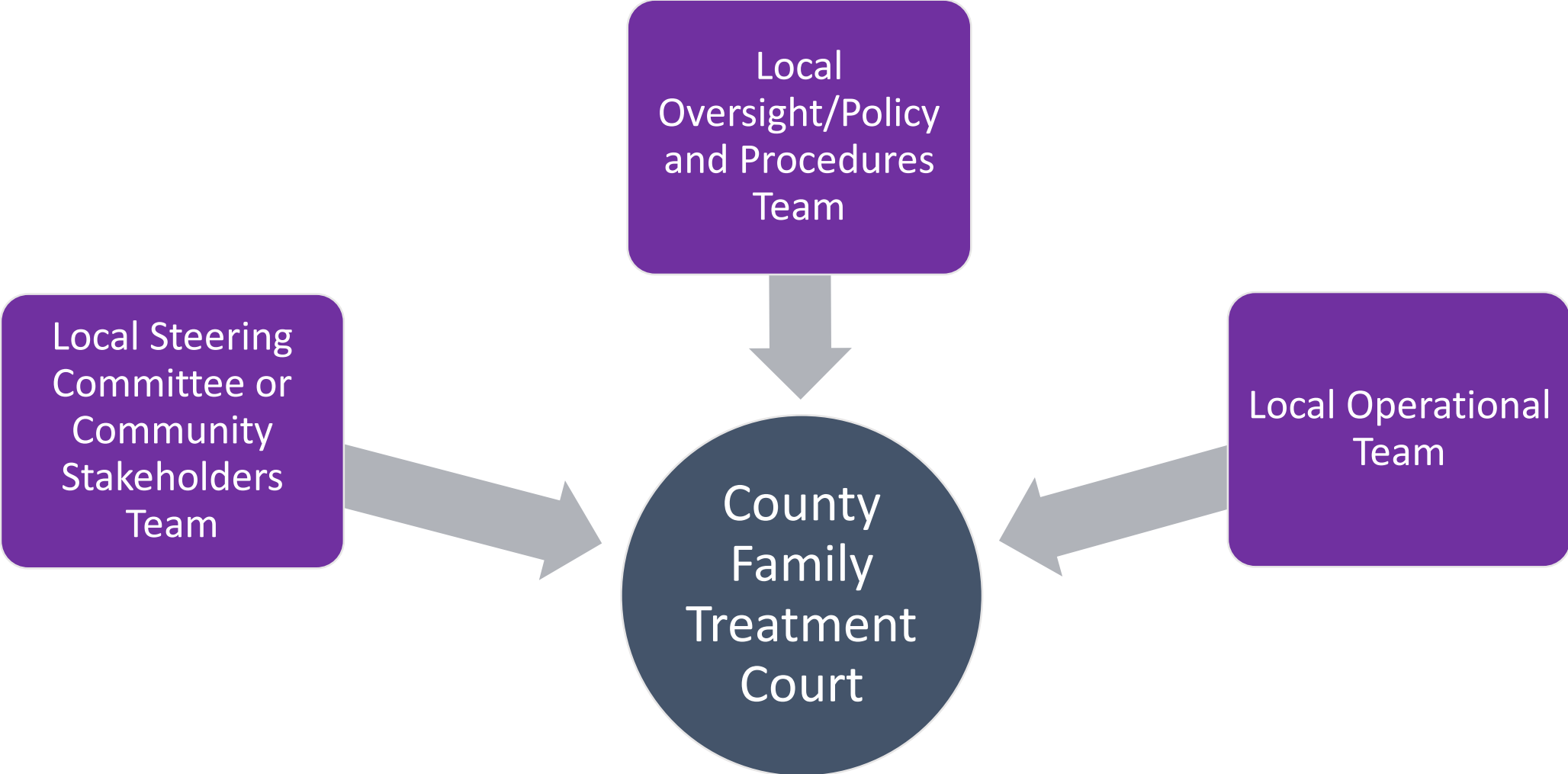
Confidentiality

Confidentiality requirements should be upheld for each member of the team according to the ethical mandates of their profession.

MOUs should detail these confidentiality requirements, and MOUs should be reviewed on a yearly basis to be sure information sharing is upheld to the standards required by those professionals

Parties to the case are still to be given all information they are legally entitled to, other information is shared based on the details of your courts consent forms.

FTC Adjacent Members



Let's Talk About Consent

Participant Consent Form

- Exchange of Confidential Information Disclosure during Pre-Court Staffing
- Must identify each team member, by name
- Specify an end date, or a specific event which ends the consent (FTC dismissal or graduation)
- If a visitor attends court, they must sign a nondisclosure form to protect the confidentiality of the client

Family Treatment Court Confidentiality

The FTC is considered a “treatment program” according to Federal Confidentiality laws because Social Workers and Treatment Providers are “covered entities”

Consent Forms and Reporting Process should follow

- HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)
- 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

Provision G: Cross Training and Interdisciplinary Education

Research has shown consistently that all members of a team are more effective if they are receiving ongoing training and technical assistance.

Operational Team needs ongoing training in:

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Best Practice Standards
- Changes and Updates to Operational Structure of the FTC
- A comprehensive onboarding process for new members

Crossing Training

As an interdisciplinary team, all members can benefit from mutually beneficial topics such as:

- Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (JEDI or DEI) topics
- Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)
- State child welfare standards
 - Family Time Law
 - Plans of Safe Care
- Indian Child Welfare Act, Tribal Mandates and Laws, Local Tribal Cultural Practices
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
- Substance Use, Trauma, Mental Health Disorders, Effective Treatment Approaches

Suggestion

Many teams find a brown-bag cross training opportunities developed by members of the team both cost and time effective

New Members should review policy and procedures manuals, meet with each team member, and observe a pre-court staffing and review hearing

Each team member should consider mentoring a replacement in case of illness and to ensure a smooth transition if they receive a new position

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