



WASHINGTON FAMILY TREATMENT COURT NEWSLETTER

The Administrative Office of the Courts received a grant from OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) to support and enhance the existing Washington Family Treatment Courts' ability to serve families. The FTC Project Team was hired in the spring of 2021 and includes Julie Lowery, Project Manager; Dr. Meghan Fitzgerald, Training Coordinator; Dr. Mikala Meize-Bowers, Sr. Research Associate; and Gia Valentine, Assistant. The team aspires to send a quarterly newsletter to provide updates on grant activities, information about trainings, data, and technical assistance, and highlights from local sites. Please contact us if you have anything in particular you'd like us to include in the newsletters!

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
- **TRAINING INFORMATION**
- **TECHICAL ASSISTANCE**
- **HAVE YOU HEARD?**
- **WA FTC STEERING COMMITTEE**
- **DATA COLLECTION**
- **JUST DATA JANUARY**

FAMILY TREATMENT COURT EVENTS

Coordinator Conversations - 1st Monday of the month (generally) at 11am
Judicial Officer Conversations - Quarterly, beginning Feb 8 at noon
Meeting Facilitation Training (for Coordinators) - dates as pre-arranged
Steering Committee Meetings - Monthly (currently 2nd Monday at 11am)

JANUARY Just Data January

Tues, Jan 4, 8am - 9am Performance Reporting Q & A with Mikala
Thurs, Jan 6, 4pm - 5pm Performance Reporting Q & A with Mikala
Fri, Jan 7, All-Sites Survey Due
Mon, Jan 10 5pm FTC Performance Reports due
Tues, Jan 11, 11 am - 12pm Coordinator Conversation

FEBRUARY Ensuring Equity and Inclusion

Mon, Feb 7, 11am - 12pm Coordinator Conversation
Tues, Feb 8, 12pm - 1pm Judicial Officer Conversation
Fri, Feb 11, 9am - 11am Cultivating Belonging, Equity and Diversity in Family Treatment Courts
Date TBD Planning Meeting - 2022 All-Sites

MARCH

Mon, Mar 7, 11am - 12pm Coordinator Conversation
Date TBD Planning Meeting - 2022 All-Sites

Trainings

Dr. Meghan Fitzgerald, FTC Training Coordinator, will create and facilitate live trainings during the course of the three year grant. She is also developing online self-paced trainings on all 8 FTC Best Practice Standards.

FTC online modules:

- FTC All-Sites Meeting (9/24/2021) recorded
- Best Practice Standard 1: Organization and Structure
- Best Practice Standard 2: Role of the Judge

Upcoming Trainings:

- February 11, 2022 - Cultivating Belonging, Equity and Diversity in FTCs Register [Here!](#)

Technical Assistance

The FTC Team responded to 37 requests for technical assistance (June-Dec 2021). Examples of TA include information and resources on other FTC models/structures; clarification about Best Practice Standards, example MOUs, handbooks, and/or Policy and Procedures Manuals, and feedback on court processes, data collection and documents. For technical assistance requests, contact [Gia Valentine](#) and she will direct your question to the correct person.

Have You Heard?

We'd love to share your stories about successes, changes, and innovative practices. Please email [Gia Valentine](#) with anything you'd like to share.



Washington FTC Steering Committee

Guided by a family focused and anti-racist informed lens, the FTC steering committee supports Family Treatment Courts with resources, knowledge, and best practice models to ensure that all families in Washington can receive and be empowered by equitable access, equitable care, and equitable outcomes.

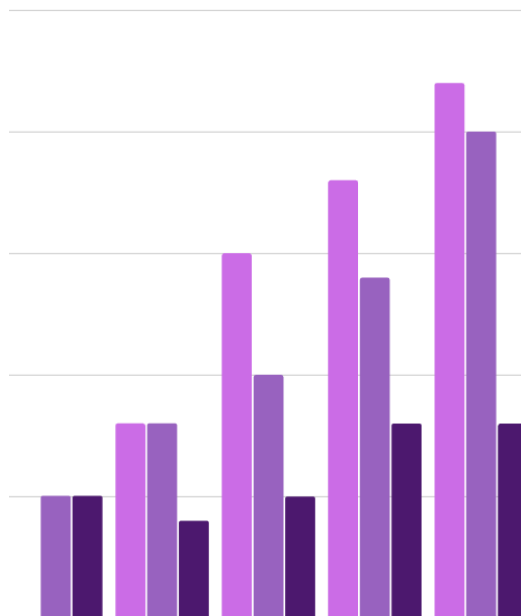
The Washington State FTC Steering Committee began meeting during the summer of 2021. After mapping initiatives across the state which overlap the needs of FTC participants, the committee established a workgroup to address the housing needs of families in the dependency system. The steering committee seeks to problem-solve issues shared across the state, as well as review policy and practice. If you have an issue you would like to bring to the steering committee, please fill out this [form](#).

Members: DCYF representatives - Maria Zdzieblowski (FFPSA Administrator), Erinn Havig (Primary and Community Prevention Lead), Kui Hug (Tumwater Area Administrator), Greg Williamson (Housing Program Director), Vickie Ybarra (Office of innovation, Alignment and Accountability), Steve Grilli (Asst Sec Prevention & Client Svcs); HCA representatives - Liz Venuto (Children, Youth & Family BH Section Supervisor), Kim Wright (Criminal Justice BH Administrator), Mandy Huber (Program Administrator, BH Policy CLIP), Sarah Pine (FASD Programs and Special Projects), Kris Shera (State Opioid Coord); Shawn Powell (P4P Coordinator); Chris Desmond (Parent Attorney); Melissa Macdougall (Youth Attorney), Tonia McLanahan (OPD SSS), Jason Bragg (OPD SSS), Laurie Lippold (P4C Dir of Public Policy); Judge Sharonda Amamillo; Judge Andrea Jarmon (Industrial Appeals), Commissioner Shane Silverthorn, Lisa Dabalos-McMahon (OPD Managing Attorney), Michael Mirra (THA ED, retired)

Data Collection

In early November Dr. Mikala Meize-Bowers, FTC Senior Research Associate, sent a copy of the WA FTC Performance Reporting Form (attached) to all FTC Coordinators, and respectfully requested the form be completed (as best they can) and returned to AOC twice a year (by Jan. 10 and July 10). This request was made for the following reasons:

- As a grant recipient, we are required to provide reports semi-annually to OJJDP.
- There is no statewide repository of this information, and the FTC Team at AOC is reliant on you sharing this information with us to know how to best support each team.
- Many of you asked what data you should be collecting, so you can review and begin continuous quality improvement (FTC Best Practice 8). In response, Mikala modified the extensive OJJDP Performance Measures to a more basic form, as a starting point, for you to assess who you are serving and their timelines through the program.



FTC Performance Reporting Q & A

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 8-9am

[Click here for the zoom link!](#)

Thursday, Jan. 6, 4-5pm

[Click Here for the Zoom Link!](#)

As the due date for the initial report approaches (Monday, Jan. 10), you are invited to join Mikala's open office hours with your questions!

JUST DATA JANUARY

Data collection and analysis is an important component of the Family Treatment Court best practices. These processes help teams self-assess their programs, participate in continuous quality improvement efforts, and even apply for grants or create news releases.

Throughout January we will bring you tools, tips, and tricks about how to use the data we've asked you to collect for the performance report. We'll offer meeting times and sample materials, and will make ourselves available for questions and discussion. We look forward to seeing you during Just Data January, and can't wait to see the innovative ways you come up with to use your data more effectively!