



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
- CHANGE MANAGEMENT
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- DATA COLLECTION
- HAVE YOU HEARD?
- REUNIFICATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

FAMILY TREATMENT COURT EVENTS

- Coordinator Conversations – 1st Monday of the month (generally) at 11am
- Social Worker COP - 4th Tuesday of the month at 4pm
- Peers & Advocates Monthly Meeting - 2nd Monday of the month at 4pm
- Judicial Officer Conversations – Quarterly, next one is August 9th at 12pm
- Steering Committee Meetings – Monthly (currently 3rd Friday at 11am)
- Attorney Conversations- Quarterly, next one is September 2nd at 1pm

July

- Sun, July 10, FTC Performance Measures Due
- Mon, July 11, 4pm - 5pm Peers & Advocates COP
- Fri, July 15, 11am - 12pm FTC Steering Committee Meeting
- Tues - Thurs, July 19 - 21, Yakama Nation Behavioral Health Conference
- Mon - Thurs, July 25 - 28, NADCP Conference

August

- Mon, August 1, 11am – 12pm Coordinator Conversation
- Thurs, August 4, 11:30am - 1:30pm WA Statewide HOPE Webinar
- Mon, August 8, 4pm - 5pm Peers & Advocates COP
- Tues, August 9, 12pm – 1pm Judicial Officer Conversation
- Fri, August 19, 11am - 12pm FTC Steering Committee Meeting
- Mon, August 29, 11am – 12pm Coordinator Conversation

September

- Fri, September 2, 1pm - 2pm Attorney Conversation
- Mon, September 12, 4pm - 5pm Peers & Advocates COP
- Fri, September 16, 11am - 12pm FTC Steering Committee Meeting
- Tues- Thurs, Sept 26-28, Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training
- Fri, September 30, 8:30am - 12:30pm WA FTC All-Sites 2022

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:](#)

- Best Practice Standard 1: Organization and Structure
- Best Practice Standard 2: Role of the Judge

Upcoming Trainings:

- Yakama Nation Behavioral Health Conference- July 19-21
- NADCP- July 24-28
- 2nd Annual FTC All-Sites- September 30

Meghan is also looking to visit your court in person or virtually this year!

If you have an interest in a training on any of the following topics, please [contact Meghan Fitzgerald](#) to schedule and chat about your needs! All of these require discussion, interaction, and at least 6 team members to be effective. Meghan is also happy to research and modify trainings to make these specific to your Healing to Wellness Court, developing team, or accessibility needs of any and all members.

Topics:

- FTCs Overview and Set Up
- Roles and Responsibilities of a Collaborative FTC Team
- Privacy and Confidentiality with multiple stakeholder groups
- Accessibility Tools and Overview – A basic guide to inclusive practices
- Effective Meetings: Setting Expectations and establishing group norms

Change Management

CQI or Continuous Quality Improvement is a process of implementing small changes to improve the outcomes of your court over time.

The State FTC team (Julie, Mikala, Gia, and Meghan) looked at the state level performance measures data and noticed that families from Black, Indigenous, Biracial, and Hispanic racial identities are under-represented in family treatment courts, despite higher representation in dependency cases over all. We have started to implement some small but impactful changes which we will track to determine if they were successful. One of these was to give an example of a racial equity change that courts could implement easily and quickly. You can read though that example on our [change management web page](#).

Please [contact us](#) if you have an idea you'd like to develop further or if you have successfully implemented a change.

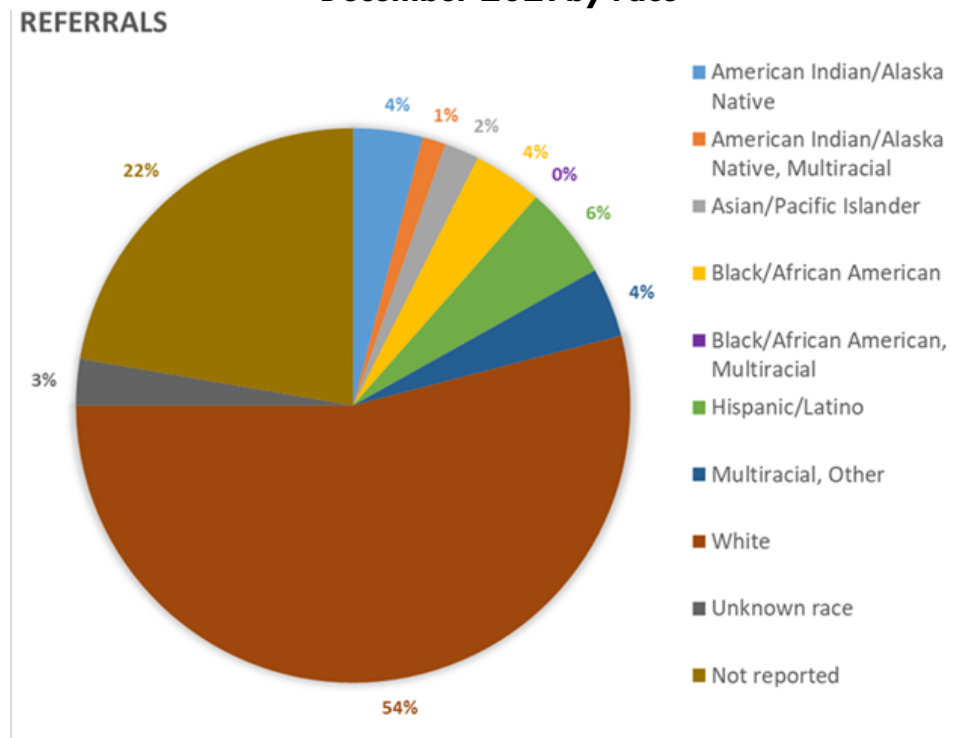
Technical Assistance

The FTC Project Team has responded to 87 requests for technical assistance since June 2021!

We are available to provide technical assistance upon request. If you have questions about policies, practice, equity, data collection/analysis, sample materials, trainings, etc, contact [Gia Valentine](#) and she will direct your question to the correct person.

Data Collection

Family Treatment Court referrals in Washington from July 2021-December 2021 by race



Data presentations are only as good as the data they are built from. In this case, we are looking at the Family Treatment Court referrals between July 2021 and December 2021 in Washington by race; something to pay attention to is the percentage of referrals that have no race reported. Nearly a quarter of referrals did not have their race marked in the data report. Because of this, we are unable to know the true distribution of race categories across our referrals. One thing we could work toward is making sure the referrals made to Family Treatment Courts are more clearly tracked. This will help local sites better understand the families referred and the families served. Consider using the change management tool to work toward accurately tracking who is referred to your program

FTC Codes:

In January 2022 new codes were introduced for Family Treatment Courts. The codes will allow local sites to review data, as it relates to child welfare outcomes (timeliness, disproportionality, etc.) and compare those to the traditional dependency track. The state team respectfully requests FTCs start using the new court codes for any participants that were active as of January 2022 or later. Thirteen of the nineteen counties have begun using the codes and are in varying stages of backdating successfully. Please [email Julie](#) if you have questions or need assistance using the codes.

NEFTC:

Reviewing the National Evaluation of Family Treatment Court (NEFTC) self-assessment results with FTC teams lead to some great ideas about how to meet Best Practices! There was a lot of information shared in those meetings, and not everything can be addressed at once. If you want to go back to specific Key Components and brainstorm new ideas, we have a resource for that! On the website, you can find the [NEFTC Worksheet](#) where each Key Component has a couple of questions designed to help the team start a brainstorming meeting.

Have You Heard?

If you & your team have anything interesting you'd like to share in our next newsletter, please let us know!

What the FTC team is up to:

The summer and fall months are full of conferences and trainings, opportunities for travel and connection, and personal and professional growth. To connect with Treatment Court teams, members of the AOC FTC Grant team are hitting the road. First at the Yakama Behavior Health Conference, July 19-21 in Toppenish, WA. Next, we are meeting in Nashville with treatment courts across the country to learn more about best practices and innovative policies during RISE 2022, July 24-28. Last but not least, we are hoping to join the Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement training in Albuquerque, NM in September, just before our 2nd Annual WA FTC All Sites Meeting. It will be a busy summer, but we hope to spend time connecting with you all, and learning how to better serve all of the families in our family treatment and healing to wellness courts.

Housing Committee MOU:

The Housing Subcommittee has authored a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for DCYF and "Housers" (public housing authorities and other housing organizations). The Steering Committee voted on June 17th, in favor of distributing the MOU and cover memo in the name of the FTC Steering Committee to seek support from public housing authorities, nonprofit housers and legislators. The purpose is to establish a collaborative venture between the states housers and DCYF to provide housing vouchers and supportive services for DCYF clients' use when housing is necessary and would work to prevent the need for foster care, facilitate reasonable imminent reunification, or avoid homelessness for youth 18-25 who are aging out of foster care or JRA.

New FTC Role Meetings:

We recently began facilitating two new meetings with FTC team members! One is for FTC social workers, and they had their first meeting on June 28th. The second is for FTC peers and advocates, and they have had two meetings so far. If you are interested in joining others in your role who are involved in FTC, in discussions and problem-solving, and have not received the email invite, please reach out [here](#), and let us know!

NADCP RISE 2022:

The FTC Grant team is hoping to facilitate a lunch-time get together for all of the WA people in attendance. If you are planning on being at NADCP this July, and would like to meet fellow WA FTC team members, please take a second to add your name to [this list](#) so we can provide you with more information as the conference gets closer! We hope to see many of you there, and please feel free to email if you have any questions!

FTC Rural Access Roundtable:

On June 29th the FTC Grant team hosted a Rural Access RoundTable! We presented some research on virtual services, discussed some of the barriers FTCs face in rural counties, and how courts are working to overcome them. We will be sending out the notes taken and a small recording to the listserv, and adding them to the [website](#) soon!

Reunification Day Celebrations

AOC Mini Grants:

The Administrative Office of the Courts is accepting applications for mini grants for local Family Reunification Celebrations! County Courts or other agencies supporting Family Reunification Celebrations may be reimbursed up to \$200 per county for expenses such as refreshments, balloons, certificates, etc. The form to apply is [here](#), on our website. Please reach out if you have any questions!

Local Courts:

Many courts are holding activities at their court to celebrate Reunification Day. You can find the list of events across the state [here](#). The FTC Grant team is going to try to make it to as many of them as possible, and we hope you get to experience some of them as well!

Mason County Reunification Day Celebration:

On June 30th, Mason County held their Reunification Day celebration. They had an amazing turnout, and so many activities and prizes for families, as well as food, music, and speakers! It was so nice to see everyone come together to celebrate reunification for families, as well as the retirement of Judge Amber Finlay. A major highlight of the event was when staff were able to give a reunified mother a donated vehicle! Danielle won the car drawing, and also got a free detailing with it! We are so happy for this mother and her child, and very impressed by the Mason team for making this happen! We are looking forward to hearing about, and attending, more Reunification Celebrations across the state!

Below is retired Judge Finlay handing the keys off to Danielle, the recipient. Next to her is OPD Attorney Jamison Tessner, and then DCYF Supervisor Shawn Lewis.

