

Washington Family Treatment Courts Best Practice Standards

Developed in 2019 by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals
& The Center for Child and Family Futures

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Website:

<https://www.wacita.org/washington-family-treatment-courts/>

This presentation is available under FTC 101

Start with a quick chat with your neighbor

- Introduce yourself
- Have you ever worked on/with a family treatment court? If not, do you do dependency work?
- Something you love or something you hate about treatment courts

Check in

- Are there any specific things you're hoping to learn about in this session?
 - Write them on the papers we have around the room
 - HB – 1194
 - HB 1747
 - What can and should be shared in staffing
 - Cross-training your team.
 - Trauma informed practices (for OPD attorneys, Social workers, Peer Allies

Structure & Organization

STRUCTURAL and organizational principles are collaboratively developed and supported by research. CORE programmatic components, day to-day operations, and oversight structures are documented in the FTC policy and procedure manual, participant handbook, and MOUs

Best Practice



(Most) Relevant to OPD

- Relationships
- Planning + Oversight
- Attendance at staffing and court
- Confidentiality and Trust
- Cross-training
- Clear Expectations of Success and Program Progress

progress in treatment

VS

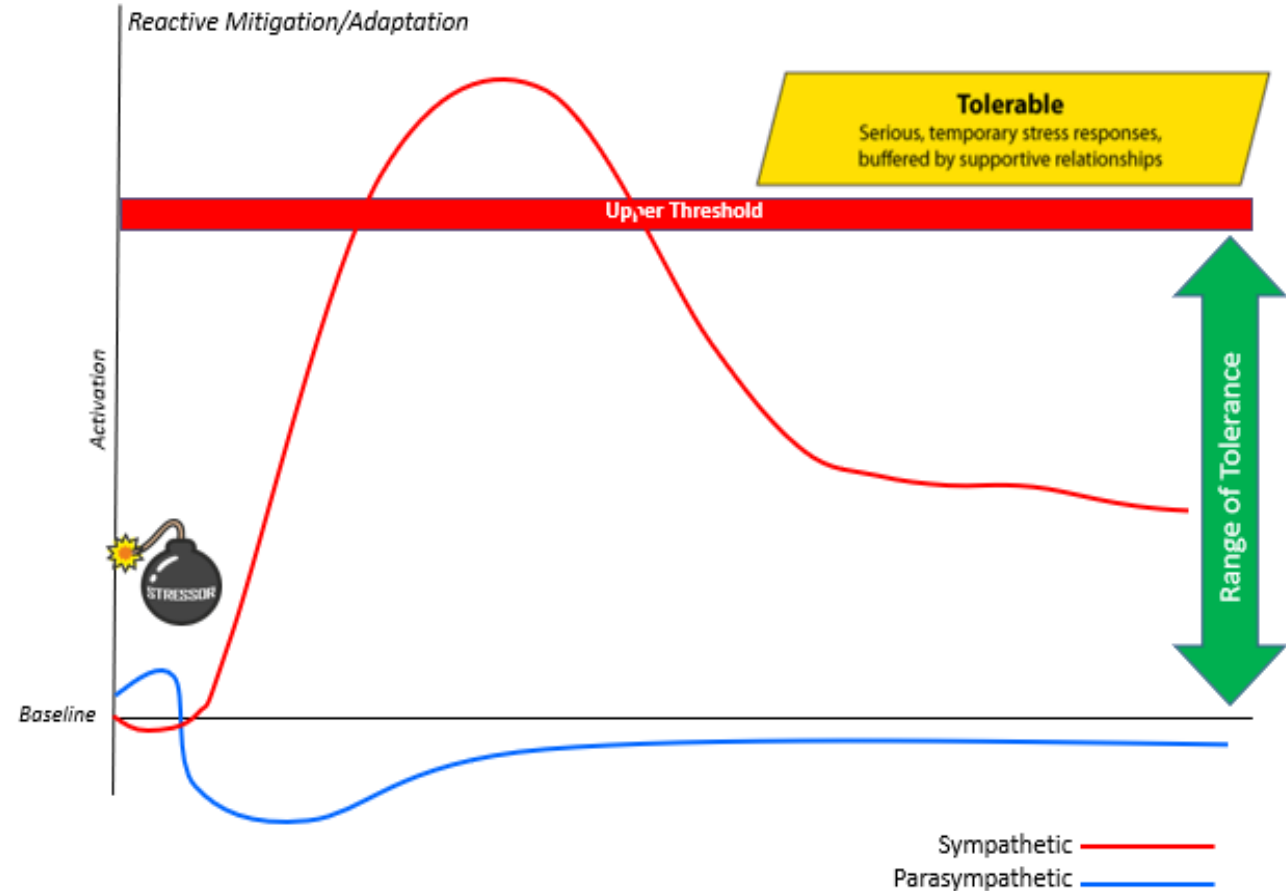
participate in 1 meeting per day + 2
sober supports, plus one self-care
activity by court next week

Managing the work load

A Trauma Informed Approach (tips) 1

Try to keep within
threshold of tolerance

- Centering and grounding activities
- Coregulation
- Food!
- Ask for a short recess if symptomatic
 - IMO, accommodation for trauma responses may be protected by the ADA (PTSD)





A Trauma Informed Approach (tips) 2

Memory and retention of information

Clients with courtroom or authority figure trauma may not remember anything that happens in the courtroom.

[Chart of Trauma's Impact on Memories](#)





A Trauma Informed Approach (tips) 3

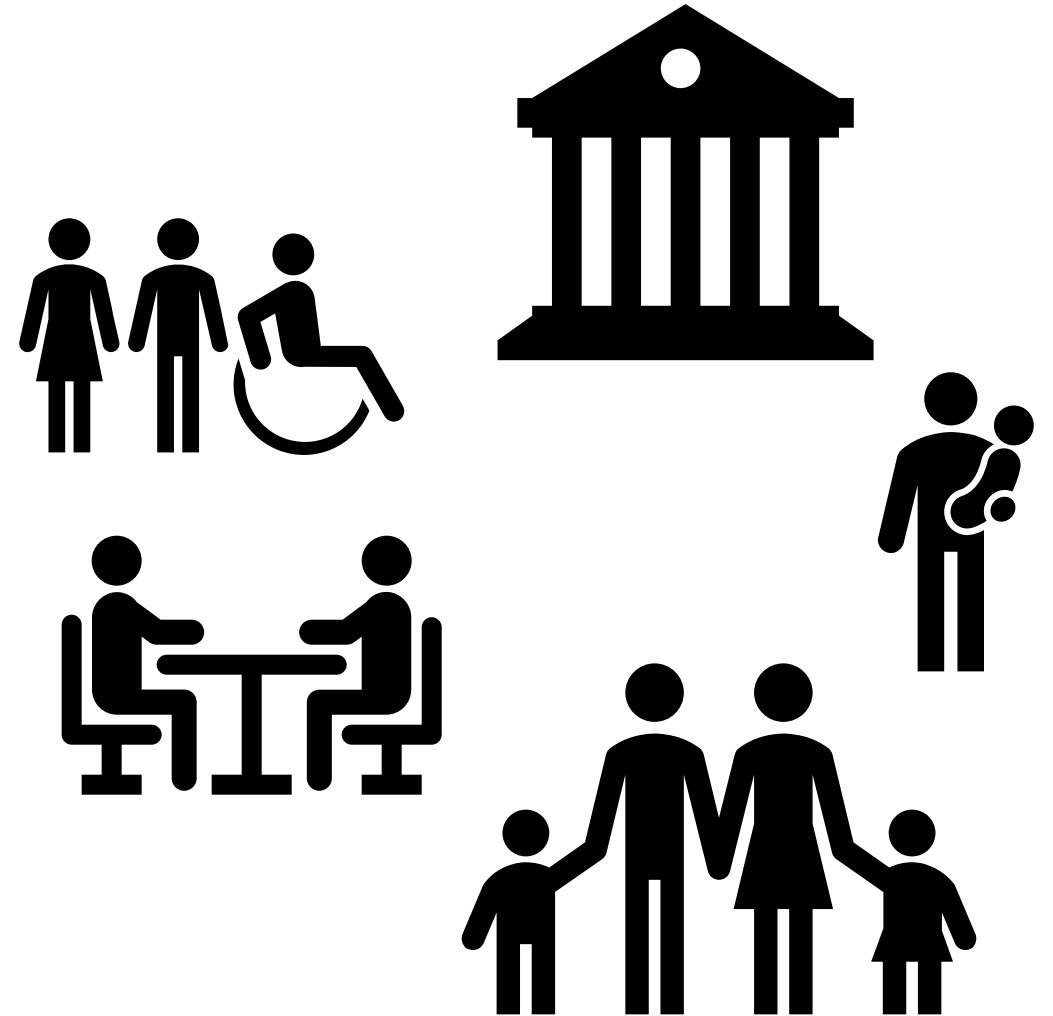
Remind Team members that **lying is natural**

- Is a a trauma/survival response
- It is **our job** to create an environment **safe** enough to be honest



A Trauma Informed Approach

What about this space makes it *more difficult* for you to learn?



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2

The Role of the Judge

WORKS with leaders of partner agencies and other stakeholders to establish clear roles and a shared mission and vision; and engages them in the development, implementation, and ongoing operations of the FTC. CONVENES team meetings to identify shared values, voice concerns, and find common ground. DEVELOPS rapport with participant (*among the most important components of the FTC)



Judicial officer should

Be informed

- Staffing = Judicial Officer listen and learn
- Hearing is Judicial Officer interacting with participant.
- Judicial Officer ethically responsible to make *independent* decisions in case

Interacting with participants should be as **low stress and supportive for client** as possible



Ensuring Equity & Inclusion

COLLECTS and analyze data to determine if disproportionality or disparities exist .
REGULARLY assess policies or procedures that could contribute to disproportionality among historically marginalized and underserved groups. IMPLEMENT corrective measures to eliminate them.

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3

Each Stage of an FTC is an Opportunity for Equity Assessment

Looking at the numbers – treatment courts are not serving BIPOC families proportionate to state demographics

- In Washington, we need to start at referrals, acceptance, and why FTCs might not appeal to eligible groups
 - Very reasonable concerns about increased court involvement by some racial groups based on history
 - Acceptance Criteria should remove bias where ever possible
 - Interviews are inherently biased
 - Criteria should be simple and support highest needs

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Early Identification, Screening, & Assessment

UTILIZE early identification, screening, and assessment to meet the comprehensive needs of children, parents, and families. SCREEN and assess all referred families using objective eligibility and exclusion criteria. USE validated assessment tools and procedures to promptly refer children, parents, and families to the appropriate services and levels of care.

Timely is relevant

The sooner parents get an assessment and get into treatment, the sooner all the other services can happen

- Higher levels of accountability are only appropriate if there is a need – assessment first
 - Consider community, resiliency factors

Mental health service

Assessment for kids – untreated challenges from kids can make parenting more difficult

Timely, High Quality, & Appropriate Substance Use Disorder Treatment

INDIVIDUALIZED SUD treatment is provided to meet the unique needs of participants and their families SERVICES are provided in the context of the participants' family relationships
CONTINUUM of services includes early identification, screening, and brief intervention; comprehensive standardized assessment; stabilization; appropriate, manualized, evidence-based treatment including MAT

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Specific to Individual's needs

Gender

Culture

Visitation

Level of Care

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Comprehensive Case Management, Services, & Supports for Families

CHILDREN, parents, and family members receive comprehensive services that meet assessed needs and promote sustained family safety, permanency, recovery, and well-being. SERVICES includes quality SUD, MH, and related clinical and community support services. SERVICES are trauma responsive, include family members, and are grounded in cross-systems collaboration and evidence-based practices

Therapeutic Responses to Behavior

THERAPUTIC responses (e.g., child safety interventions, treatment adjustments) are applied to improve parent, child, and family functioning; ensure children's safety, permanency, and well-being; support participant behavior change; and promote accountability. The COMPLEXITIES of supporting participants through behavior change are recognized. RESPONSES to participant behavior consider the cause of the behavior and effect of the therapeutic response on the participant, children, and family

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Responses

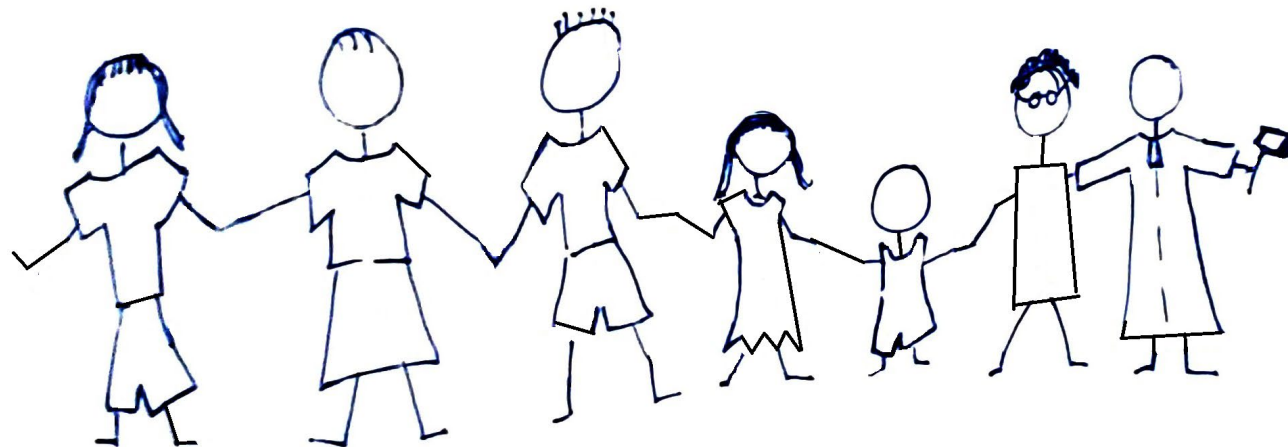
Individualized where possible (while ensuring equity)

Clear expectations if/when they will be applied and how

Shame vs Hope

- Shaming participants internalizes mistakes
- Hope for recovery moves towards goals

Should consider not only parent, but **entire family structure**





Behavioral Activation

By deliberately practicing certain behaviors, we can “activate” a positive emotional state.

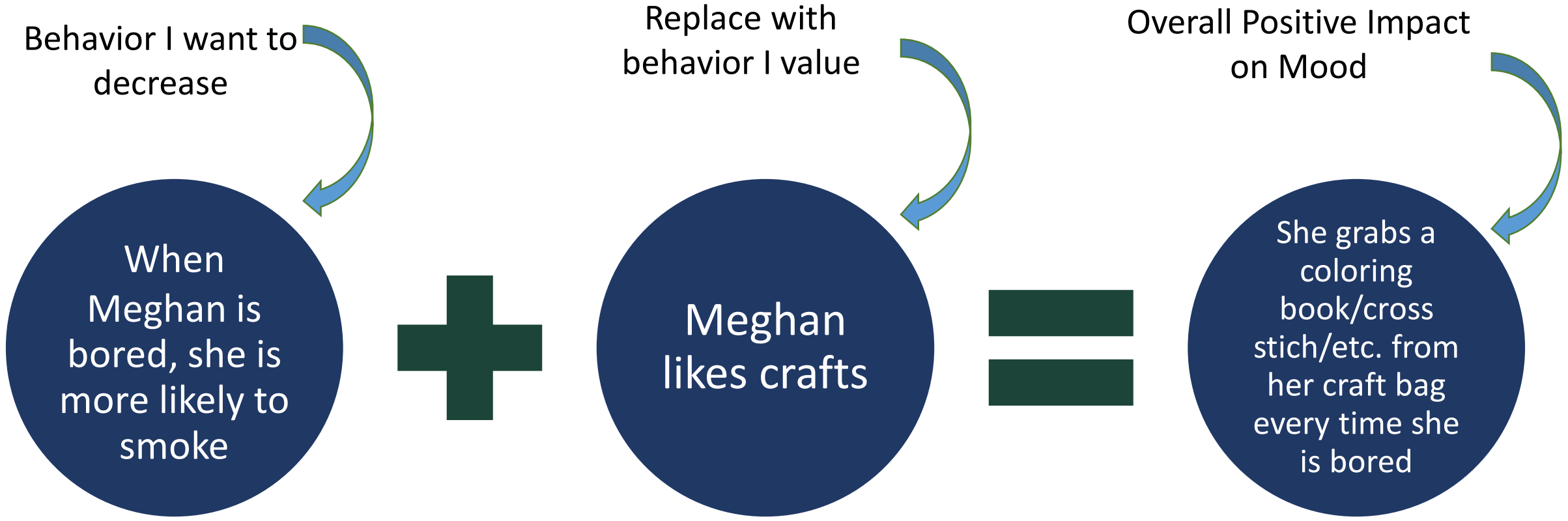
Example: Meghan wants to quit smoking





Why does Behavioral Activation Work?

It doesn't work on its own! In combination with learning regulation, therapy for trauma, & SUD treatment, BA can be very effective



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Monitoring & Evaluation

DATA is collected and reviewed to monitor participant progress, engage in continuous quality improvement, monitor adherence to best practice standards, and evaluate outcomes. DATA is used to improve policies & practices; and to monitor the strengths and limitations of services.



FTCs in WA

- 20 family treatment courts in 19 counties
- 2 Family Healing to Wellness Courts.

Provision A: Maintain Data Electronically

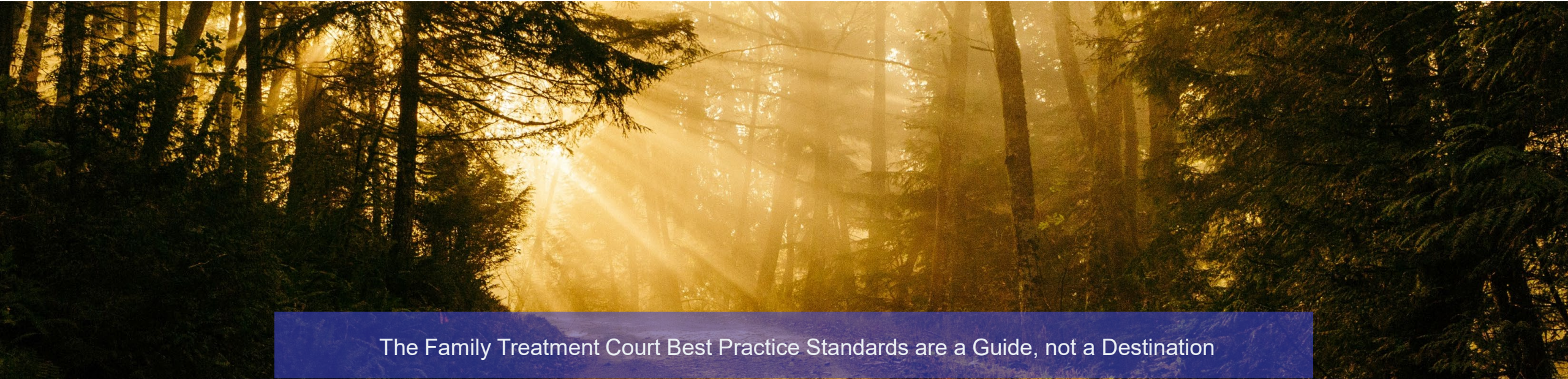
Currently Using an Electronic
Data Management System

59%

13/22 of WA Family-Focused
Treatment Courts are Maintaining
Records using DCCM, Connexis, or
some other data management
software

Provision C.

Evaluate Adherence to Best Practices



The Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards are a Guide, not a Destination

11 sites

Have met with our Research Associate to Discuss NEFTC results and brainstorm how to continue to grow in implementation of Best Practice Standards



of the Family Treatment Courts in WA Submitted the NEFTC Self Evaluation

1 Self-Review of NEFTC Assessment

Was developed by our Research Associate and is now available on our website to continue this important work!

What do we value about FTCs?

What do we value about FTCs



Resources

[FTC Training Modules](#)

[Best Practices Cheat Sheet Pdf](#)

[HB 1747 Guardianship Infographic Pdf](#)

[HB 1174 Family Time Training and Infographic](#)

Thank you for listening!

This QR code will
let you direct
download my
contact info



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