



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; [Adrian Johnson](#), Sr. Research Associate; and [Gia Valentine](#), Administrative 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
- DATA COLLECTION
- HAVE YOU HEARD?
- CLALLAM LIFT COURT SPOTLIGHT
- 2022 FTC ALL-SITES MEETING

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 November 8th at 12pm

Steering Committee Meetings – Monthly (currently 3rd Friday at 11am)

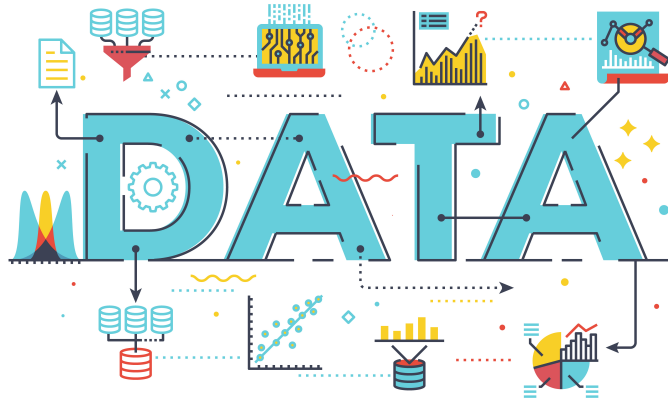
Attorney Conversations- Quarterly, next one is December 2nd at 1pm

October

Thurs - Fri, October 27 - 28, WSADCP Conference

The FTC Grant Team will be at the 2022 Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference in Tukwila, WA on October 27th and 28th. We hope those of you who will be attending have a great time, and please say hi if you see any of us!

You can find more information on the conference and the WSADCP board here: <https://www.wsadcp.org/conference-2022-2/>



New FTC Senior Research Associate:

Many of you are aware, but we are pleased to announce the hiring of Adrian Johnson as the FTC Senior Research Associate (the position previously held by Dr. Mikala Meize-Bowers).

Adrian has worked with therapeutic courts for the last 15 years, and brings direct court experience as a former therapeutic court coordinator. He most recently worked for NPC Research (Portland, OR), where he provided a wide range of technical assistance to new and existing therapeutic court programs across the country. This primarily involved in-person site visit observations, team member interviews, and focus groups with participants to provide direct feedback to programs related to best practices and process improvement. He brings a strengths-based approach to technical assistance, with an emphasis on problem-solving and improving communication among team members and program stakeholders.

He is excited to meet all the WA FTC programs in person in the coming months, and will be reaching out to your programs soon to schedule an initial visit. Please feel free to contact him in the meantime if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Data Update:

In early November, Adrian Johnson, FTC Senior Research Associate, will be sending a copy of the [WA FTC Performance Reporting Form](#) to all FTC Coordinators to request the form be completed (as much as possible) and returned to AOC by early January 2023. As a reminder, this request is made by the AOC for the following reasons:

- As a grant recipient, we are required to provide semi-annual reports 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 FTCs have asked what data should be collected, so you can review program policies and outcomes and begin continuous quality improvement (FTC Best Practice 8). Mikala Meize-Bowers, the prior FTC Senior Research Associate, 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.

Have You Heard?

FTC Team Site Visits:

Is your FTC experiencing challenges:

- Obtaining referrals?
- Engaging participants?
- Communicating with the team?
- Collecting and organizing data?

Would you like feedback regarding your operations?

The FTC Project Team is available to help. We can schedule a site visit to address your needs.

Contact us soon, spots are filling up! Email [Gia Valentine](#) if you would like us to come visit your court, or if you have any questions!

King County FTC Recovery BBQ:

On August 19th the King County FTC held their annual Recovery BBQ! Staff, parent participants, caregivers, and alumni, came together for a day of fun at Angle Lake. It was an opportunity to see the success of FTC graduates, and to celebrate hope with current FTC participants as they begin their journey of parenting in recovery. - Jill Murphy



Opioid Settlement Funds:

- Did you know that the first payment of opioid settlement dollars is coming to Washington on Dec. 1?
- This [FAQ](#) is kept up to date about the settlements and disbursement/allocation decisions
- Are you aware that about 50% of funds go to the state and the other half to local governments?
- Interested in how the opioid settlement dollars are going to be spent?
 - State dollars - Processes for the first year are currently underway
 - If you'd like to have input, you're encouraged to join one of the [Opioid and Overdose Response Plan](#) work groups
 - The FTC Project Team submitted a proposal for foundational support of Washington FTCs to the OORP work groups' consideration. Although the proposal did not advance, it may be considered in the future
 - Local dollars – The process for distribution of funds going to cities and counties has NOT been determined
 - If you are interested in having input on how settlement dollars are spent locally, contact your county or city leadership body!

Hancock County Courtroom:

Below are some pictures of Hancock County's Courtroom in Mississippi. The FTC team was so impressed by how family friendly the art made the space look, that we asked if we could share some pictures with you all. We hope you enjoy them, and consider possibly adding some inspiring art to your own courtroom!



Clallam LIFT Court Spotlight:

Reunification Celebration:

In July, Clallam County LIFT (Living in Families Together) Court held their 2nd annual Family Reunification Day Celebration. They had an outdoor event and about 75 people came to celebrate. They had parent alumni speakers, pizza, cupcakes, a raffle, family photographs, face painting, rock painting, and games!

DCYF and a mini grant from AOC helped to fund the days activities, and a local radio station donated 50 teddy bears that were given to children at the celebration!



ICWA Conference:

Clallam County Superior Court held a two-day Inaugural ICWA Conference for the Olympic Peninsula on August 24th and 25th. The event included three sessions of speakers and events: two targeted for general community participants and one session focused on Tribal partner engagement.

There were about 70 people in attendance both days of the conference. We had speakers from the courts as well as the Tribes offer enlightenment and shared understanding of the historical and generational trauma for our area. Tribal partners presented flags and items of cultural significance. We also were able to provide a catered taco bar lunch at no cost to participants.

Day two's training agenda included both the spirit and letter of the law presentations, and a panel of local presenters with lived experience. The second day also featured instruction of how to make roses from cedar bark by Sandra Horton of Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. Cedar is considered by Coast Salish Tribes to be a gift from the Creator and as such has both spiritual and cultural underpinnings.

- Rachel Munoz-McCormick
Clallam County FJCIP Coordinator



2022 FTC All-Sites Meeting:

More Insight, Less Stigma; Healing in Family Treatment Courts

Notes from Meghan Fitzgerald, PhD, FTC Training Coordinator:

On September 30th, the FTC Grant Team hosted our 2nd Annual WA FTC All-Sites Meeting virtually, with a focus on reducing stigma and fostering healing within treatment courts. The half-day was attended by around 130 individuals from therapeutic courts all across the state, and participants watched videos, discussed questions surrounding stigma in break out rooms, had the opportunity to watch our panel of Substance Use Disorder professionals, and participate in a Q&A, heard a talk on life choices from Jeff Yellow Owl, and were given many resources, including a cross-training presentation template made by Meghan Fitzgerald. Thank you to all of those who could make it, we hope it was worth your time, and even more people are able to come next year!

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of the people who contributed to this year's Washington FTC All Sites Meeting. It wouldn't have been possible without you!

The All Sites Committee met and provided feedback on the topics, schedule, content and brainstormed in our early stages. Kim Schuster from Whatcom County, Kellie Clifton from Pierce County, and Gabbi Cranor from Mason County thank you so much for volunteering your time!

Take Home Resources:

There are a number of resources up on the [website](#) that we put together for you and your team to use! There are videos we watched during all-sites on stigma and people's stories, there is a [link](#) to a playlist of inspirational music, multiple articles on stigma, and a [cross-training template tool](#). Please take a look and email us if you have any questions, or suggestions!

What had the most impact?:

Our SUD Panel was identified by 18% of our evaluation respondents as being the most impactful. The panel consisted of: Manisha Jackson, a Family Recovery Support Specialist with King County FTC; Linda Gonzalez-Spearman, a Substance Use Disorder Provider for Triumph; Cassie Anderson, the Program and Services Director for the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations; and Miska Terplan, a Medical Director at Friends Research Institute, and faculty at the University of California, San Francisco. Panelists, your wisdom and understanding of SUDs was enlightening! The video of the webinar should be up soon, we will notify you by email when it's available.

Jeff Yellow Owl is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe in Northwest Montana, and is a clinical social worker at the Indian Health Service-Crow Service Unit in Crow Agency, Montana. Jeff Yellow Owl's talk on Life Choices was identified by 47% of respondents as most impactful. Mr. Yellow Owl's gracious and deeply understanding framework for self-care is useful for both our families and ourselves. His slides are up on the [website](#) for easy downloading!

The remaining answers appreciated time to discuss insight and empathy (27%) or another portion of the day (8%). We all understand that Stigma impact our families, but the statistics show that we still have work to do. Creating belonging and changing courts to spaces of hope for families is a corner stone of family treatment court work.

2022 FTC All-Sites Meeting:

More Insight, Less Stigma; Healing in Family Treatment Courts

Best Practices:

We haven't had time to go through the evaluation information in detail yet, but some interesting things caught my eye. Since last year, we have more folks who have high confidence in their knowledge of the best practices, but less who responded "very high" this makes me think of the learning cycle, where as we start to realize what we don't know, we can have a drop-in confidence, but its actually where we start to do the real work! While many of our courts have a good understanding of best practices, all of the courts in Washington have work to do, because we always have room to grow.



26% Percent of our teams have 2-3 new people, and some have even more. New teams present challenges and opportunities, please let us know if we can assist with team relationship building. Don't forget our [resources for new members website](#).

13. **Employee turnover:** considering the current members of your team, what percentage is new to family therapeutic courts (estimate to the best of your knowledge)

[More Details](#)

- 0 4
- 10% or 1 person is new 8
- 20-40% or 2-3 people 26
- 50% or 4-5 people are new 8
- 60-100% or most of my team is ... 1
- Not on a team, or this doesn't a... 2
- Other 0

