

Identifying, referring, and engaging families for success

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Center for Children and Family Futures

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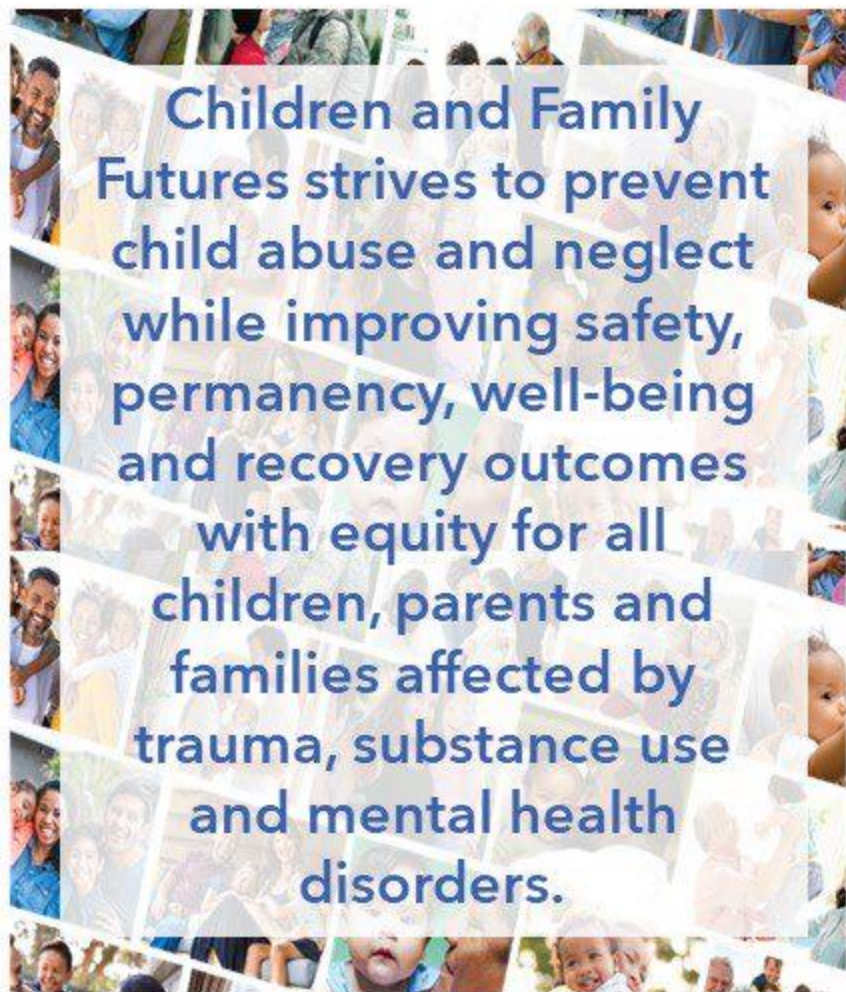


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Children and Family Futures strives to prevent child abuse and neglect while improving safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes with equity for all children, parents and families affected by trauma, substance use and mental health disorders.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES
Strengthening Partnerships, Improving Family Outcomes



NATIONAL CENTER ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE & CHILD WELFARE (NCSACW)

- Collaborative Training and Technical Assistance
- Regional Partnership Grants Technical Assistance
- In-Depth Technical Assistance

Funded by the Children's Bureau (CB), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), co-funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



NATIONAL FAMILY DRUG COURT TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FDC-TTA)

- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention FDC Grantee TTA
- FDC TTA (Non-grantee)

Funded by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)



NATIONAL SOBRIETY TREATMENT & RECOVERY TEAMS TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (START)

Funded by Individual States and/or Local Jurisdictions



CHILDREN & FAMILY FUTURES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & EVALUATION PROJECTS (CFF)

- Casey Family Programs
- Duval County, FL Fourth Judicial Circuit FTC TA
- National Quality Improvement Center on Family-Centered Reunification
- Recovery Opportunities Open for Men (ROOM) for Dads
- Sacramento County Dependency Family Treatment Court
- Sacramento County Early Intervention Family Treatment Court
- Strong Families, Strong Children
 - Behavioral Health Services of Veteran Families
 - Continuum of Care for Veteran Families
 - Orange County Veterans Initiative





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the research supporting the value of 1) early initiation of treatment; 2) family voice in case planning; and 3) frequent, quality parenting time as strategies that increase the likelihood of successful and stable recovery and reunification outcomes
- Integrate strategies that improve parent and family engagement throughout all phases of participation—from identification of potential families, through admission, to successful case closure
- Apply strategies to engage or reengage parent participants who might feel hesitant, angry, scared, or defeated so they and their families can be healthy and whole.

FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS (FTC)



*A meta-analysis of 16 evaluations examining FTC outcomes found that **families that participated in an FTC were two times more likely to reunify** than families receiving conventional services.*

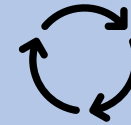
If FTCs are so effective, why
are they not serving more
families?

FAMILY TREATMENT COURT BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS

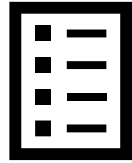


EQUITY AND INCLUSION

MONITORING AND EVALUATION



Role of the
Judge



Early
Screening
and
Assessment



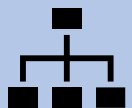
Timely,
Quality
Treatment



Case
Management



Therapeutic
Behavior
Response



ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Early Identification, Screening, and Assessment

The process of early identification, screening, and assessment provides the **greatest opportunity to fully meet the comprehensive needs of children, parents, and families** affected by substance use disorders (SUDs) that come to the attention of the child welfare system.

FTC team members and partner agencies screen and assess all referred families using **objective eligibility and exclusion criteria** based on the best available evidence indicating which families can be served safely and effectively in the FTC.

Team members use **validated assessment tools and procedures** to promptly refer children, parents, and families to the appropriate services and levels of care.

Early Identification, Screening, and Assessment

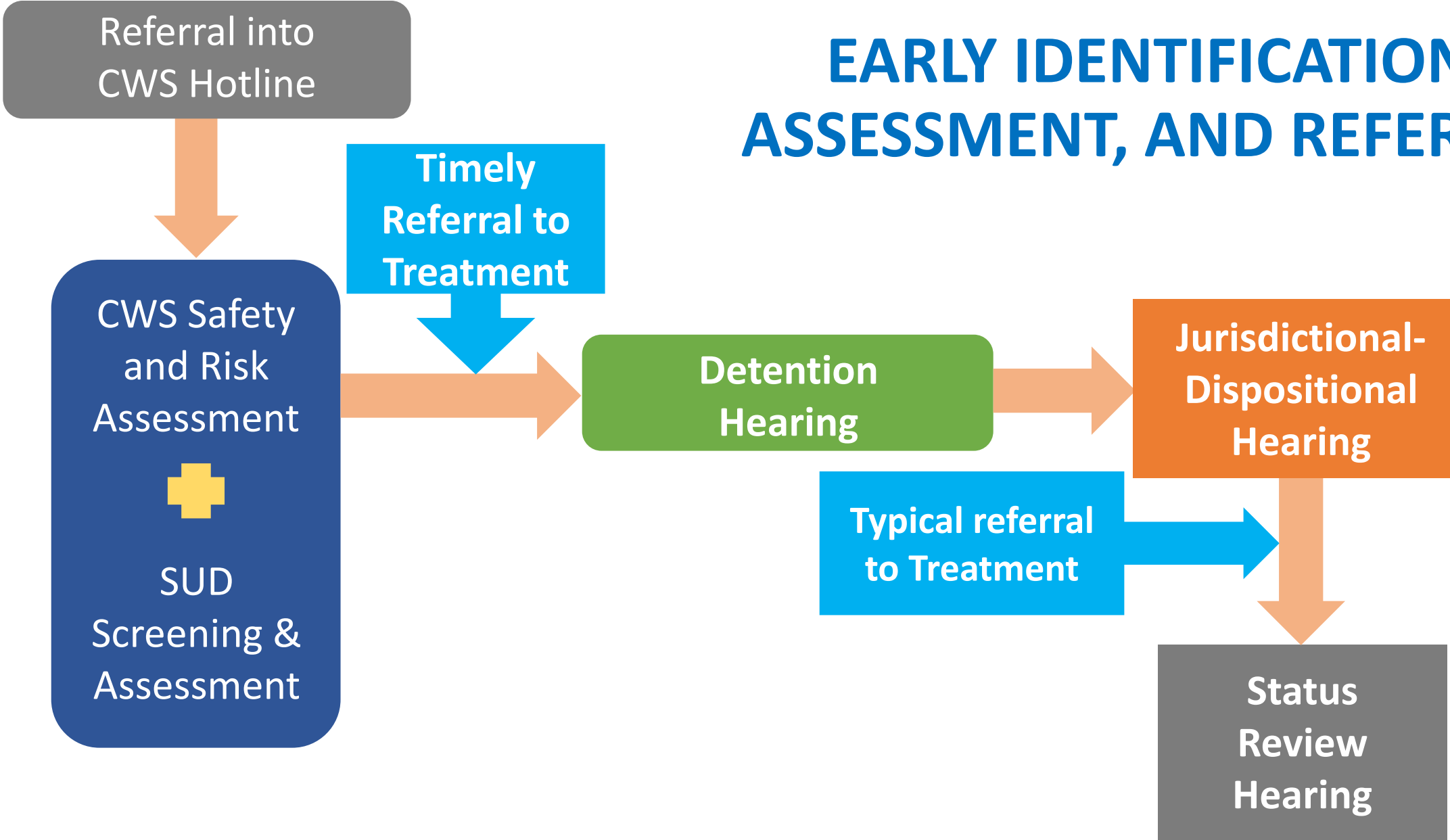
They conduct **ongoing validated assessments** of children, parents, and families while also **addressing barriers to recovery and reunification** throughout the case.

Service referrals match identified needs and connect children, parents, and family members to evidence-based interventions, promising programs, and trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and family-centered practices.

FTC team members take on varying roles for this process to occur in a timely and efficient manner.

IDENTIFICATION OF FAMILY IN NEED

EARLY IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT, AND REFERRAL



Standard 4, Provision A:

Target Population, Objective Eligibility, and Exclusionary Criteria

The FTC serves **children, parents, and families** involved in the child welfare system when substance use of a parent/caregiver is a contributing factor. It targets families that require the **intensity of services, increased support and monitoring, and routine judicial oversight** necessary for the parent to comply with the child welfare case plan, complete SUD treatment, and safely reunify with and provide a safe, stable, and permanent placement for his or her child(ren). The FTC defines its **target population** using **objective eligibility and exclusion criteria**, specified in writing and communicated to all referral sources. It does not make eligibility determinations based on subjective criteria.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION

- At the earliest point possible – integrated with risk and safety assessment by child welfare system
- Multi-prong approach – including screening tools, drug testing, reports, observations
- Structured protocols that send clients with positive screenings to timely assessment
- Warm hand-offs, follow-ups and communication are critical



**RECOMMENDED
ELIGIBILITY
CRITERIA:**

ACTIVE CHILD WELFARE CASE



**ASSESSED SUD—
MODERATE TO SEVERE**



REFERRAL TO FTC

WHO DO FTCS WORK FOR?

Families who need extra support to succeed.

STUDIES SHOW EQUIVALENT OR BETTER OUTCOMES:

- Co-occurring mental health problems
- Unemployed
- Less than a high school education
- Criminal history
- Inadequate housing
- Risk for domestic violence
- Methamphetamine, crack cocaine, or alcohol
- Previous Child Welfare Involvement or TPRs

(Boles and Young, 2011); (Carey et al., 2010a, 2010b); (Worcel et al., 2007)



*Studies of FTCs showed **equivalent or better** outcomes for the most difficult and demanding cases.*

Teams should not vote on admissions.

Standard 4, Provision B: Standardized and Systematic Referral, Screening, and Assessment

Families entering the child welfare system are promptly, systematically, and universally screened and referred to the FTC as early as possible in the child welfare case. The FTC has an agreed-upon process for referring, screening, and assessing all parents, children, and families. Any source can refer a potential participant to the FTC for screening and assessment, and all referral sources are trained in when it is appropriate to refer their clients.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY SYSTEMATIC APPROACH?

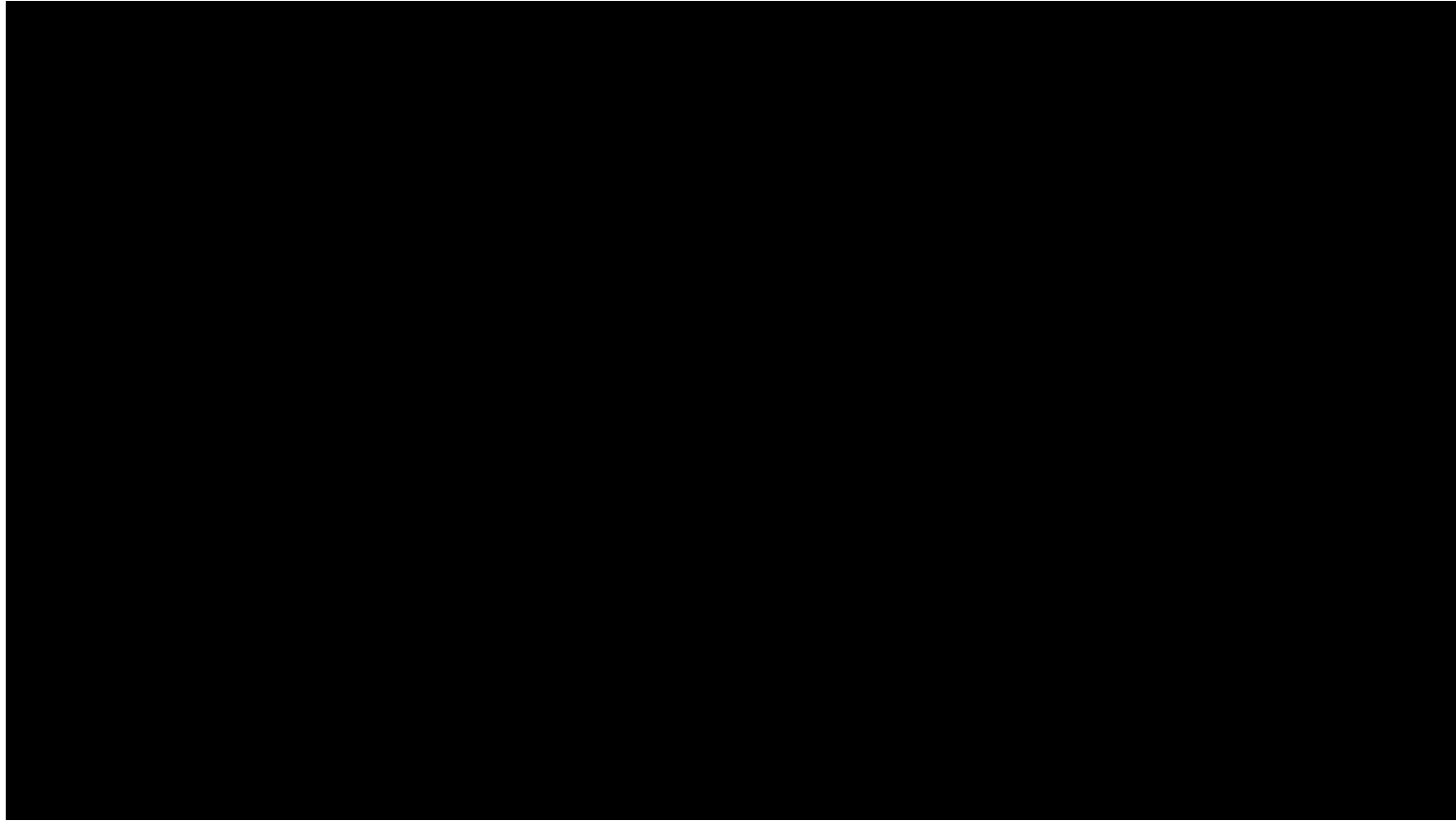
OBJECTIVE & SYSTEMATIC

- Clearly defined protocols and procedures with timelines and communication pathways (who needs to know what and when)
- Eligibility criteria based on clinical and legal assessments
- Match appropriate services to identified needs
- Broad objective criteria (e.g., all adjudicated families with a SUD diagnosis of moderate to severe

SUBJECTIVE & INFORMAL

- I refer all my parents to FTC because I know the people there
- I only refer parents who really want to participate
- Here is their number, let me know when you get in
- I prefer to refer parents who are doing well on their CWS case plan
- I refer all my clients with a drug history to the FTC

Pima County Family Drug Court, AZ



Standard 4, Provision B: Standardized and Systematic Referral, Screening, and Assessment Process

*Use of subjective criteria has the potential to exclude families from FTCs for reasons that have not proved valid or meaningful in the course of the court experience. **Removing subjective eligibility restrictions and applying evidence-based selection criteria significantly increases the effectiveness and cost-efficiencies of drug courts by allowing them to serve their target population.***

4 PRONG – SCREENING

- ☐ Tool
- ☐ Signs & symptoms
- ☐ Corroborating reports
- ☐ Drug screen

Yes
to any



Proceed to
assessment

Screening Tool Examples

- **Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Short Screener (GAIN-SS):** Composed of 23 items to be completed by the client or staff and designed to be completed in 5 minutes
- **UNCOPE:** 6-item screen designed to identify alcohol and/or drug substance use and designed to be completed in 2 minutes
- **CAGE:** 4-item screen designed to identify alcohol and/or drug substance use and designed to be completed in 2 minutes

It's Not the Tool, It's the Team!



**GETTING TO
“YES”**

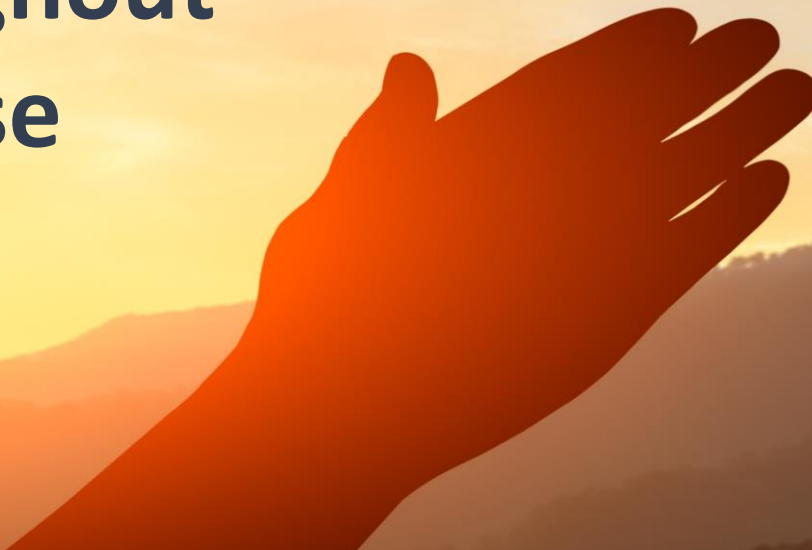
EARLY ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUES



- Automatic referral
- Attend Shelter Care Hearings
- Consistent messaging about FTC benefits
- Train stakeholders (judges, attorneys, child welfare)
- Require all eligible parents to observe an FTC Hearing
- Implement a “Test Drive” phase
- Utilize Peer Recovery Support Specialists (PRSS)

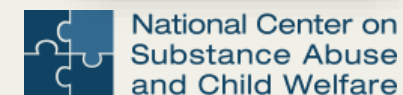
Engagement is Everyone's Job

Engagement begins
during the first
interaction and
continues throughout
the entire case



DISRUPTING STIGMA

How Understanding, Empathy and Connection Can Improve Outcomes for Families Affected by Substance Use and Mental Disorders



<https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/files/disrupting-stigma-brief.pdf>

Potential Continuum of Intervention

1

Moderate In-Home

- No court petition
- Children in home
- Moderate SUD
- Intensive case management
- EBP treatment and parenting interventions
- Expected involvement 6 months

2

Intensive In-Home

- Court petition may be drafted but is not filed
- Children in home
- Moderate to severe SUD
- Intensive case management
- EBP treatment and parenting interventions
- Expected involvement 6 -12 months

3

Family Preservation FTC

- Court petition filed
- Children in home
- Moderate to severe SUD
- Intensive case management
- EBP treatment and parenting interventions
- Frequent court reviews
- Expected involvement 6 -12 months

4

Traditional FTC

- Court petition filed
- Children out-of-home
- Moderate to severe SUD
- Intensive case management
- EBP treatment and parenting interventions
- Frequent court reviews
- Expected involvement 12-18 months

System-wide improvements to child welfare, community-based treatment, and dependency court practice

- Universal SUD screening
- Rapid assignment of counsel
- More frequent judicial review
- Rapid SUD/MH assessment
- Rapid initiation of EBP treatment
- EBP Parenting support
- Family involvement in comprehensive case plans

Standard 4, Provision E:

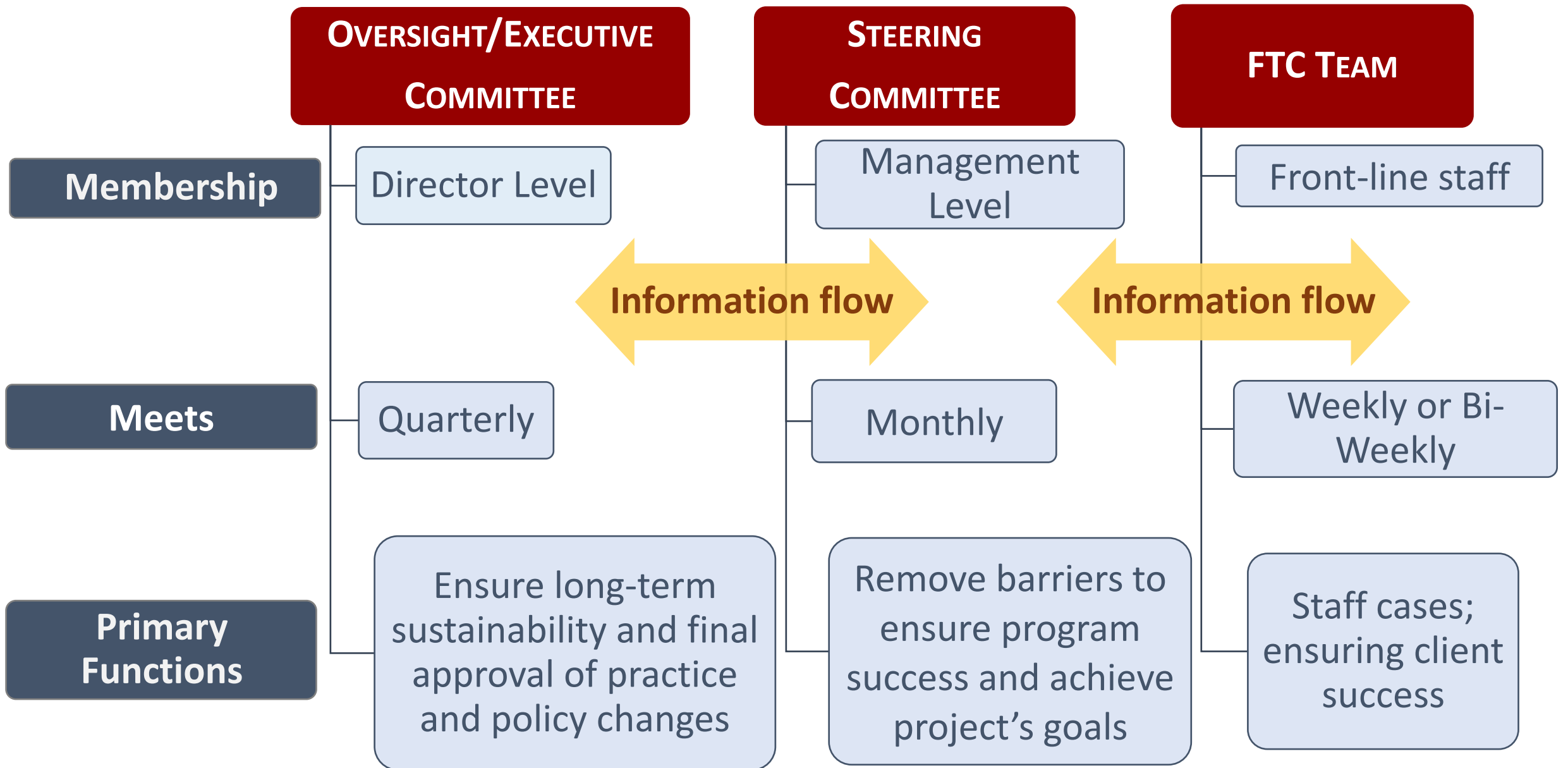
Identification and Resolution of Barriers to Recovery and Reunification

The operational team **systematically monitors and helps resolve** identified community-based barriers that hinder children, parents, and families in obtaining needed services or making timely progress toward case plan goals. The FTC team, in collaboration with the family, promptly **identifies barriers to treatment completion and reunification** and develops solutions. Participants are not referred for unneeded services; when services are needed, evidence-based options are always favored over ones without an evidence base (See Standard 6).

Travis County Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court, TX



EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIVE STRUCTURE



FIVE STANDING AGENDA ITEMS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS



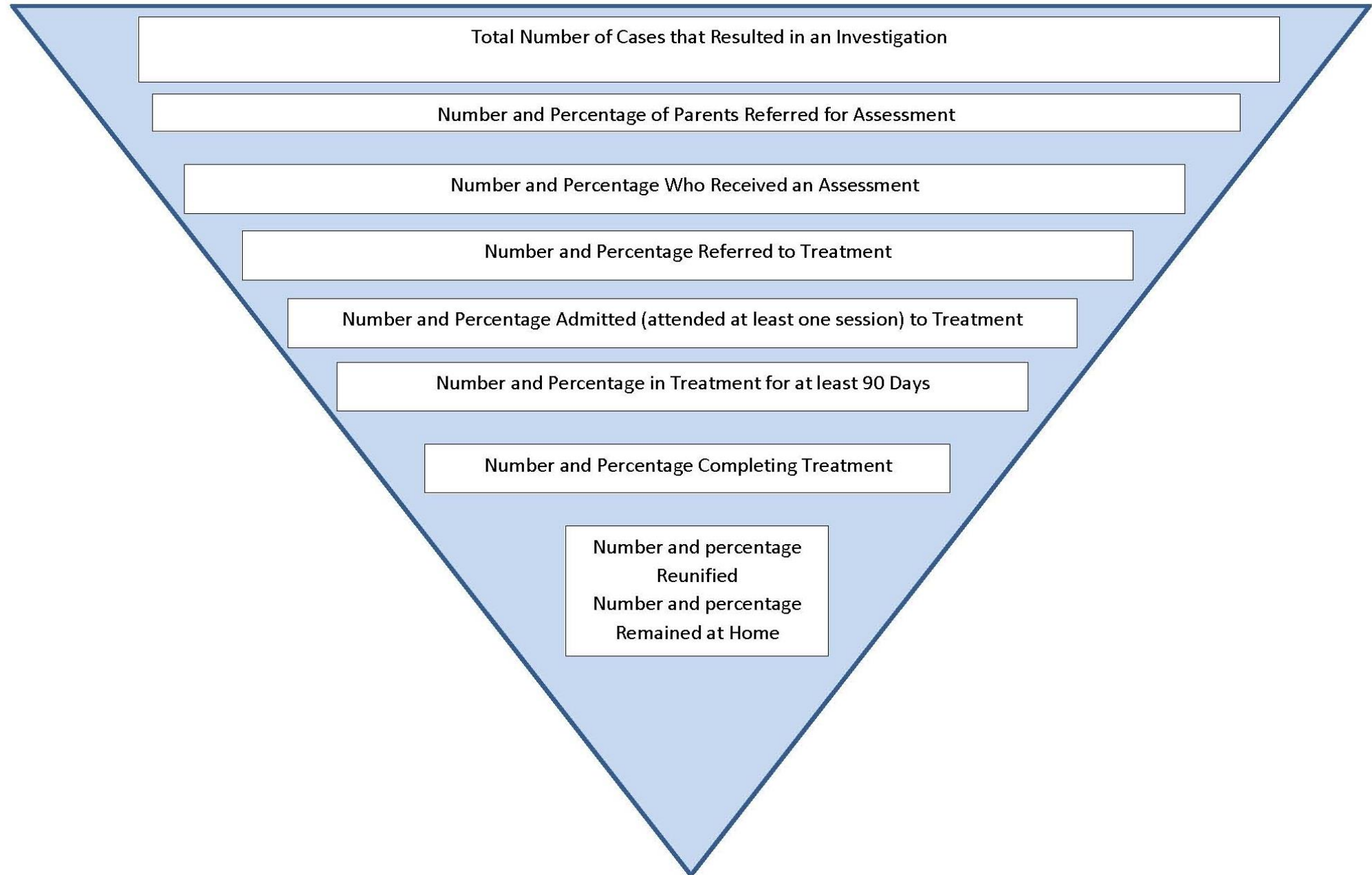
- 1.Data dashboard
- 2.Systems barriers
- 3.Funding and sustainability
- 4.Staff training and knowledge development
- 5.Outreach efforts

DATA DASHBOARD

Drop-off analysis examines if or when FTC participants drop out of the admissions process and active participation in the FTC and can be used to identify opportunities to create new or modify existing processes to better engage parents and family members.

(Children and Family Futures, 2015)

Drop-off Points



FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Peer Learning Court Program



CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES
Strengthening Partnerships, Improving Family Outcomes

King County FTC, WA

Tompkins County FTC, NY

Wapello County FTC, IA

Grant County FRC, IN

Jefferson County FIT Court, CO

Baltimore City Circuit FRP, MD

Pima County FDC, AZ

Travis County PIR/FDTC, TX

PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT INCLUDES:

- Virtual learning opportunities (e.g., video conference calls, topic-specific consultation)
- Access to FTC policies, handbooks, practices, and lessons
- A virtual and/or in-person team site visit, providing an opportunity to observe their FTC court proceedings and staffing sessions

To learn more about the FTC Peer Learning Court Program or to participate in a peer-to-peer connection, contact us peerlearningcourts@cffutures.org

A scenic landscape featuring a sunburst effect over a range of mountains. The foreground shows a grassy hillside and a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue.

Q&A AND DISCUSSION

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