

GREENE COUNTY FAMILY TREATMENT COURT



Specialty Courts Coordinator
Bec Anderson

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ What is FTC
- ❖ What do we do & why
- ❖ Who is eligible vs. ineligible
- ❖ How are individuals referred and what does the referral, screening and admission process look like
- ❖ What makes FTC different from a regular track case
- ❖ What is required of participants in the program
 - Highlights: Expanded & Designated FTC Team, Court Protocols, Responses to Behavior, Confidentiality, Phase Structure
- ❖ Q&A

WHY DO WE DO IT?

- There is a lot of evidence to support the effectiveness of treatment courts!
- Prevalence of substance use disorder affecting families in our community

FTC'S MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

FTC's Vision

Every family impacted by substance use disorders receives timely and comprehensive services for reaching enduring reunification.

FTC's Mission

Family Treatment Court will provide a model of care that is holistic, culturally competent, trauma-informed and evidence based. Participants, with the help from a multi-disciplinary collaborative team and family supports, will enact a personalized plan for recovery

COURT PROTOCOLS

- FTC is typically held every Wednesday beginning at 1:00 PM at the Greene County Juvenile Courthouse, unless otherwise noted.
- Participants will attend Court weekly, every other week, or once a month; this depends on their phase in the program.
- The Judge and team speak directly with participants about their progress during their FTC hearing.
- FTC operates as an integrated court meaning the Juvenile Judge is also the FTC Judge so the underlying dependency case hearings and motions will also be heard with FTC hearings following admission into FTC.
- Underlying dependency hearings are scheduled by the Court in accordance to milestones set forth in statute and are typically set Wednesdays @ 3:00 PM.
- The Judge will make all final decisions. It is important for participants to attend all scheduled Court hearings in order to participate in discussions regarding their children.
- Prior to each participant's FTC hearing, the Judge and team meet to review participant progress at a staffing.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information regarding FTC participants is bound by Part 2 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which governs the confidentiality of substance abuse patient records, and by Section 211.321 RSMo, which governs the confidentiality of juvenile court records.

- **FTC Records**
 - FTC files are established separately from their underlying dependency cases. FTC files will contain the signed Release of Information, Order to Participate in FTC, Children's Division and treatment provider status reports, documentation of rewards and sanctions issued, staffing notes, drug testing results, and court orders.
- **Staffings and Hearings**
 - Confidentiality requirements apply to FTC staffings and hearings. Team members and guests (e.g., interns, governing and funding agents, or planning committee members) attending any FTC staffings and/or hearings are required to sign a confidentiality agreement before observing any FTC proceeding.
- **FTC's Access to Records**
 - Section 478.005.3 RSMo: "Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, treatment court staff shall be provided with access to all records of any state or local government agency relevant to the treatment of any program participant. Upon general request, employees of all such agencies shall fully inform a treatment court staff of all matter relevant to the treatment of the participant. All such records and reports and the contents thereof shall be treated as closed records and shall not be disclosed to any person outside of the treatment court, and shall be maintained by the court in a confidential file not available to the public.
- These protocols help promote the safety, security and honesty of our participants!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Target Population: High risk/high need parents/guardians involved in the Greene County Juvenile Court Abuse/Neglect system due to the parent/guardians' substance use.

To be able to participate in FTC, a parent/guardian must meet all of the following criteria and agree to abide by all of the program requirements:

- Family has an open Abuse/Neglect case under the jurisdiction of the Greene County Juvenile Court;
- Resident of Greene County*
- Substance abuse is the primary reason for removal or creates an ongoing risk/safety concern that prevents reunification;
- Removal occurred less than 90 days prior to admission*
- Complete the FTC Screening to determine eligibility
- Completed an FTC Observation
- Completed the FTC Orientation
- Sign the FTC Participant Agreement and Releases of Information
- Have the ability to fully participate in FTC and meet all requirements.

WHO IS **IN**ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

- Long-term noncompliance with mental health or substance abuse treatment and services
- Limited Intellectual functioning that limits parent's ability to comprehend therapeutic goals
- History of serious physical and or sexual abuse (exceptions approved by team)
- History of serious violent criminal history (exceptions approved by team)
- Drug distributor as source of income (exceptions approved by team)
- Other children currently in state custody and case goal is not reunification and a new Abuse/Neglect petition is filed (exceptions approved by team)
- Not a resident of Greene County
- No concern for substance use
- Outside of 90 days post removal
- Lack of follow through with intake process

***Regardless, DJOs are instructed to submit an FTC referral within the first 90 days of a case being opened (the sooner the better) if they are aware of substance use concerns for a parent. FTC program will then make any determinations on the referral.

REFERRAL, SCREENING & ADMISSION PROCESS

Referral received from DJO (Within 90 days of PC)

- See eligibility policy for criteria that results in referral

If eligible, FTC support staff attempts to contact over a period of 30 days to schedule the referred parent/guardian for screening with FTC Clinical Coordinator

If screening is completed, referred parent/guardian is given a date to observe court and a date for orientation and the screener will score screening tools and an internal staffing is held to determine recommendation regarding admission.

If referred parent/guardian completes screening, attends their court observation and orientation appointment and signs agreement to participate and recommendation is for admission, then they are admitted.

FTC Clinical Coordinator will refer to FTC treatment provider for assessment

- Preferred provider is Burrell Murney due to specific services they can offer to FTC participants

If no contact with referred parent/guardian, ineligible due to policy, or no shows their screening, court observation, or orientation 2x, then referral is declined and a letter will be sent to the DJO

FTC Referral Contact Timeline

Referral Received

1st Contact Attempt within **3 business days**

Attempt contact at least **weekly**

If no contact by **14 days** from referral, contact DJO

Continue to attempt contact at least **weekly**

If no contact by **30 days** from referral, complete referral decline process

**If no shows screening appointment 2x, complete referral decline process*

**If no shows court appearance 2x, complete referral decline process*

**If no shows orientation appointment 2x, complete referral decline process*

WHAT MAKES FTC DIFFERENT FROM A REGULAR TRACK CASE?

- **Designated FTC team members** equipped with specialized knowledge and ongoing training in best practices, substance use disorder, and mental health that are present each week for staffing and court
- Peer Recovery Specialists at the Court who can help participants navigate the system, treatment, program, and learn from the lived experience they offer to help them in their own recovery
- **Court protocols** allow for more frequent reports from team members, treatment, and other FTC partners to the Court on progress
- More frequent court supervision and team interventions available to provide accountability and support to participants
- Funding and resources available for wraparound services (recovery housing, transportation, medications, utility assistance, incentives) through county treatment court funds and grant funding
- Length of case is dependent on participant's ability to work through program and graduate (everyone works at their own pace)
- Increased focus on increasing parenting time and permissive placement as soon as it's safe and possible to do so due to accountability and support the FTC model can provide
- High level of **confidentiality**
- Evidence based, immediate **responses to behavior**
- Current grant funding also allows us to provide clinical case management to focus on filling service gaps and a parent resource coordinator to provide parenting education such as 1:1 coaching and Celebrating Families! (a recovery based parenting program)

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF PARTICIPANTS?

“The FTC Basics” (call/test, treat, show up and be honest!)

- By following these suggestions, parents can greatly increase their chances of successfully completing FTC and achieving reunification with their children:
 - ✓ Show Up and Be Honest!
 - ✓ Attend all court hearings, meetings, and appointments on time.
 - ✓ Show how they are making progress on their treatment plan – actions, not words.
 - ✓ Stay in touch with their caseworker and attorney. Be sure they have provide a current phone number and address.
 - ✓ Be as organized as possible. They will need to keep track of lots of meetings, court dates, and appointments.
 - ✓ Take care of themselves: live a healthy lifestyle, eat and sleep well, and surround themselves with healthy people.
 - ✓ Live in a home free of alcohol and drugs and people who are using alcohol and drugs.
 - ✓ Be engaged in their recovery process – don’t just go through the motions.

As Judge often says TREATMENT is the most important part of their recovery. Because of this, the Court and team expect parents to make treatment their top priority. They are expected to be present and participate in all required treatment sessions.

*Note: There are NO program fees charged to the participant for their participation in FTC!

DESIGNATED FTC TEAM MEMBERS

▶ FTC & Juvenile Judge

- ▶ Andy Hosmer

▶ Specialty Courts Coordinator

- ▶ Bec Anderson

▶ Clinical Director

- ▶ Ashley Montgomery

▶ Designated FTC DJO

- ▶ Victoria Todd

▶ Court Peer Recovery Specialists (Grant staff)

- ▶ Emily Thomas, Wendy & Stacy Sampaio

▶ Parent Resource Coordinator (Grant staff)

- ▶ Lindsey Kasinger

▶ FTC Clinical Coordinator (Grant staff)

- ▶ Beth Murray

Designated FTC GAL

- Kris Barefield

Treatment Provider

- CSS, Counselor, Peer, FSP & Team Lead
(different per provider)

Case Worker

- Different per agency

CASA Liaison

- Julie Murray

Participant's Attorney

- Legal Services designee Michaela Brown
- Otherwise may be different

CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALISTS IN FTC

• What is a Peer Recovery Specialist's role in FTC?

- A person in recovery with lived experience with addiction who serve as the peer expert on the FTC team. This includes making recommendations in staffing, offering suggestions to improve services, and advocating for participants.
- Support parents in navigating their recovery, develop their own recovery support network, finding their voice, and building a recovery plan.
- Help participants build motivation, hope, and engagement in services by modeling the recovery process and skill building peer based coping strategies
- Support treatment engagement, adherence, accountability, and retention by collaborating with providers.
- Assist with accessing community resources and recovery supports

FTC PHASE STRUCTURE

Phased Approach to Reunification

- **Structured into five distinct stages: Welcome Phase and Phases 1–4.**
- **Designed to systematically support recovery and family preservation.**
- **New Initiative: "Phase Up" Applications**
- **Participants complete phase-specific questionnaires and present their application in court.**
- **Advancement is determined by the Judge and Team based on both progress and presentation.**
- **Significantly increases participant ownership and active engagement in their recovery journey.**

RESPONSES TO BEHAVIOR

Incentives

- The goal of using incentives in FTC is to increase desirable behavior.
- INCENTIVES WILL be given timely and used frequently, range in magnitude, be used for achieving goals and compliance, and consider the whole family's needs
- INCENTIVES WILL NOT be given unfairly or be given only for 100% compliance

Some options: Goal Bowl, Kudos Card, Fast Pass, Fish Bowl

Responses

- The goal of using responses in FTC is to change or decrease undesirable behavior. The intent of responses may be therapeutic or motivational.
- Therapeutic – designed to achieve a specific clinical result for parent in treatment
- Motivational – designed to teach the parent how to engage in desirable behavior and achieve a stable lifestyle
- Some options: Writing assignments, individualized treatment responses, community engagement

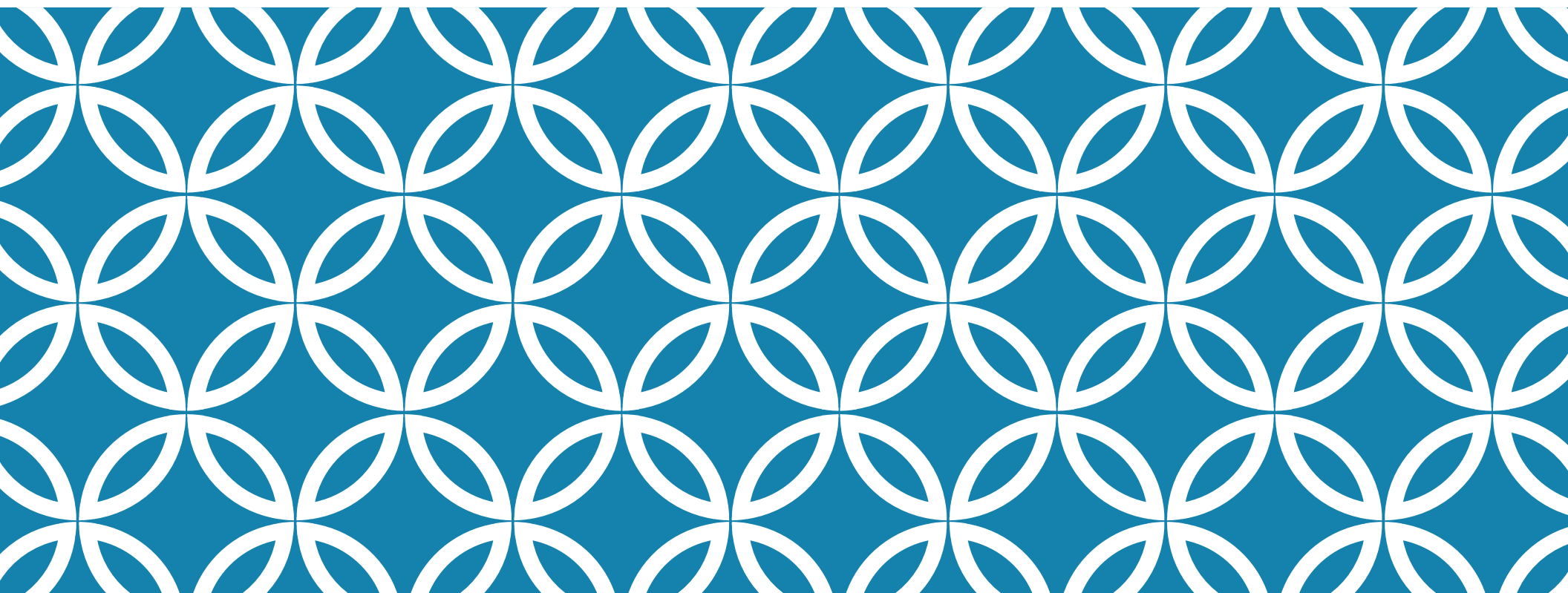
RESPONSES WILL be given timely, be explained to the participant, consider the participant's abilities and transparency, and consider the impact to the whole family
RESPONSES WILL NOT be embarrassing or painful, be unfair or cruel, be given out of anger or with pleasure, or be related to parenting time
PARENTING TIME IS NEVER USED AS AN INCENTIVE OR RESPONSE
Adaptations may be made that coincide with progress and/or safety concerns
NO, WE DO NOT PUT PEOPLE IN JAIL 😊

BREAKING THE CYCLE: THE FTC DIFFERENCE

- Traditional dockets often lack the resources to address complex addiction.
- FTC provides intensive supervision, accountability, and therapeutic support.
- Higher Success Rates: FTC families are approximately 2x more likely to reunify than those in traditional dependency courts.*
- Reduced Foster Care Time: Children spend significantly fewer days in out-of-home placement.
- Lasting Stability: Lower rates of foster care re-entry; reunification is safer and more permanent.

*Source: National Association of Drug Court Professionals / All Rise standards





QUESTIONS?



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