

# Family Treatment Court Project Grant

*Family & Youth Justice Programs, AOC*

# Family Treatment & Healing to Wellness Courts

- Washington State
  - 20 Family Treatment Courts (FTCs) in 19 counties
  - 3 Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts
- Many FTCs operate in rural counties
- Map of WA FTCs and other Specialized Dependency Courts - [https://www.wacita.org/wp-content/uploads/articulate\\_uploads/WA-Specialized-Dependency-Courts-Map/story.html](https://www.wacita.org/wp-content/uploads/articulate_uploads/WA-Specialized-Dependency-Courts-Map/story.html)

## Starting the Project

- The WA Family Treatment Court Project was made possible through a \$1.75 million (3 year) grant from OJJDP in September 2020
- AOC partnered with DCYF and HCA to apply for funds to enhance existing family drug courts and implement drug court practices to intervene more effectively with parents, children, and families affected by a substance use and/or co-occurring mental health disorder who are involved in the child welfare system

# AOC's Family Treatment Court Team

- The Family Treatment Court Team was hired and onboarded in March - May 2021
- The team is made up of a:
  - Family Treatment Court Project Manager
  - Senior Research Associate
  - Training Coordinator
  - Administrative Assistant

## FTC Project Goals

- Develop a state team and governance structure to engage and support local FTC operations and provide training on nationally recognized practices to be implemented across all FTCs.
- Increase the capacity and utilization of existing FTCs, focusing on courts in rural communities, to expand access to treatment and services that children and families need to improve child, parent and family outcomes.
- Expand cross-system collaboration to engage the HCA to improve access and coordination of treatment for FTC participants.

# Family Treatment Court Project Accomplishments

# Washington State FTC Steering Committee

*Guided by a family focused and anti-racist informed lens, the FTC Steering Committee supports Family Treatment Courts with resources, knowledge, and best practice models to ensure that all families in Washington can receive and be empowered by equitable access, equitable care, and equitable outcomes.*

- Comprised of lived experts and cross-agency leaders from AOC, HCA, DCYF, OPD.
- Began monthly meetings July 2021
- *Housing sub-committee has collaborated with “housers” and DCYF on a decision package for 2022-2023 legislative session.*

# Aligning FTCs to Best Practice Standards

- Project Team visited and observed each FTC 2-3 times
- National Evaluation of Family Treatment Courts (NEFTC) conducted by NPC Research
  - Self-assessment for local sites to complete as a team
  - 11/19 counties completed NEFTC (March 2021)
  - 19/19 by September 2021
- Sr. Research Associate compiled each county's NEFTC results, and:
  - met with 11 of the 19 counties to address NEFTC “no” responses
  - Created self-led resource guide with all NEFTC questions and discussion prompts for team conversations, as well as customized worksheets for the 8 teams unable to meet.



# Learning Opportunities for FTC site teams

- Formal Trainings:
  - First annual All-Sites Meeting September 2021 – over 220 attendees
  - Cultivating Belonging, Equity and Inclusion in FTCs
  - FTC Best Practice Standards Trainings
    - Live and online, self-paced training modules
  - Rural FTC Roundtable and resource library
- Resources on FTC website:
  - Links to Best Practice Standards and AOC recorded trainings
  - New to Family Treatment Court page for new FTC team members
  - Data page with examples, tips and templates to help courts use data to tell a story and make improvements

# ...Learning Opportunities for FTC site teams

- Learning from Peers:
  - Community of Practice Meetings by Role:
    - FTC Judicial Officers - quarterly
    - FTC Coordinators – monthly
    - FTC DCYF Staff – monthly
    - FTC Peers/Lived Experts – monthly
    - FTC Parent Attorneys – monthly
  - Listservs for all FTC Team Members and by Role:
    - AOC uses to share trainings, resources, and general information
    - Professionals uses to ask other counties questions and to share information

# Data

[Family Treatment Court Data Resources – Family and Youth Justice Programs \(wacita.org\)](http://wacita.org)