




What is a Family Drug Court?

In November 2007, the 323rd District Court implemented a Family Drug Court as an alternative to addressing child welfare cases where parental substance abuse is the primary factor.

Tarrant County's Family Drug Court Model, Judges, District Attorney's office, Department of Family and Protective Services, CASA, Early Childhood Intervention, Lena Pope Home, local area treatment providers and Tarrant County Challenge unite in a community collaboration with the ultimate goal of providing safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for children while simultaneously providing parents the necessary support and services to become drug and alcohol free.



HOW DID THE FAMILY DRUG COURT GET STARTED IN TARRANT COUNTY?

Judge Jean Boyd, frustrated at seeing a "revolving door" of positive-tox births from Child Protective Services cases, sought to bring about the success she witnessed in the Juvenile Drug Court she created to these Family Drug cases. Judge Boyd approached Dr. Lee LeGrice and John Haenes to set about creating a blueprint for the Family Drug Court for Tarrant County.



After a small planning grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Tarrant County Challenge staff John Haenes and Holly McFarland were able to leverage financial support from the Sid Richardson Foundation and the Thomas M., Helen McKee & John P. Ryan Foundation to start the Tarrant County Family Drug Court. Without the foundation supports, this program would not have been possible. The Family Drug Court starting taking clients in November of 2007.

Benefits to Community

- Decrease in substance abuse and related crime
- Reduced number of repeat offenders charged with child neglect and abuse
- Enhanced permanency planning for children
- Fewer parents locked into the generational cycle of addiction
- Fewer babies born with addictions or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Stronger families through improved parenting skills
- An unanticipated beneficial effect has been the birth of a significant number of drug-free babies to women enrolled in drug court programs;
- Drug court programs are extremely cost-effective

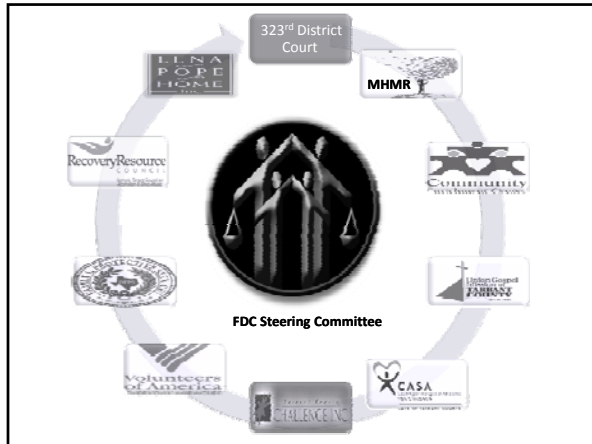


Goals of the FDC



- To improve outcomes for families involved in the DFPS
- To reduce recidivism in cases involving families struggling with addiction.
- To enhance the role of judicial reviews serving these families.
- To encourage intense collaboration among agencies to provide assessment, treatment, and aftercare services to parents and children impacted by addiction.
- To increase involvement of parents in Drug and Alcohol treatment and long-term recovery.
- To increase needed resources and services by harnessing the caring power of our community through continued coordination and cooperation.
- To increase permanency for children in our community.

Who is Involved in the Family Drug Court?







**Roles,
Responsibilities
Stats:**

**How the Tarrant
County Family Drug
Court Functions**
