



## Discussion Session on Developing Family Drug Court State Guidelines

September 15, 2011

Presented by  
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Children and Family Futures



This project is supported by Award No. 2009-DC-BX-K069 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs



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## Introductions


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## Today's Goals

1. Review and discuss the need and purpose of the Guidance document
2. Review and discuss how the Guidance document is being developed
3. Discuss what needs to be included and what should be excluded

Remember: This is a facilitated **discussion**, NOT a presentation!

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## Definition of Standard

- something established by authority, custom, or general consent as a model or example



Source: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/standard>

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## Another Definition of Standard

- a conspicuous object (as a banner) formerly carried at the top of a pole and used to mark a rallying point especially in battle or to serve as an emblem



Source: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/standard>

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## How is the Guidance Document Being Developed?

- The Center for Children and Family Futures (CCFF) supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is partnering with Federal and State stakeholders to craft a guidance document.

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## What is the Guidance Document?

- The information is intended as a **resource tool**. It is not a dictate of any Federal funding agency.
- It provides concrete recommendations to reduce the burden on States in developing standards.

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## Purpose of the Guidance Document?

- To assist States in developing Family Drug Court standards that build on the capabilities and strengths of **their own** State systems, legal mandates and resources.

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## Why Separate Standards for FDCs

- FDC is not the same as Adult Drug Court:
  - Priority of child’s best interest
  - ASFA time frames
  - Ultimate sanction is TPR not incarceration
- Goal of FDC is Safety and Permanency of the Child
- FDC is unique due to multiple and complex needs of families

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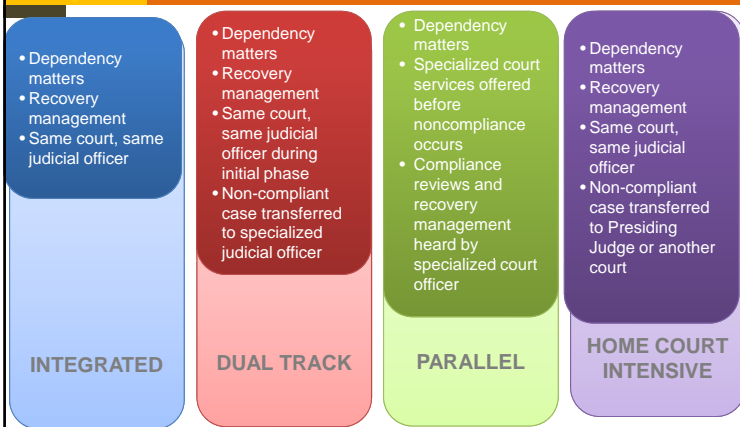
## Need for State Flexibility

- Differing Legal Mandates/Structures
- Funding Differences
- Multiple FDC Models
- Variability of Child Welfare processes, procedures and structure

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## Family Drug Court Models



## What if FDCs Came First?

- **Words we would be hearing**
  - Safety, permanency and well-being
  - Case planning
  - Reasonable efforts
  - Permanency hearing
  - Motivating behavior change and client engagement
  - Ameliorating the conditions that brought the family before the court
  - ASFA time line

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## What if FDCs Came First?

- **Words we might not be hearing**
  - Sanctions and incentives
  - Defendant
  - Incarceration

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## Process for Developing the Document

- Expert input from **YOU** in the field!
- So far we have accumulated research, previous publications, standards that have been adopted by various States.

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## Previous Publications - Sources

- 10 Key Components
- 12 Common Characteristics
- 11 Key Elements
- 10 Collaborative Practice Elements
- Maryland Standards (28)
- Minnesota Standards (13)
- New Jersey- Essex County Standards (10)
- Virginia Standards (12)

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## Others To be Added

- North Carolina
- New York
- OJJDP 2011 RFA – 8 Elements
- Iowa (in process of development)
- Others?

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	Mission, Vision and Values	Early Identification and Assessment	Engagement, Accountability and Behavioral Change	Addressing the Needs Children	Developing Inter-Agency Partnerships	Garnering Community Support for Families	Effective Communication for Sharing Information	Ensuring Interdisciplinary knowledge	Funding Services and Sustaining the FDC	Ongoing Evaluation for Shared Outcomes and Accountability
10 Key Components	X (3)	X (1)	X (3)		X (1)	X(1)	X(3)	X (1)	X(1)	X (1)
12 Common Characteristics	X (6)	X (1)	X (2)				X (1)		X (1)	X (1)
11 Key Elements	X (3)	X (1)	X (3)		X (2)		X (1)	X (1)		
10 Elements	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)	X(1)
Maryland Standards (28)	X (7)	X (3)	X (10)		X (2)	X (3)	X (1)		X (1)	X (1)
Minnesota Standards (13)	X (3)	X (3)	X (5)					X (1)		X (1)
New Jersey- Essex County Standards (10)	X (3)	X (1)	X (3)		X (1)			X (1)		X (1)
Virginia Standards (12)	X (5)	X (1)	X (3)		X (1)			X (1)		X (1)
<b>TOTAL (96)</b>	<b>8 rows (31)</b>	<b>8 rows (12)</b>	<b>8 rows (30)</b>	<b>1 row (1)</b>	<b>6 rows (8)</b>	<b>3row (5)</b>	<b>5 rows (7)</b>	<b>6 rows (6)</b>	<b>4 rows (4)</b>	<b>7rows (7)</b>




## Mission, Vision and Values

***FDC partners must create effective relationships with one another. The discussion of values and agreement on common principles is essential to collaborative relationships.***


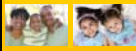
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## Early Identification and Assessment

***FDCs must be aware of screening and assessment issues in determining the nature of the parent's substance use disorder, the most effective treatment, and what information should be communicated to partner agencies.***

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## Engagement, Accountability and Behavior Change

***FDC partner agencies can encourage parents in the recovery process and assist them in meeting their requirements. Judges can respond in a way that supports continued engagement in recovery; the parent's attorney can make sure the parent has access to services.***

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### **Addressing the Needs Of Children**

***Without effective intervention, the children of substance abusers may repeat the parent's pattern. The special needs of children of substance abusers must be addressed in prevention and intervention programs.***

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### **Developing Inter-Agency Partnerships**

***Parents with SUDs often require an array of services to address the complex issues affecting their families. FDCs must form relationships with mental health, domestic violence, primary health, housing, legal, and employment-related services.***

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### **Effective Communication for Sharing Information**

***Effective and efficient communication and information sharing is critical to protecting child safety, engaging and retaining parents in recovery, and measuring program effectiveness***

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### **Ensuring Interdisciplinary Knowledge**

***Cross and joint training of FDC partners (courts, child welfare and treatment) and at all levels (administrative, management, and line-level staff) is essential to ensuring cooperation and consistent practice.***

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## **Garnering Community Support for Families**

***FDCs connect with community-based organizations to support the ancillary needs of families and to provide ongoing support after formal services have ended.***

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## **Funding and Sustaining the FDC**

***The FDC must tap the full range of funding, staffing and community resources to develop stability over time for its innovative approaches.***

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## **Ongoing Evaluation For Shared Outcomes and Accountability**

***FDC partners must agree upon goals and establish joint accountability. FDCs must develop and measure outcomes that will guide the work of the collaborative and demonstrate that the FDC has achieved desired results across partner agencies.***

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## **Questions & Discussion**



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*National Family Drug Court  
Technical Assistance and Training  
Program presents:*



## Family Drug Court Learning Academy Webinar Series

- Launched in June 2011
- Web-based training events to enhance, expand, and sustain Family Drug Court Programs
- 15 webinar presentations; or 30 hours of content
- Presented by national leaders in the FDC field
- Based on award-winning experience and expertise drawn from direct work with more than 60 FDCs across the nation

For more information, including playback of prior presentations and registration for upcoming presentations please visit:  
[www.cffutures.org](http://www.cffutures.org)

## Contact Information

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**FOR RESOURCES**  
Please visit our website:  
<http://www.cffutures.org/projects/family-drug-courts>

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