



The Big Seven – **Key Practices to Building an Effective an Effective Family Treatment Court**

**California Association of
Collaborative Courts Conference**

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Children and Family Futures

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Learning Objectives

1. Gain an overview of the FTC model and national outcomes, and the key common practice ingredients to ensure effective practice
2. Learn the challenges, barriers, and solutions that have supported effective implementation of each of the Big Seven
3. Find out how to access training and technical assistance resources to equip you and your team

A Reflection

Hope

Strengthening Partnerships | Improving Outcomes



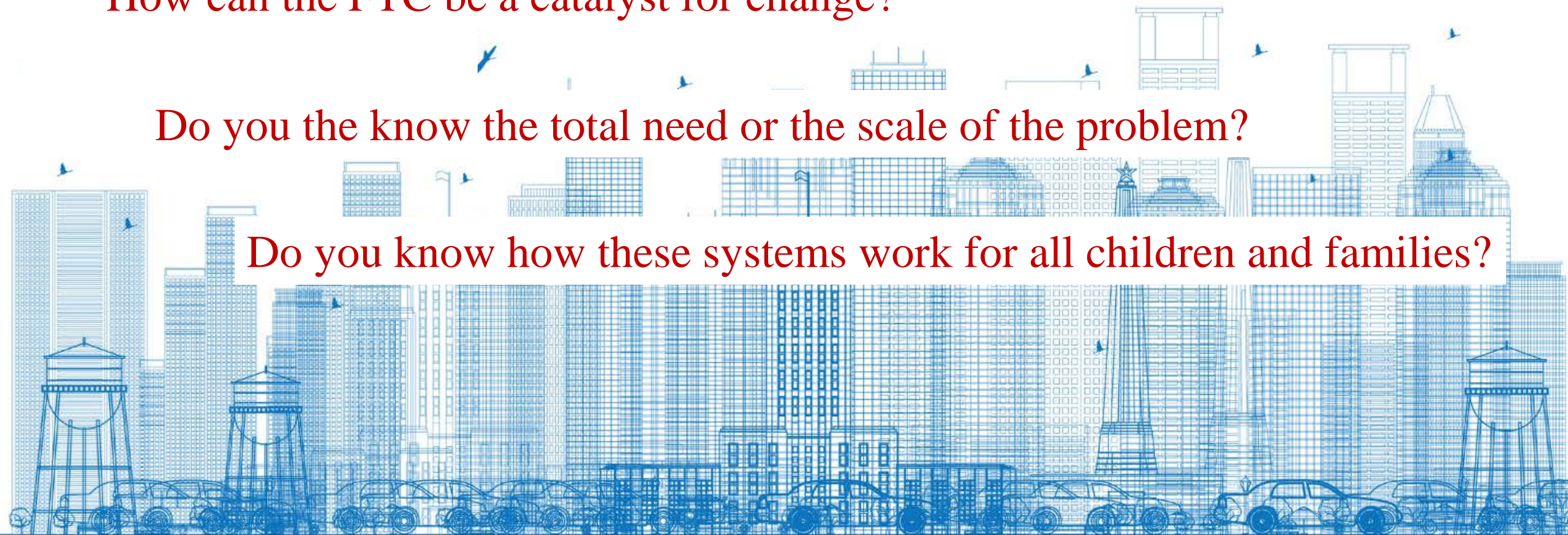
Part of the Greater Whole

FTCs are part of larger systems

How can the FTC be a catalyst for change?

Do you the know the total need or the scale of the problem?

Do you know how these systems work for all children and families?



Opportunity



- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
- Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)
- Plans of Safe Care (PoSC)



**Concurrent General
Session – Friday!**

Developing a Plan of Safe Care: What Your Family Treatment Court Needs to Know about Serving Pregnant and Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorders

Nancy K. Young, PhD, MSW | Children and Family Futures

Family First Prevention Services Act (2018)

Makes changes to federal child welfare financing, including allowing for federal Title IV-E dollars to reimburse states for substance use and mental health prevention and treatment services for children at imminent risk of being placed in foster care and their families.

- Provisions Related to Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment for Families:
 - Reimbursement for Family Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment
 - Use of Title IV-E Funds to Prevent Child Placement in Out-of-Home Care
 - Reauthorization of Regional Partnership Grants

Opportunity



National Strategic Plan For Family Drug Courts

MARCH 2017



**Each session tied to
one of these goals!**

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A Road Map for the Movement

Family Drug Court *National Strategic Plan*

- 1** Ensure Quality Implementation
- 2** Expansion of FDC Reach
- 3** Build Evidence Base

National Strategic Plan Vision – **For All Families**

Every family in the child welfare system affected by parental/caregiver substance use disorders will have timely access to comprehensive and coordinated screening, assessment and service delivery for family's success.

National Strategic Plan For Family Drug Courts

MARCH 2017



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LEADERS CALL TO ACTION!

Session Name: _____

Presenter Name(s):

During this session, I identified the following **immediate action steps** that I can take in my role as a leader/champion in my state or jurisdiction to advance the FTC movement:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Every attendee after every session!

Working Together Differently

What is it going to take?



To better serve more children and families

Ensure best practices

Systems Change

Session Format

**Closer Look –
FTC Ingredients (7)**



Best Practice Highlights



Learning Exchange Discussion



The Need to Do Better for Families



Substance use disorders (SUDs) can negatively affect a parent's ability to provide a stable, nurturing home and environment. **Most children** involved in the child welfare system and placed in out-of-home care have a parent with a SUD (Young, Boles & Otero, 2007).



Families affected by parental SUDs have a **lower likelihood of successful reunification** with their children, and their children tend to **stay in the foster care system longer** than children of parents without SUDs (Gregorie & Shultz, 2001).



The **lack of coordination and collaboration** across child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, and family or dependency drug court systems has **hindered their ability to fully support these families** (US Depart. of Health and Human Services, 1999).

Important Practices of FTCs

7

- System of identifying families
- Timely access to assessment and treatment services
- Increased management of recovery services and compliance with treatment
- Improved family-centered services and parent-child relationships
- Increased judicial oversight
- Systematic response for participants – contingency management
- Collaborative non-adversarial approach grounded in efficient communication across service systems and court

Important Practices of FTCs

**How are they
identified and
assessed?**

**How are they
supported and
served?**

**How are cases and
outcomes monitored?**

Important Practices of FTCs

7

- System of identifying families
- Timely access to assessment and treatment services

Timely and structured screening and identification of parental substance use in child welfare cases is critical.

- 61% of confirmed drug or alcohol dependence among substantiated abuse or neglect cases are missed by front line CWS social workers (Gibbons, Barth, & Martin, 2005)
- There is no time to lose given the ASFA, recovery, and development time clocks





Who Do FTCs Work For?

Who Do FTCs Work For?

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
- Prior CWS history

What Do We Mean by Systematic Approach?

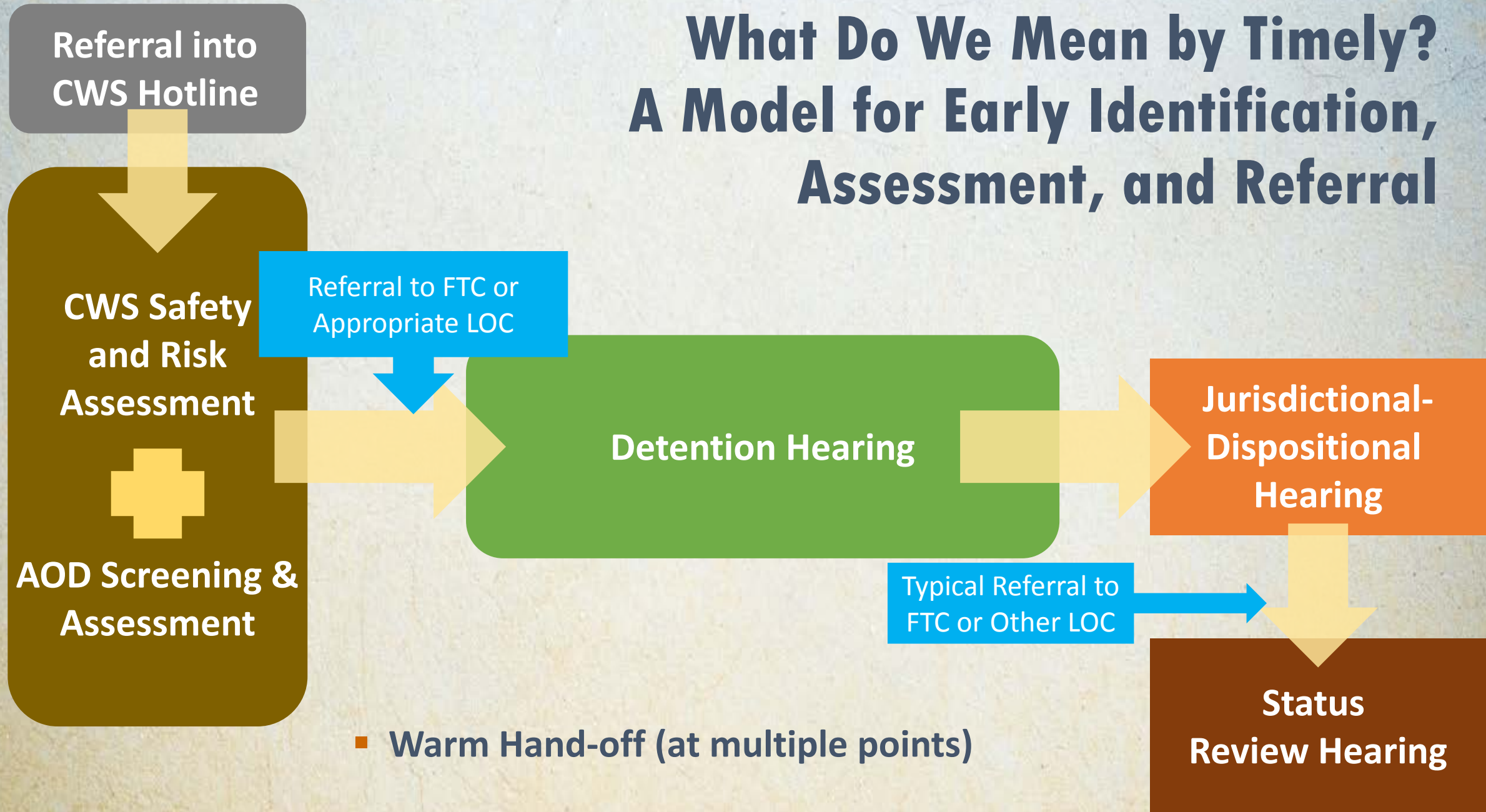
Objective & Systematic

- 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

Subjective & Informal

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

What Do We Mean by Timely? A Model for Early Identification, Assessment, and Referral



Best Practice Highlight

For quality implementation

- **Use of standardized tools**
- **Integrated cross-system approach**



Process

Screening

Assessment

Treatment

Primary Question | Tools

Is substance use a factor? Yes or No?

UNCOPE, CAGE

How severe is the substance use disorder?

DSM-5 Criteria

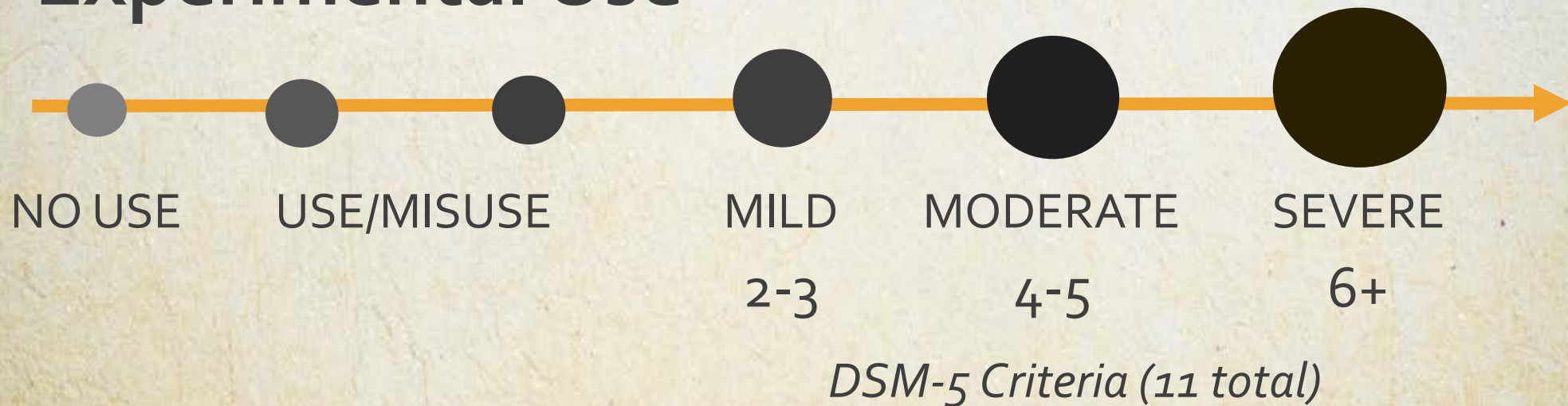
Does level of treatment match the identified need?

ASAM Continuum of Care

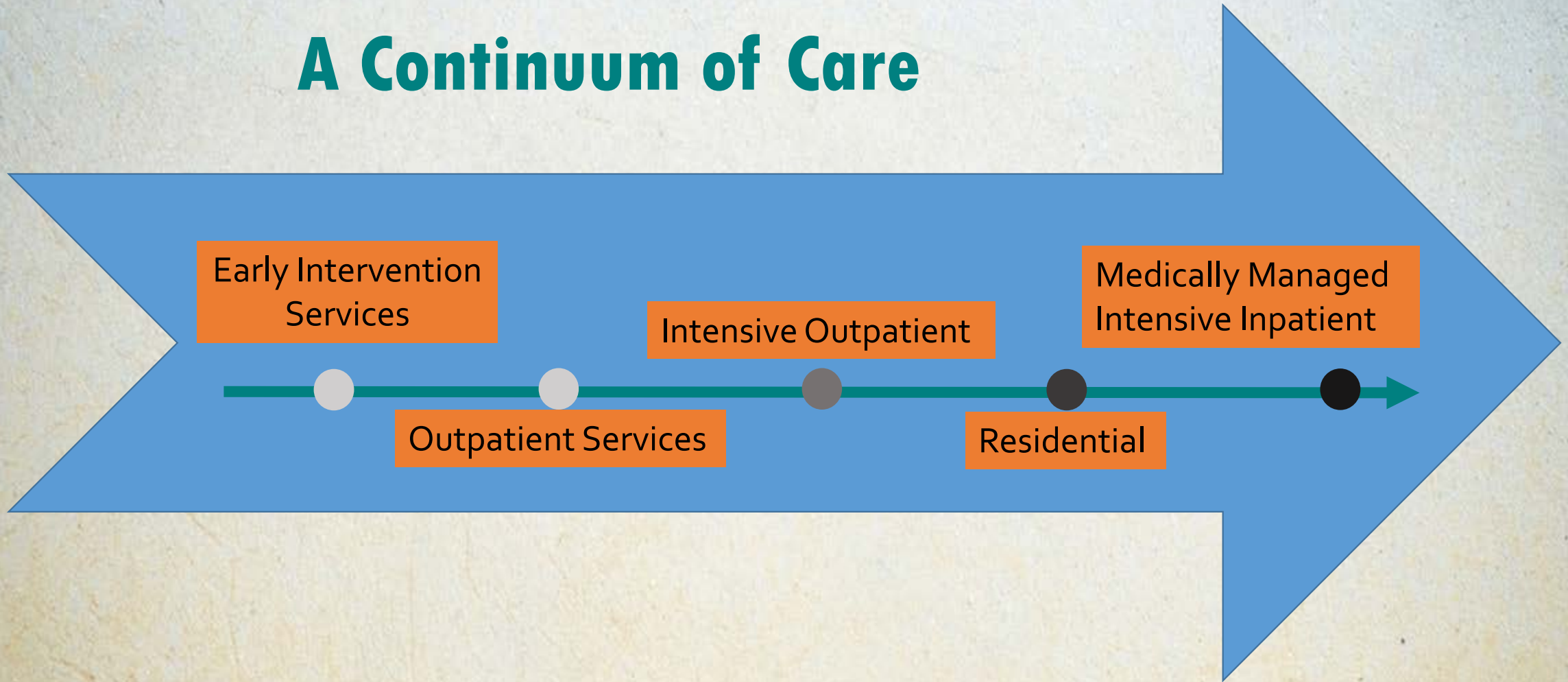
Diagnosing Substance Use Disorders

The FDC should ensure that structured clinical assessments are congruent with DSM-5 diagnostic criteria

Experimental Use



Levels of Treatment Services Across A Continuum of Care



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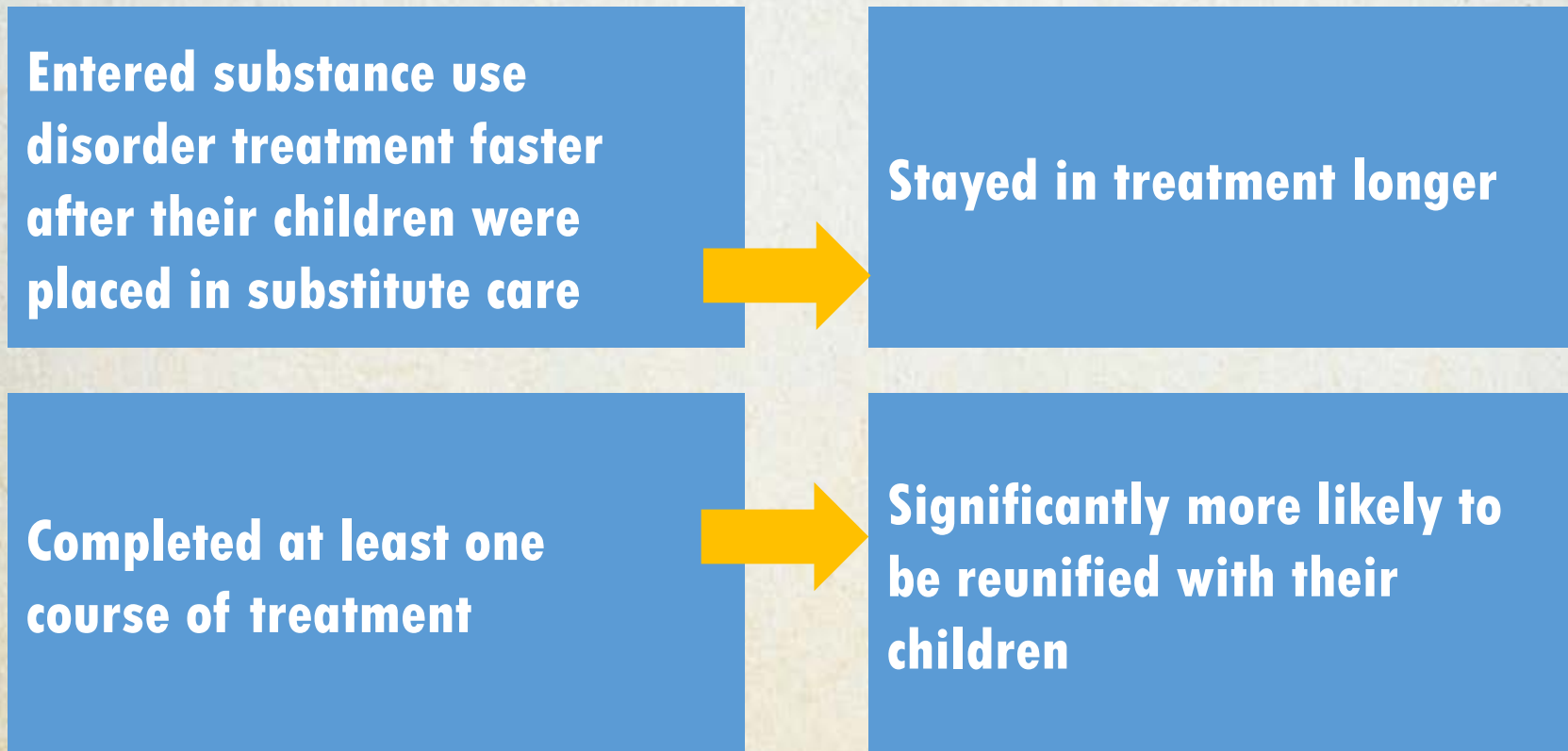
Better Outcomes for Children and Families:

- Ensure parents enter substance use disorder treatment quickly, ideally within 30-60 days of child welfare petition (Green et al., 2007)
- Retain high-need parents in treatment for at least 15 months (Green et al., 2007; Roche, 2005; Worcel et al., 2007)



Time To & Time In Treatment Matters

In a longitudinal study of mothers (N=1,911)



Source: Green, Rockhill & Furrer (2007)

Best Practice Highlight

For quality implementation

- **Recovery Coaches or Recovery Specialists to provide enhanced early recovery support and engagement**



Functions of Recovery Support

LIAISON

- Links participants to ancillary supports; identifies service gaps

TREATMENT BROKER

- Facilitates access to treatment by addressing barriers and identify local resources
- Monitors participant progress and compliance
- Enters case data

ADVISOR

- Educates community; garners local support
- Communicates with FTC team, staff and service providers

Titles and Models

- Peer Mentor
- Peer Specialist
- Peer Providers
- Parent Partner

**Experiential Knowledge,
Expertise**

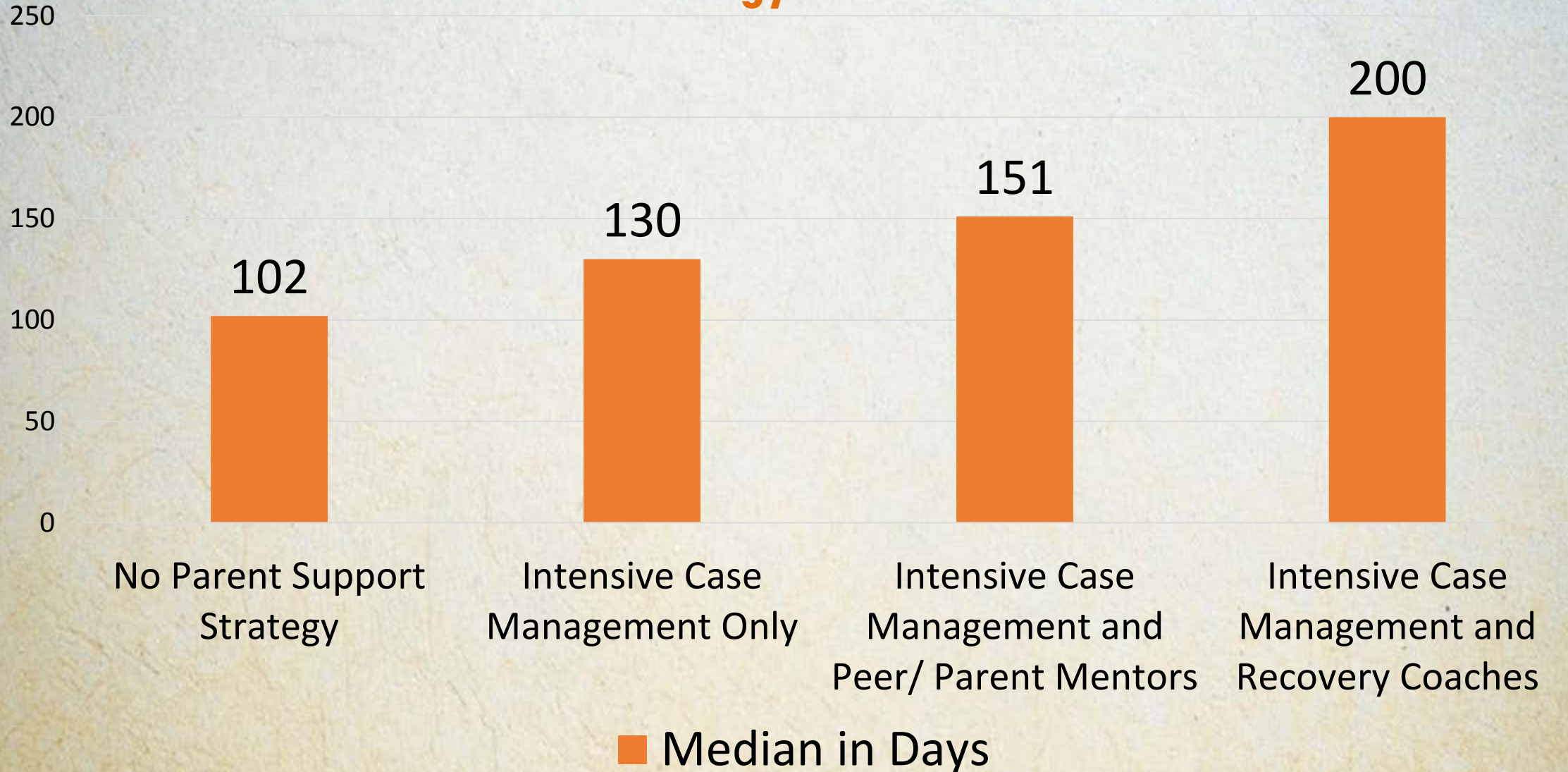
- Recovery Support Specialist
- Substance Abuse Specialist
- Recovery Coach
- Recovery Specialist
- Parent Recovery Specialist

**Experiential Knowledge, Expertise +
Specialized Trainings**

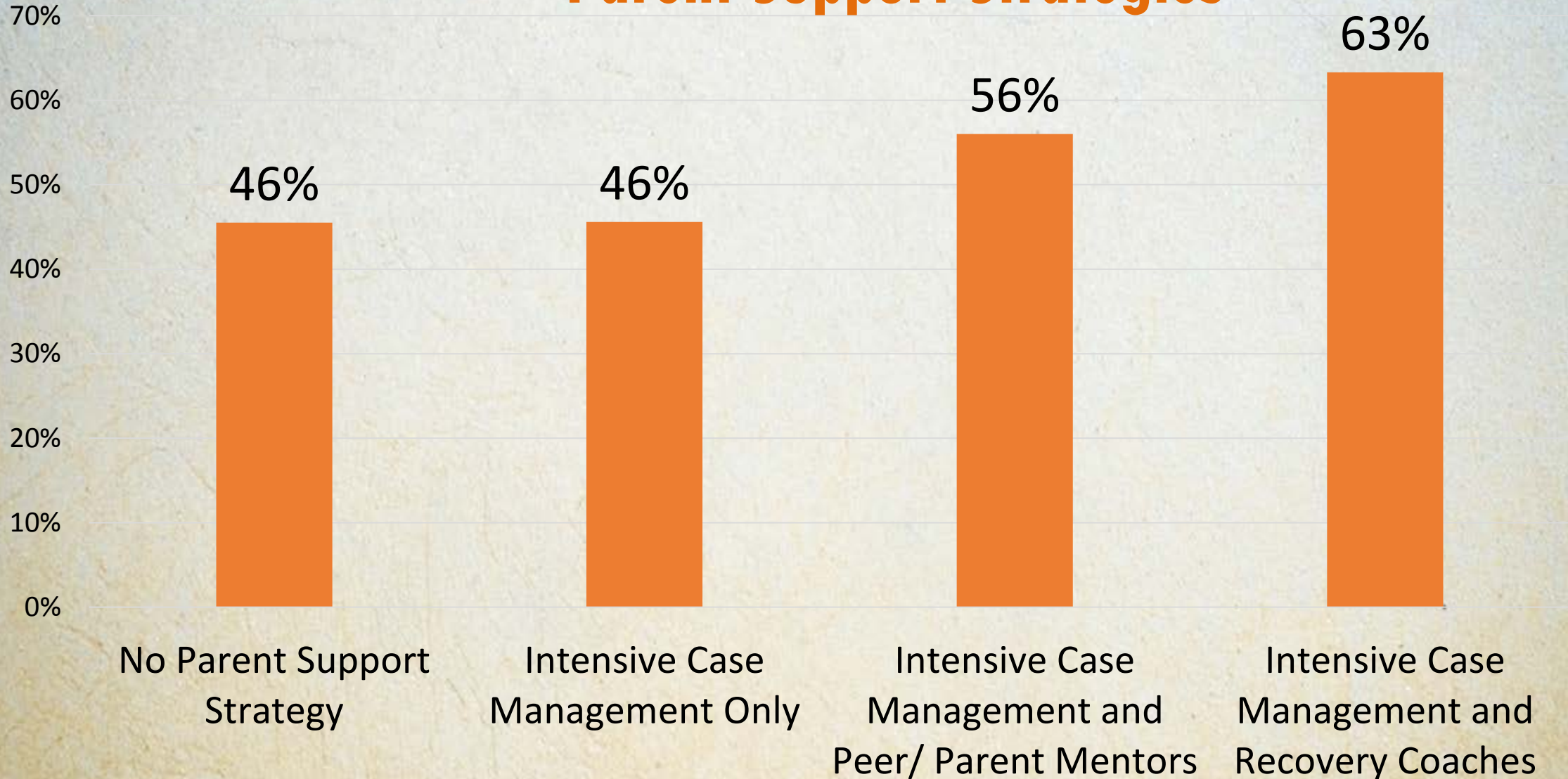
YOU NEED TO ASK:

What does our program and community need?

Median Length of Stay in Most Recent Episode of Substance Use Disorder Treatment After RPG Entry by Grantee Parent Support Strategy Combinations



Substance Use Disorder Treatment Completion Rate by Parent Support Strategies



Recovery Support Matters

A Randomized Control Trial – Cook County, IL (n=3440)

**Timely
Comprehensive
Assessment**



**Early Access to
Treatment**

Recovery Support Matters

A Randomized Control Trial – Cook County, IL (n=3440)

**Timely
Comprehensive
Assessment**



**Recovery
Coach**



**Early Access to
Treatment**

Practice Innovation: Recovery Support

Alameda, CA:

- All petitions reviewed for substance use by specialized trained court clerks
- Recovery Support Specialist attends hearings
- Engagement at the earliest point improves treatment outcomes



What Is Recovery?

SAMHSA's Working Definition

Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.



Recovery is not treatment!

Access to evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and recovery support services are important building blocks to recovery.

Four Major Dimensions

Health

Overcoming or managing one's disease(s) or symptoms and making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional well-being

Home

Maintaining a stable and safe place to live

Purpose

Conducting meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, or volunteerism, and having the independence of income and resources to participate in society

Community

Having relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope

Resource: Quality Treatment Assessment



Understanding Substance Use Disorder
Treatment in Your Community

*A Draft Discussion Guide for Child Welfare and
Court Professionals to Identify the Best
Treatment Fit for Families*

Designed to help CWS and Court professionals increase their knowledge of effective treatment

Part 1: Overview of Effective Treatment – provides a brief summary of principles of effective substance use disorder treatment and comprehensive family-centered care.

Part 2: Discussion Questions – Professionals can use questions to begin ongoing dialogue with community treatment providers about operations and services. These questions will help professionals gain a better understanding of available treatment in the community and how it may (or may not) align with their clients' needs.

Length of Stay in Treatment – Why It Matters



- Research shows that clients with severe substance use disorders require **three months (90 days) in treatment** to significantly reduce or stop their drug use and that the best outcomes occur with longer durations of treatment
- For families involved in child welfare due to a parent's substance use disorder, **treatment retention and completion** are the strongest predictors of reunification

(Green, Rockhill, & Furrer, 2007; Marsh, Smith, & Bruni, 2010)

View the Recorded Webinar!

Early Screening & Assessment



How Effective **Family Drug Courts** Match Service to Need

**Includes Team
Discussion Guide!**

Visit: www.familydrugcourts.blogspot.com

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Relationships

Child well-being occurs in the context of relationships

Adult recovery should have a parent-child component

FTC Practice Improvements

Approaches to child well-being in FTCs need to change

**In the
context of parent's
recovery**

**Child-focused
assessments and
services**

**Family-
centered
treatment
(includes parent-
child dyad)**



Parent-Child: Key Service Components

**Developmental &
behavioral screenings
and assessments**

**Quality and frequent
visitation**

**Early and ongoing peer
recovery support**

**Parent-child
relationship-based
interventions**

**Evidence-based
parenting**

Trauma

**Community and
auxiliary support**

Best Practice Highlight

For quality implementation

- **Implement parent-child services (parenting, therapeutic, attachment based)**
- **Ensure frequent and quality Parenting Time**



Considerations for Selecting a Parenting Program



- Have you conducted a **needs assessment**? What do families need? How will it help achieved desired outcomes?
- Have **realistic expectations** of their ability to participate – especially in early recovery?
- Does it have a **parent-child** component?
- Is it evidence-based for this **population**?
- Do you have **staffing and logistical** support for successful implementation?

Parenting Programs Specific to Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders

- **Celebrating Families!** - <http://www.celebratingfamilies.net/>
- **Strengthening Families** - <http://www.strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org/>
- **Nurturing Program for Families in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery** - <http://www.healthrecovery.org/publications/detail.php?p=28>
- **Please visit:**
California Evidence-Based Clearing House - www.cebc4cw.org
National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices - www.nrepp.samhsa.gov

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Supporting Families in Family Drug Courts for Recovery, Reunification
and Permanency

Includes Team
Discussion Guide!



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Parent-Child Relationship

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Better Outcomes for Children and Families:

- Schedule frequent status hearings
 - Judicial Officer or Administrative Review
- Ensure judges speak directly to participants in court
- Treats them with respect and dignity
- Expresses support and optimism for their recovery

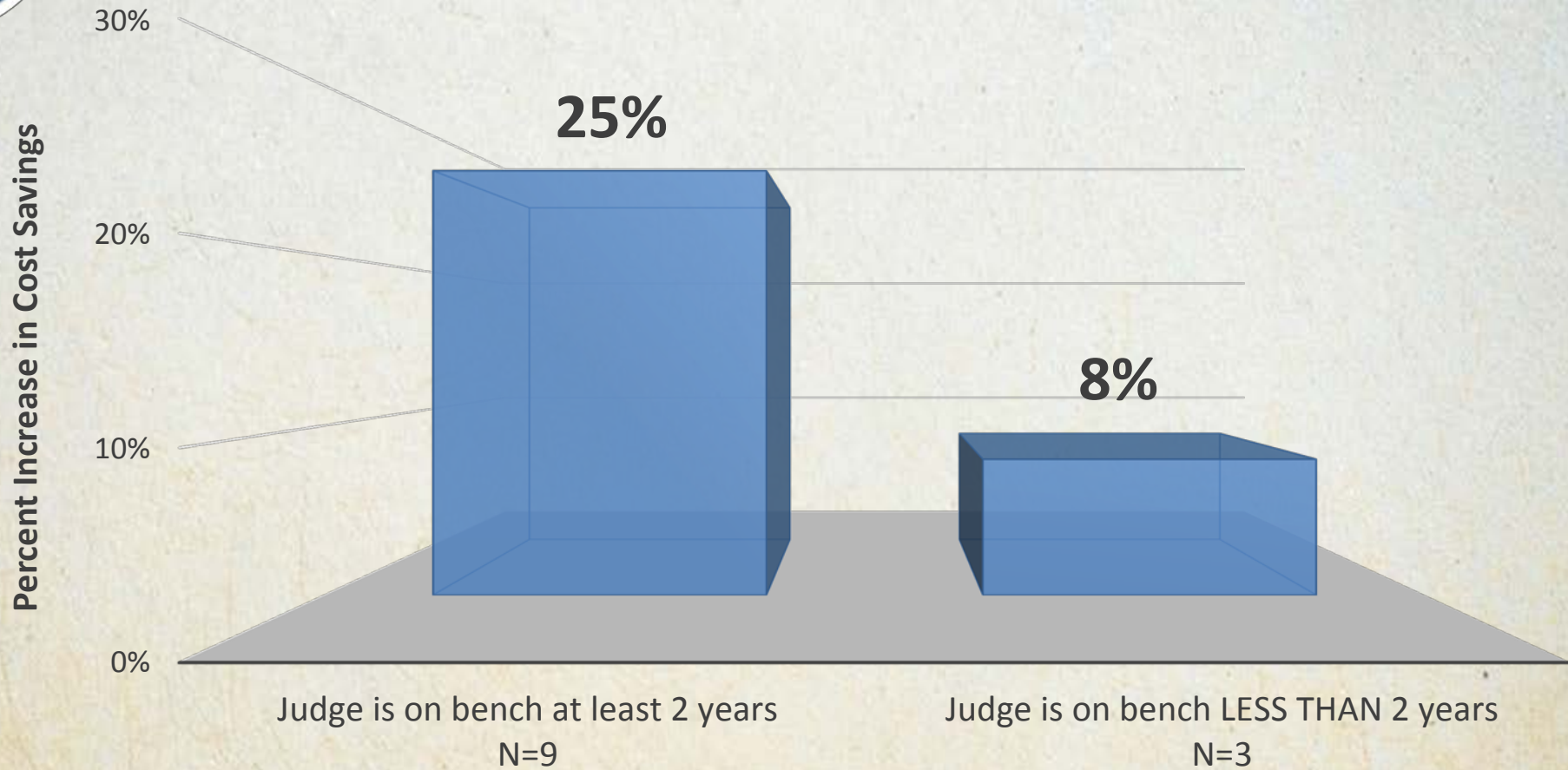
(Lloyd et al., 2014; Somervell et al., 2005; Worcel et al., 2007)

The Judge Effect

- The judge was the single biggest influence on the outcome, with judicial praise, support and other positive attributes translating into fewer crimes and less use of drugs by participants (Rossman et al., 2011)
- Positive supportive comments by judge were correlated with few failed drug tests, while negative comments led to the opposite (Senjo & Leip, 2001)
- The ritual of appearing before a judge and receiving support and accolades, and “tough love” when warranted and reasonable, helped them stick with court-ordered treatment (Farole & Cissner, 2005; see also Satel, 1998)



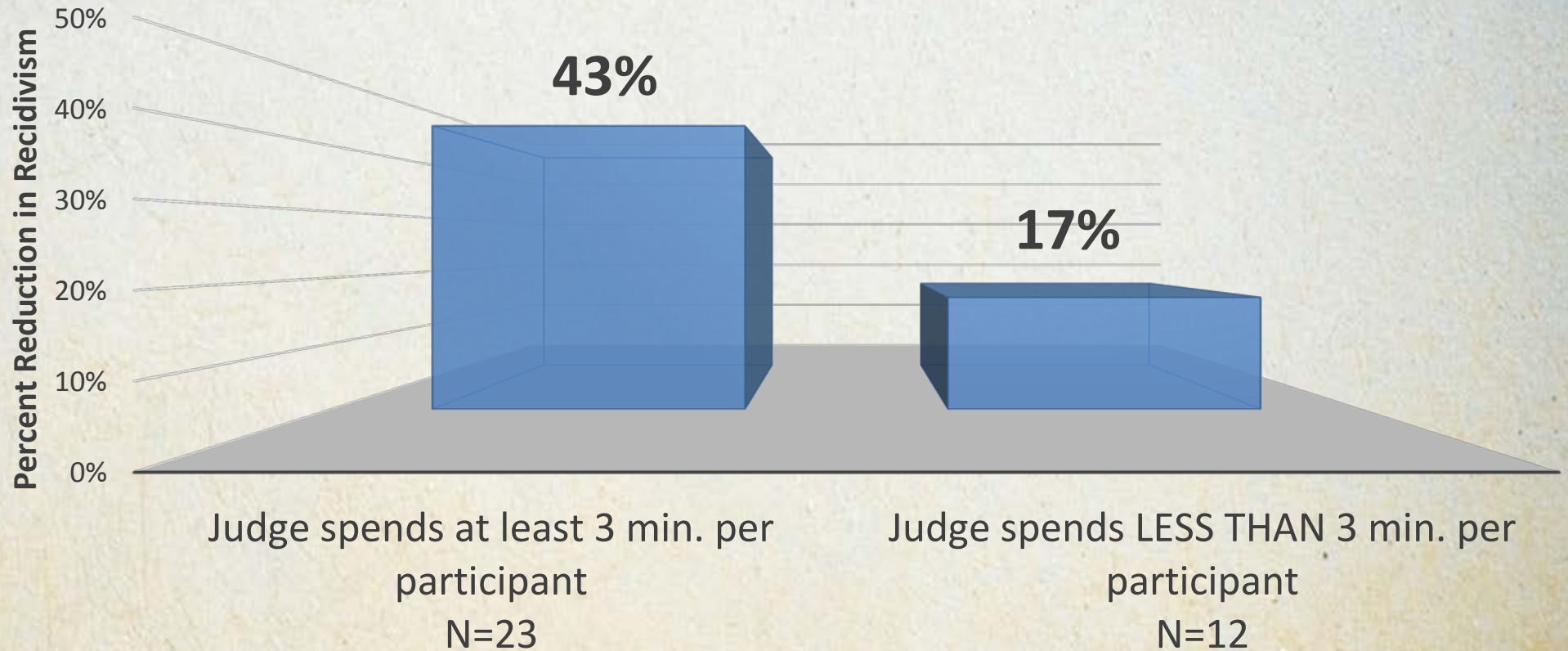
Drug Courts That Have Judges Stay Longer Than 2 Years Had 3 Times Greater Cost Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$



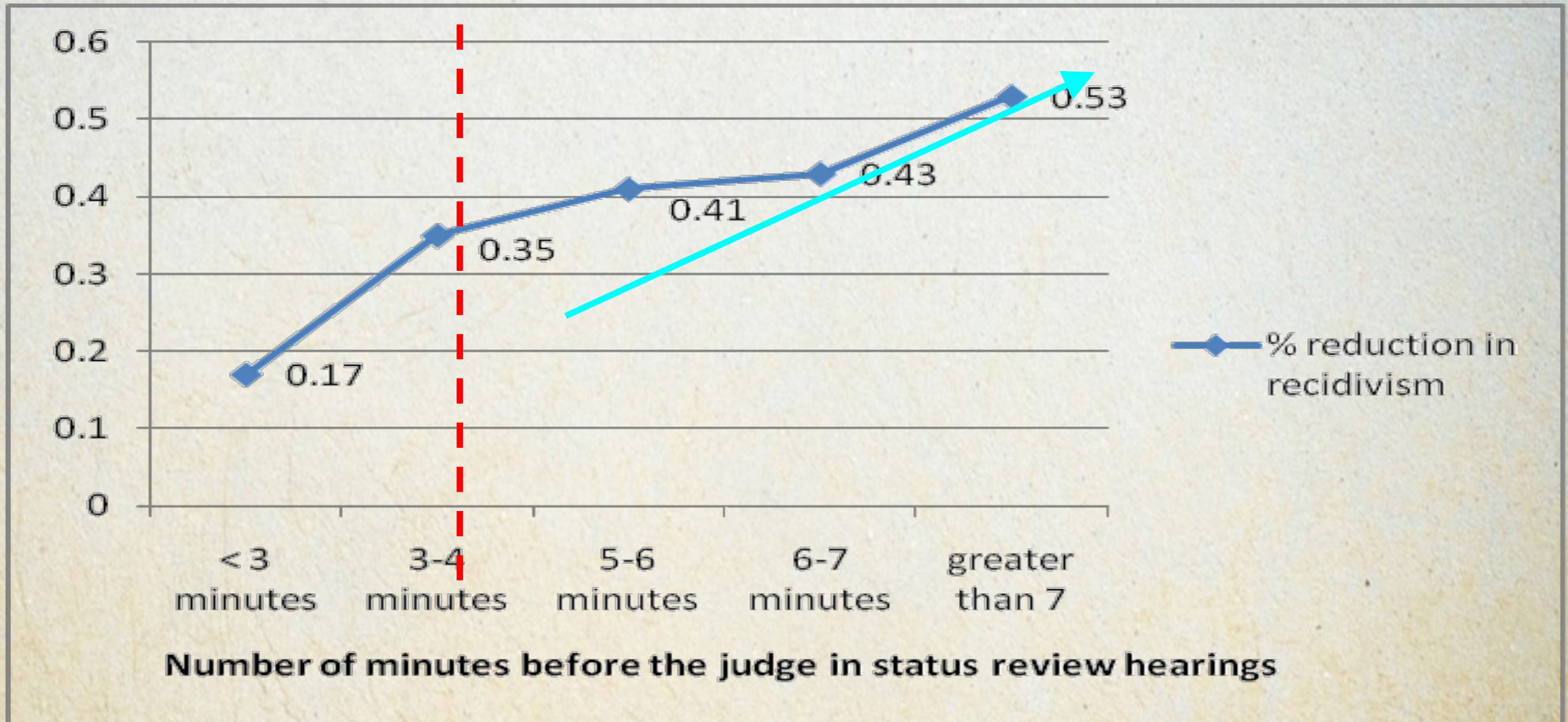
Judges Who Spent at Least 3 Minutes Talking to Each Participant in Court Had More Than Twice the Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$



Drug Courts Where the Judge Spends an Average of 3 Minutes or Greater per Participant During Court Hearings Had 153% Greater Reductions in Recidivism



Note 1: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Three Essential Elements of Responses to Behavior

Addiction is a brain disorder

The longer time in treatment, the greater probability of a successful outcome

Purpose of sanctions and incentives is to keep participants engaged in treatment

Setting Range of Responses

**Consistent for
individuals
similarly situated
(phase, length of
sobriety time)**

**Avoid singular
responses, which
fail to account for
other progress**

**Aim for “flexible
certainty”**

Proximal vs. Distal Responses

- Timing is everything; delay is the enemy
- Intervening behaviors may mix up the message
- Brain research supports behavioral observation; dopamine reward system responds better to immediacy



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- Collaborative non-adversarial approach grounded in efficient communication across service systems and court

Best Practice Highlight

For quality implementation

- **Ensure information flow within FTC Team and Governance Structure**
- **Develop data dashboard/monitor case and program outcomes**

The Collaborative Structure for Leading Change



Family Treatment Courts: The Core Team

Child Welfare

- ✓ Screen for substance use and refer to services
- ✓ Coordination with ongoing dependency cases
- ✓ Monitor and report on progress of clients and compliance with case plan

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- ✓ Perform assessments
- ✓ Develop treatment plans
- ✓ Provide substance use disorder treatment that matches client need
- ✓ Monitor and report on treatment progress of clients

Court

- ✓ Judicial Oversight
- ✓ Referral mechanism: Attorney, CASA, Coordinator
- ✓ Client advocacy and legal guidance
- ✓ FTC program oversight and coordination

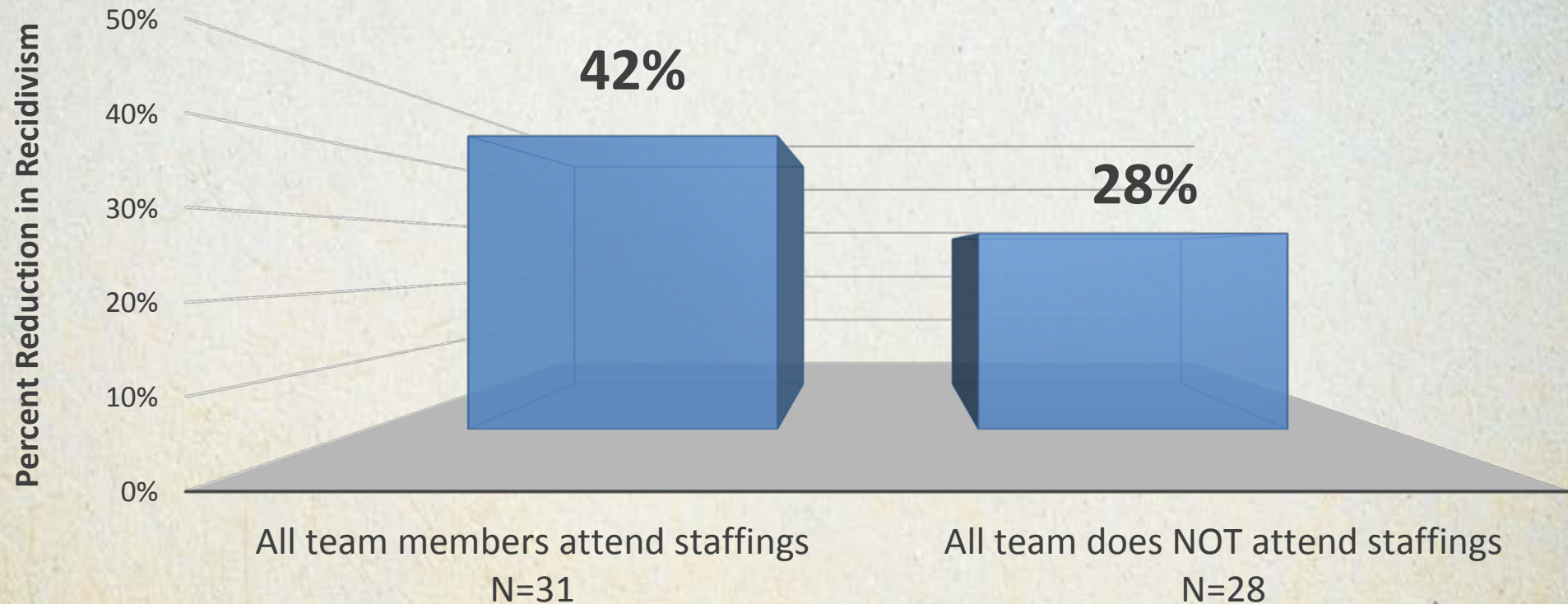
Five Standing Agenda Items for Steering Committee Meetings



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



Drug Courts That Required All Team Members to Attend Staffings Had 50% Greater Reductions in Recidivism and 20% Greater Savings



Note 1: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Note 2: "Team Members" = Judge, Both Attorneys, Treatment Provider, Coordinator

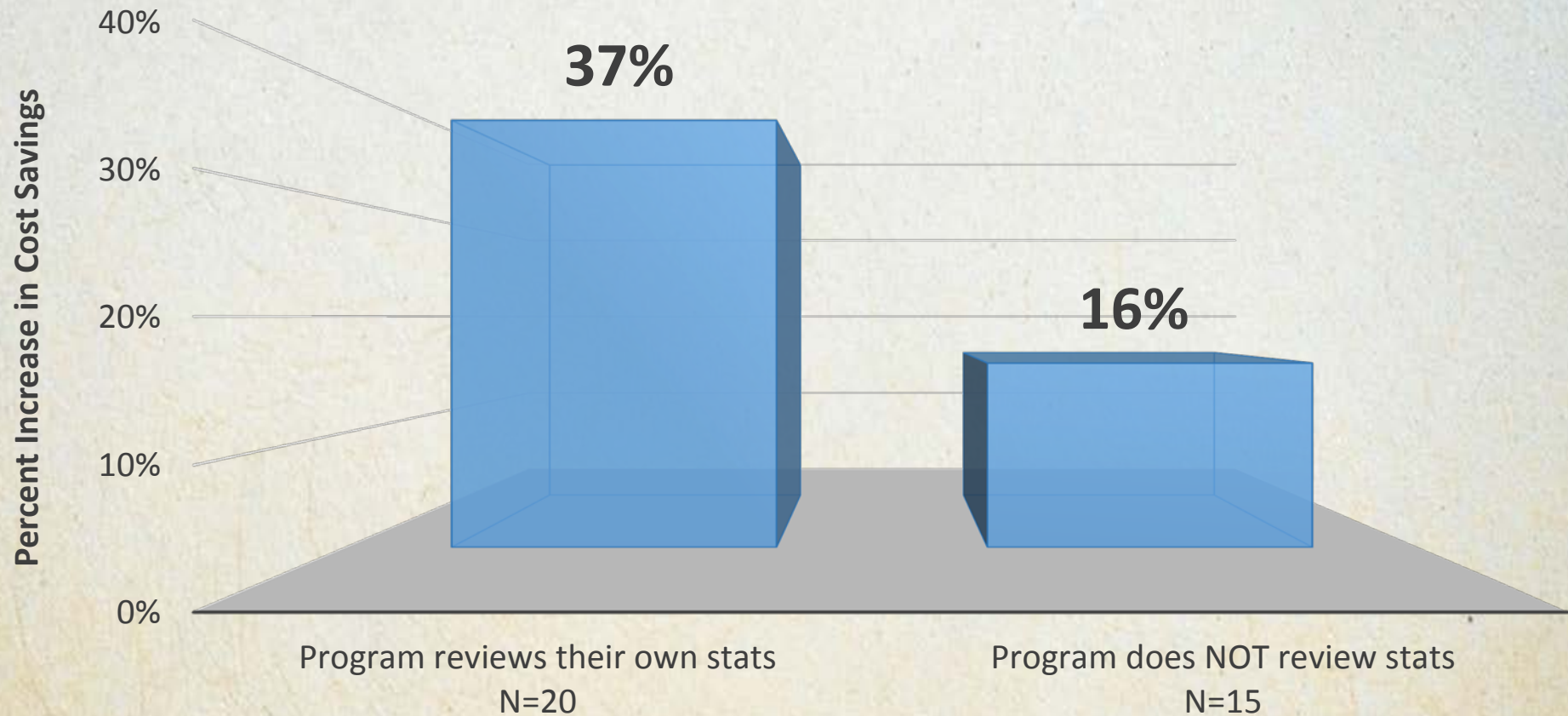


Data Dashboard

- What needles are you trying to move?
- What outcomes are the most important?
- Is there shared accountability for “moving the needle” in a measurable way, in FTC and larger systems?
- Who are we comparing to?



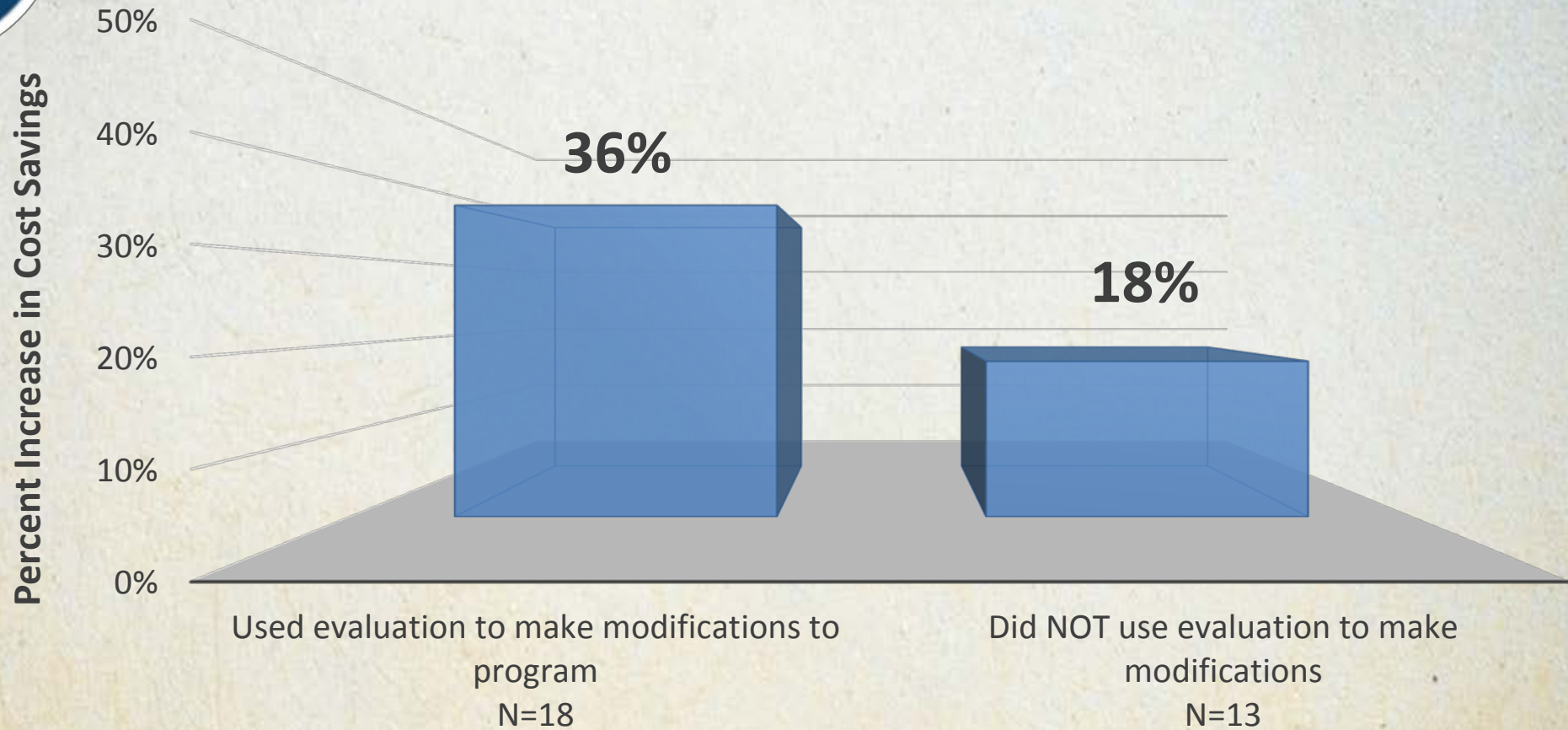
Drug Courts Where Review of the Data and Stats Has Led to Modifications in Drug Court Operations Had a 131% Increase in Cost Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$




Drug Courts Where the Results of Program Evaluations Have Led to Modifications in Drug Court Operations Had a 100% Increase in Cost Savings



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Q&A and Discussion



Resources **and** **Next Steps**

TRANSITIONING TO A FAMILY CENTERED APPROACH:

Best Practices and Lessons Learned
from Three Adult Drug Courts



Children and Family Futures
National Drug Court Institute



Transitioning to a Family Centered Approach: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Three Adult Drugs Courts

To download a copy:

<https://www.ndci.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Transitioning-to-a-Family-Centered-Approach.pdf>

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- Over 40 webinar presentations
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www.cffutures.org/fdc-learning-academy/

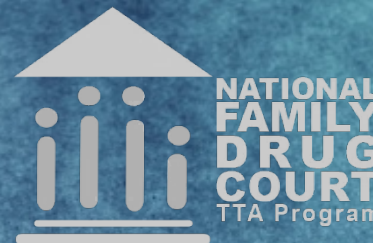




Governance Structure & Leadership

Is Your FDC Built to Last or Left to Fade

View the Recorded Webinar!



Includes Team Discussion Guide!

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Early Screening & Assessment



How Effective **Family Drug Courts** Match Service to Need

**Includes Team
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Supporting Families in Family Drug Courts for Recovery, Reunification

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Includes Team
Discussion Guide!



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Parent-Child Relationship

View the Recorded Webinar!

Data & Information Systems

The Fuel that Drives the FDC Bus

Includes Team
Discussion Guide!



NCSACW Online Tutorials *Cross-Systems Learning*

Understanding Child Welfare and the Dependency Court: **A Guide for Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals**

Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: **A Guide for Legal Professionals**

Understanding Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Family Recovery: **A Guide for Child Welfare Workers**

FREE CEUs!



www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/training

Family Drug Court *Online Tutorial*

Download Flyer in Handouts Panel

- Self-paced learning
- Five modules cover basic overview of FDC Model
- Certificate of Completion

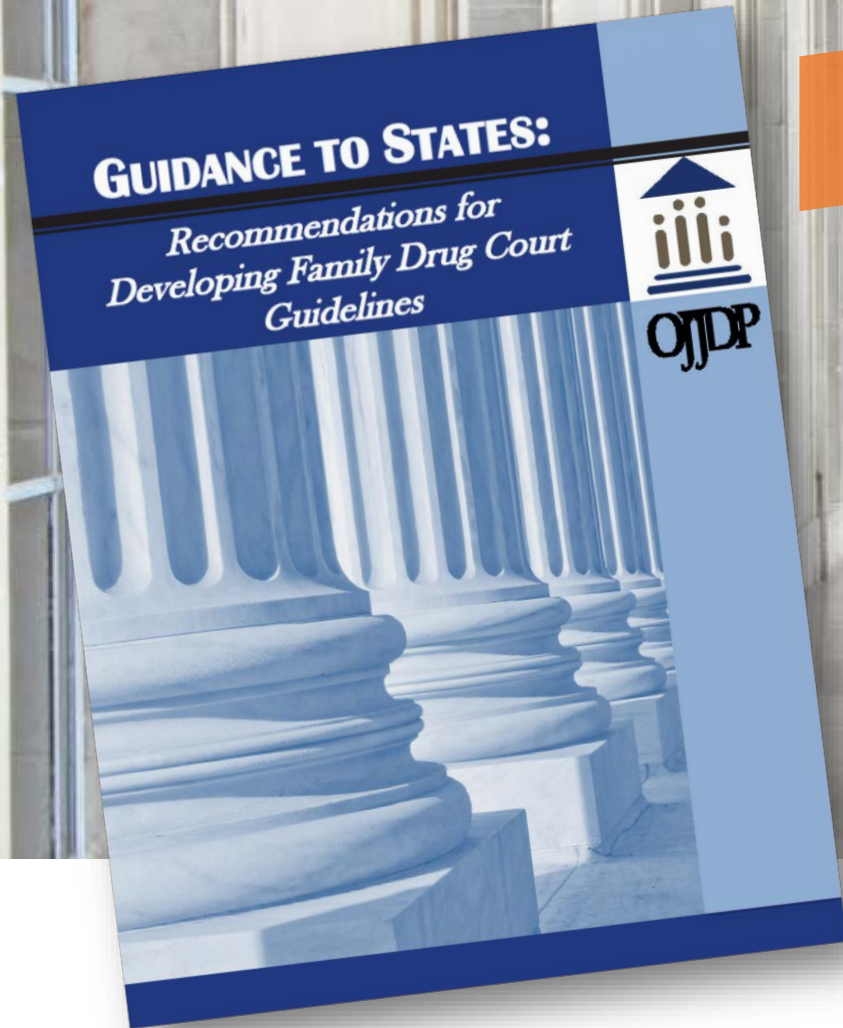


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2nd Edition – Research Update



www.cffutures.org/publication/guidance-to-states-recommendations-for-developing-family-drug-court-guidelines-2015-update/

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*Improving
Family
Outcomes*

*Strengthening
Partnerships*

