

MIDD 2 Initiative TX-FTC: Family Treatment Court (FTC)

How does the program advance the adopted MIDD policy goals?

This initiative impacts the adopted MIDD policy goal of “improve health and wellness of individuals living with behavioral health conditions.”

FTC is a recovery-based child welfare intervention. Parents participate in FTC to receive help in obtaining and maintaining sobriety as well as family services that support a recovery based lifestyle, including mental health treatment when applicable. Many of the court’s parents have a history of incarceration and FTC supports their reentry into mainstream services. It is an improvement to the current way child welfare cases are handled in the dependency court system. It is also a prevention and early intervention program, working with both the parent and the child to prevent future involvement in the criminal and juvenile justice systems and address the health and well-being of child welfare involved families.

1. Program Description

◇ A. Service Components/Design (Brief)

FTC promotes the health, safety and welfare of children in the dependency system by actively intervening to address the drug, alcohol and other service needs of families through integrated, culturally competent and judicially-managed collaboration that facilitates timely reunification or an alternative permanency plan. FTC is organized around the ten key components that define a drug court:

- 1) Integrated systems (child welfare, Substance Use Disorder [SUD] treatment services and the court)
- 2) Protection and assurance of legal rights, advocacy and confidentiality
- 3) Early identification and intervention
- 4) Access to comprehensive services and individualized case planning
- 5) Frequent case monitoring and drug testing
- 6) Graduated responses and rewards
- 7) Increased judicial supervision
- 8) Deliberate program evaluation and monitoring
- 9) A collaborative, non-adversarial, cross-trained team
- 10) Partnerships with public agencies and community-based organizations.

◇ B. Goals

FTC has four primary goals:

- To ensure that children have safe and permanent homes within permanency planning guidelines or sooner
- To ensure that families of color have outcomes from dependency cases similar to families not of color

- To ensure that parents are better able to care for themselves and their children and seek resources to do so
- To ensure that the cost to society of dependency cases involving substances is reduced.

◇ C. Preliminary Performance Measures (based on MIDD 2 Framework)¹⁸⁹

1. How much? Service Capacity Measures

This initiative will serve 140 children annually in MIDD 2 including the expanded court in South King County.

2. How well? Service Quality Measures

- Increased use of preventive (outpatient) services
- Increase positive child placements at parent exit from FTC
- Program graduation rates and positive exits from services.

3. Is anyone better off? Individual Outcome Measures

- Reduced substance use
- Increased stability in treatment, employment, or other quality of life measures
- Improved wellness and social relationships
- Reduced unnecessary incarceration.

◇ D. Provided by: County

2. Spending Plan

Year	Activity	Amount
2017	FTC supports and services continue.	\$1,435,340
2017 Annual Expenditure		\$1,435,340
2018	FTC supports and services continue.	\$1,472,660
2018 Annual Expenditure		\$1,472,660
Biennial Expenditure		\$2,908,000

¹⁸⁹ Throughout 2017, review and refinement of Results-Based Accountability (RBA) performance measures for MIDD 2 initiatives will be conducted whenever applicable, in consultation with providers. Updates to performance measures that may result from this collaborative process will be reported in the next MIDD Annual Report in August 2018.

3. Implementation Schedule

◇ *A. Procurement and Contracting of Services*

King County Superior Court manages the Family Treatment Court. No Requests for Proposals (RFPs) needed.

◇ *B. Services Start date (s)*

Services continued on January 1, 2017.

4. Community Engagement Efforts

FTC continually incorporates feedback from several community stakeholder groups represented in the FTC advisory committee regarding: improving the safety and well-being of children in the dependency system by providing services to support the entire family; the effectiveness of a collaborative, non-adversarial approach to integrate substance use treatment; and the ongoing evaluation of racial and ethnic disparities in the overall dependency system and within the FTC program.