

3Ns

Numbers
Needs
Networks

Taking Next Steps Towards a Family-Centered Approach



TRANSITIONING TO A FAMILY CENTERED APPROACH:

Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Three Adult Drug Courts



Children and Family Futures
National Drug Court Institute

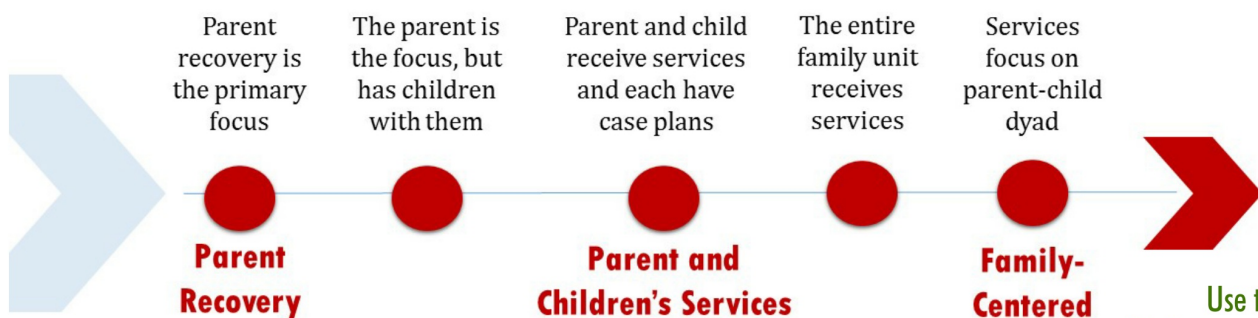


Review Case Studies for Strategies & Lessons

Published by National Drug Court Institute and Children and Family Futures, this resource examines three adult drug courts from Florida, Michigan, and Montana that took steps towards becoming more family-centered in their approach to serving participants. The case studies identified ten key strategies and an array of lessons that will prove to be helpful as you take the next steps in transitioning to a family-centered approach. Review these strategies and lessons and discuss key takeaways with team members. Then use this handout to guide further discussion and identify concrete next steps.

Conduct a Quick Self-Assessment

How Family-Centered Is Your Program?



What steps can you take to move practice?

Use the 3N Framework (turn page) to identify your next steps to becoming more family-centered

Numbers



The Judge can:

- Ask clients if they have minor children.
- Ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location, quality of relationship, frequency of contact).
- Ask questions about family status at intakes.
- Ask if the family is involved in another legal system and/or public service agency.



The Coordinator and Team can:

- Ask if the children are with them in treatment? If not, strategize on how to get the entire family in treatment.
- Revise intake forms to capture information about children, placement, status, etc.
- Ensure that court information systems include tracking of family members.

Needs



The Coordinator and Team can:

- Ask if and how the child's medical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional needs are assessed.
- Ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings and assessments.
- Ask if the child received appropriate interventions or services for the identified needs.
- Ask if the child and family have been assessed for trauma, attachment, or relationship issues.
- Identify what family service components are included in the current scope of services - such as developmental and behavioral screenings and assessments; parent-child relationship based interventions; evidence-based parenting; trauma-focused services; quality and frequent visitation; early and ongoing peer recovery support; and community and auxiliary support.
- Identify what components are missing or need improvement.
- Ask what parenting curriculum can be offered. Is it evidence-based for families affected by parental substance use? Does it have a separate and joint component for parent-child? Does it serve a wide range of ages for children?
- Ask how we can support frequent and quality visitation between parents and their children. Ask if there are existing challenges and what solutions need to be explored.



Networks



The Coordinator and Team can:

- Explore and identify any agencies that serve our families. Are there any outcomes that we share? Have we conducted a community mapping exercise or taken inventory of existing agencies and service providers that already serve families?
- Strategize how we can mobilize other agencies and link to new resources that already serve children and families.
- Strategize how we will refer and follow-up with outside agencies for children's services.
- Ensure if child and family-serving agencies are on the collaborative team. If they are not, what steps can we take to invite them?