

*The Importance of Relationships in Family
Drug Court: Enhancing Well –Being for
Children and Families Using a Team
Approach*

Hon. Roger Heideman
Jamie Bahm
Jennie Cole-Mossman



Our Journey to An Infusion Model

“Necessity is the
mother of invention”



History

- Original Lancaster FTDC started by Judge Linda Porter over 12 years ago
- Judge Heideman takes over in 2013



Original FTDC – Traditional Protocol

- Post Adjudication
- Voluntary Participation
- Progress through Phases
- Incentives/Sanctions
- Children Affected by Methamphetamine Grant
- Institution of Child Parent Psychotherapy



Participation Declined



- Loss of treatment bed availability
- Defense Counsel/ Parent Objection



Original Protocol



- The Great Divide between parents and the court



Original Protocol

- Parents and Attorneys face the court cementing the impression of the great divide between parent and the court.



Time for a change...

- Decision is made to change from voluntary to mandatory
- Still needed to incorporate the 10 key components



10 Key Components

1. Drug Courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
2. Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.
4. Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.



10 Key Components

- 6. A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants compliance.
- 7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
- 8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- 9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
- 10. Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court effectiveness.



Relationships are Essential

- Many of the Key Components already hinted at the importance of relationships



Key Components of Drug Courts

- #2 Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defence counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights
- #7 Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential



Key Components of Drug Court

- #9 Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations
- #10 Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies and community based organization to generate support



Underlying all is the Relationship

- Caseworker : Participant
- Court : Participant
- Caseworker : Court
- Caseworker: Supervisor
- Parent : Child



Parallel Process

When two or more systems – whether these consist of individuals, groups or organization – have significant relationships with one another, they tend to develop similar affects, cognitions, and behaviors, which are defined as Parallel processes.



Family Treatment Drug Court Track



Bringing parents to the table..

Old view from the bench

New view from the table



Judge

- Emphasis is on engagement of the parent
- Emphasis is on helping the parent focus on the child
- Everyone sits at the table



Court: Worker

- Problem Solving relationship
- Not micro-managing the caseworker
- During team meetings they take positions and I don't second guess them.



Caseworker: Participant

- Motivational Interviewing
- Equalizing the power dynamic
- Engagement and self-assessment
- Being along for the ride...



Participant's View

- Advocate vs. Adversarial
- Frequency of contact breeds relationships



Parent Child Relationships

- All children under 6 receive assessment for trauma and if necessary Child Parent Psychotherapy



Caseworker: Supervisor

- Caseworkers are susceptible to secondary trauma
- Basic Trauma informed care requires relationships



Caseworker : Supervisor

- Knowing the worker on a personal and professional level
- How can I help?



Reflective Consultation

- 2 x monthly
- Reflective instead of Administrative or purely clinical staffing
- Focus on relationships



Caseworker and Judge

- What is one thing that you think the FTDC Track will make dealing with your clients EASIER?
 - 6 months responses
 - Meeting with the judge for accountability
 - More meeting with the court
 - Getting all the parties together
 - 18 month responses
 - Accountability from the court
 - Having the judge more involved
 - Support from attorneys
 - Getting everyone together



Caseworker and Judge

- What is one thing that you think the FTDC Track will make dealing with your clients more DIFFICULT?
 - 6 month responses
 - Lack of support from attorneys
 - Parents not invested
 - 18 month responses
 - Having the judge more involved
 - Parents not involved
 - Not having attorneys support



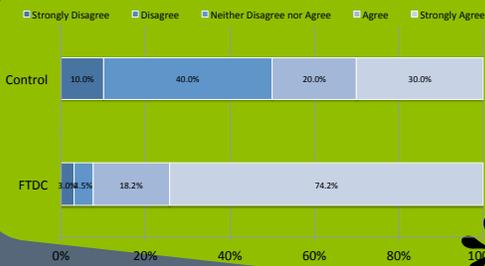
Perceptions of Fairness:

What does the data say?

Participants are surveyed several times during the course of their case about different aspects of the FTDT.



I receive praise from the judge when I make progress toward my goals.

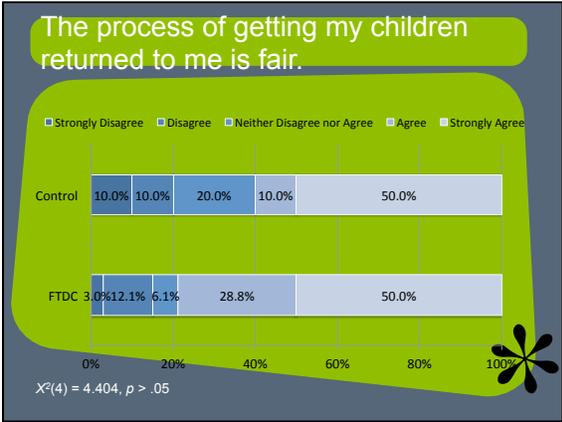


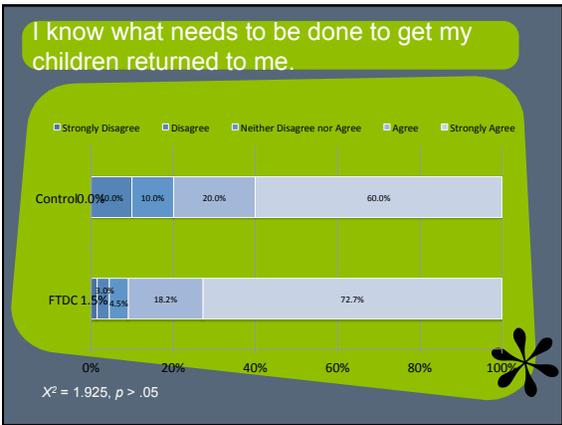
$\chi^2(3) = 15.421, p = .001$

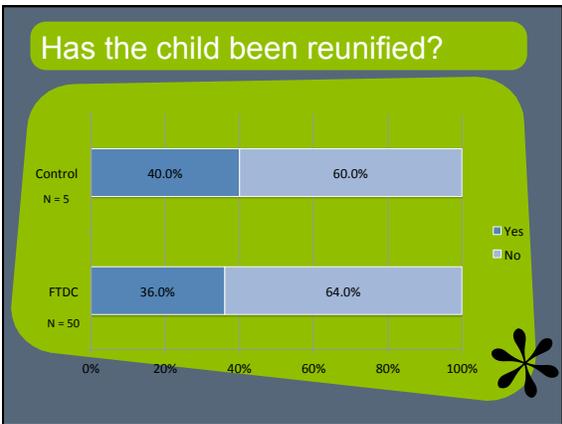
I receive praise from my case worker when I make progress toward my goals.



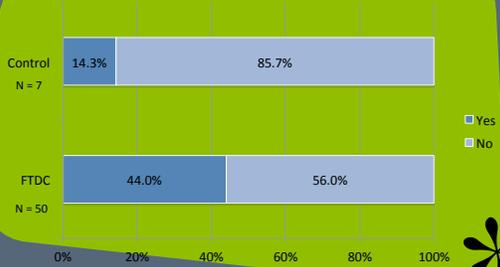
$\chi^2(4) = 2.031, p > .05$



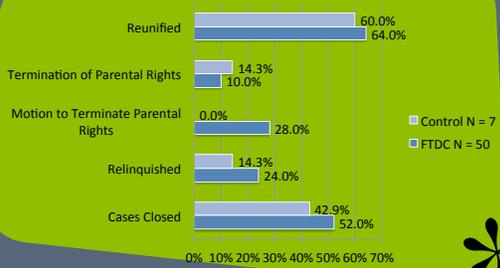




Families receiving CPP



End of Case Statistics



Advice from Participants



Resources and Citations

- www.nebraskababies.com
- Supervising Child Protective Service Workers – US Dept of Health and Human Services
- www.ojdp.gov
- www.samhsa.gov



- jcole-mossman@unl.edu
- jamie_bahm@nebraska.gov
- roger.heideman@nebraska.gov