

Georgia Council of Accountability Court Judges Annual Conference

Effective (and Equitable) Responses to Participant Behavior in Family Treatment Courts

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Rockdale County FTC Team



CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES
Strengthening Partnerships, Improving Family Outcomes

Acknowledgment

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OJJDP's Mission

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to youth delinquency and victimization. The Office helps states, localities, and Tribes develop effective and equitable juvenile justice systems that create safer communities and empower youth to lead productive lives.

OJJDP's Three Priorities

- ✓ Treat Children As Children
- ✓ Serve Children at Home, With Their Families, in Their Communities
- ✓ Open Up Opportunities for System-Involved Youth

To find out more about OJJDP, visit: www.ojp.ojjdp.gov

Our Mission

Center For Children and Family Futures (CCFF) strives to prevent child abuse and neglect while improving safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes with equity for all children, parents and families affected by trauma, substance use and mental health disorders.



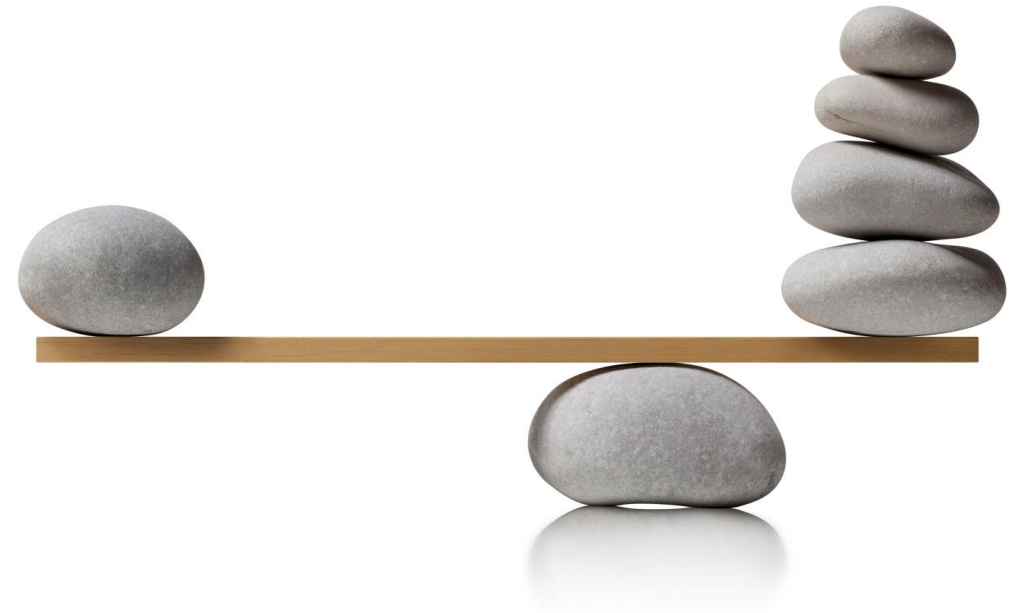
**NATIONAL
FAMILY
TREATMENT
COURT
PROGRAM**

Training and Technical Assistance



Panelists – Rockdale County Family Treatment Court

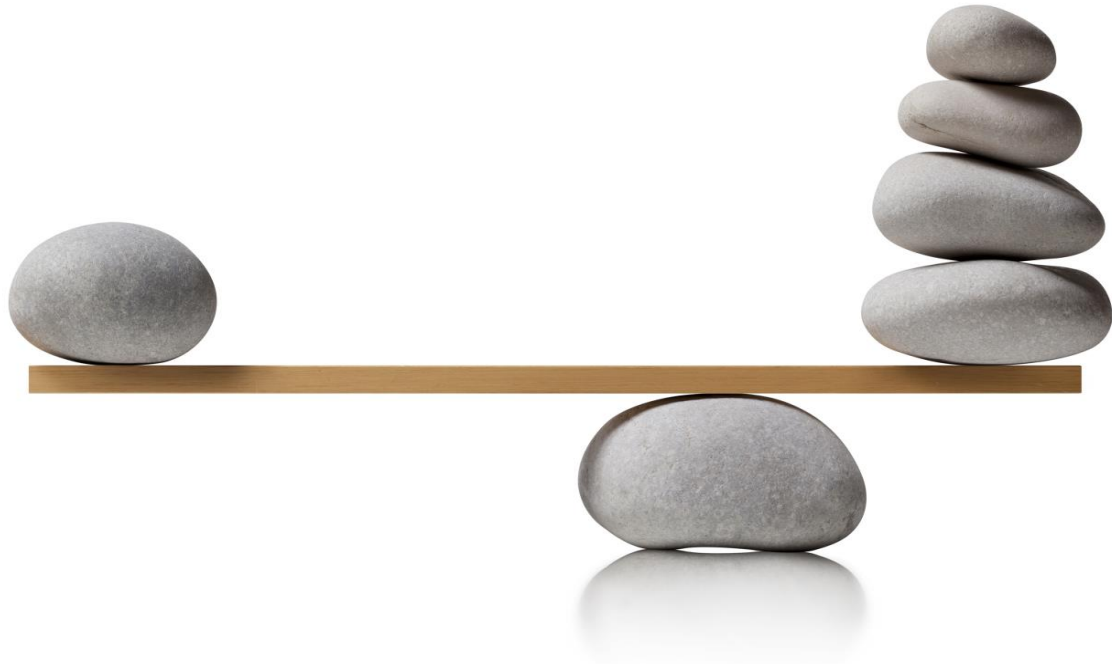
- Judge Maureen Wood
- Elizabeth Smith – Coordinator
- Stacia Schmidt – Treatment



Learning Objectives

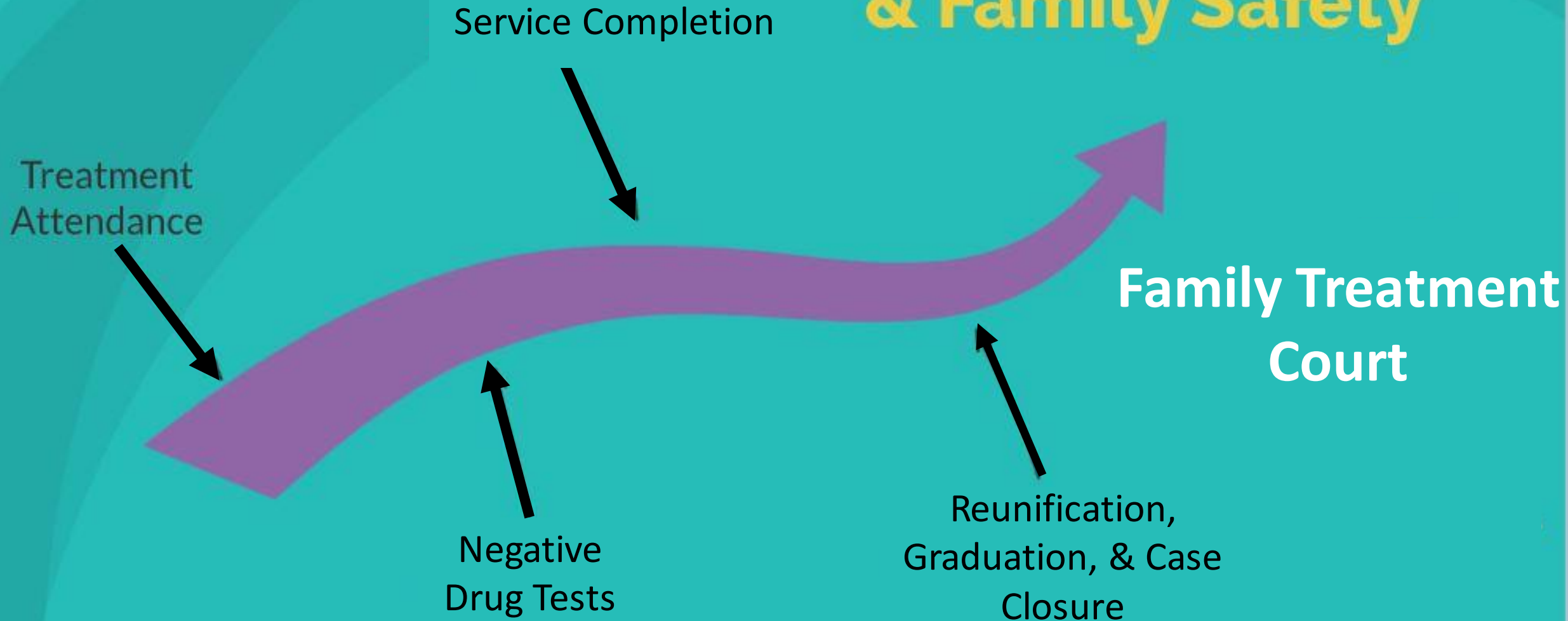
Participants will be able to:

- Summarize the research regarding behavior change.
- Describe the “tools” available to FTC practitioners to support behavior change.
- Identify at least three current practices in your FTC that align with the research and at least one that does not.
- Learn recommended benchmarks to monitor behavior that aligns participant progress with various case plan elements, including treatment, parenting time, and services for children.



Child Welfare Case Plans & FTC Phase Structures

Sustained Recovery & Family Safety



Acute Clinical Interventions

Source: [Beyond Compliance: Empowering Families to Build Recovery Capital for Sustained Recovery and Family Wellness](#)

Behavior Responses as Engagement

Addiction is a
brain disorder

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

Purpose of
behavior
responses are
to keep
participants
engaged in
treatment

Who Are We Serving?

Trauma

- Over half of women in treatment with a substance use disorder (SUD) diagnosis report a history of childhood trauma
 - 1 in 4 report childhood sexual abuse
- Between 55%-99% of women in substance abuse treatment report a lifetime history of trauma; 30-59% of women with SUDs also have trauma-related PTSD
- Estimated 26% of mothers and 13% of fathers involved with child welfare have PTSD (General population: 5.2% of females, 1.8% of males)

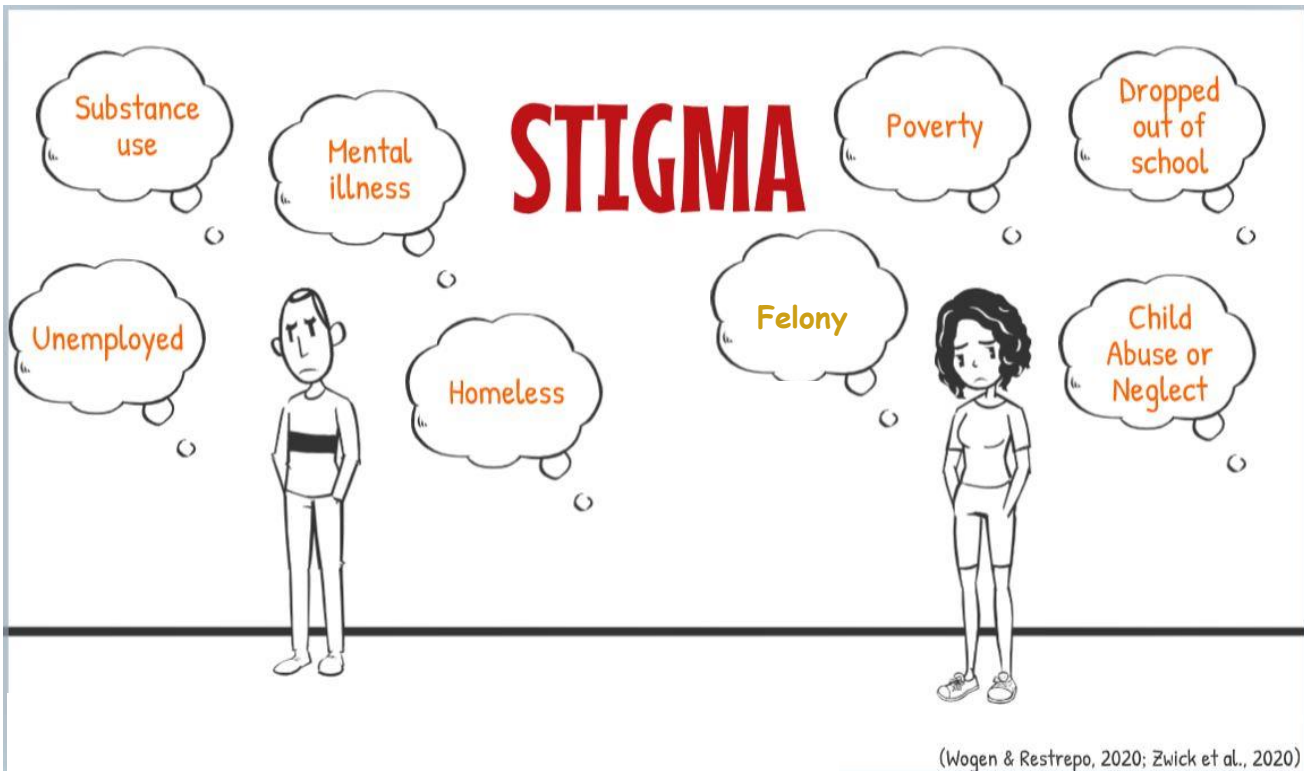
Who Are We Serving?

Toxic Stress

- Toxic stress (chronic stress) occurs when the body's stress response system is activated over a prolonged period with little to no relief producing changes to the physiology of the body and brain.
- May result from ongoing exposure to violence, abuse, stressors of extreme poverty, and other ACEs (adverse childhood experiences).
- Heightened cortisol levels increases an individual's risk for chronic illness, infections, mental illness, and SUDs.
- Signs of toxic stress include trouble regulating emotions, impulsive or risky behaviors, feeling anxious or overwhelmed, social isolation, and problems with sleep regulation.

What is Stigma?

Stigma relates to personal characteristics, or cues, that are considered shameful by society.



Stigma can be defined as the relationship between an attribute – such as drug use – and a stereotype that assigns undesirable labels, qualities, and behaviors to a person exhibiting the attribute.

DISRUPTING STIGMA

How Understanding, Empathy,
and Connection Can Improve
Outcomes for Families Affected
by Substance Use and Mental
Disorders



<https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/files/disrupting-stigma-brief.pdf>

Learn | Share | Do

- **Animated Videos**
- ***Team Discussion Tool***
- ***Take Action Tool***
- **Resources**



**Family Treatment Court
Practice Academy 2021**



Live Conversation: Thursday, July 8, 2021
11 — 12:30 PT | 12 — 1:30 MT | 1 — 2:30 CT | 2 — 3:30 ET

Putting the Pieces Together



CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES
Strengthening Partnerships, Improving Family Outcomes

**Disrupting Stigma to Support Meaningful
Change for Families in Family Treatment Court**

www.cffutures.org/ftc-practice-academy/

What Is Shame?

Feeling embarrassed,
humiliated, and/or stupid

SHAME

Feeling despair,
threat, powerlessness,
and irreparably flawed

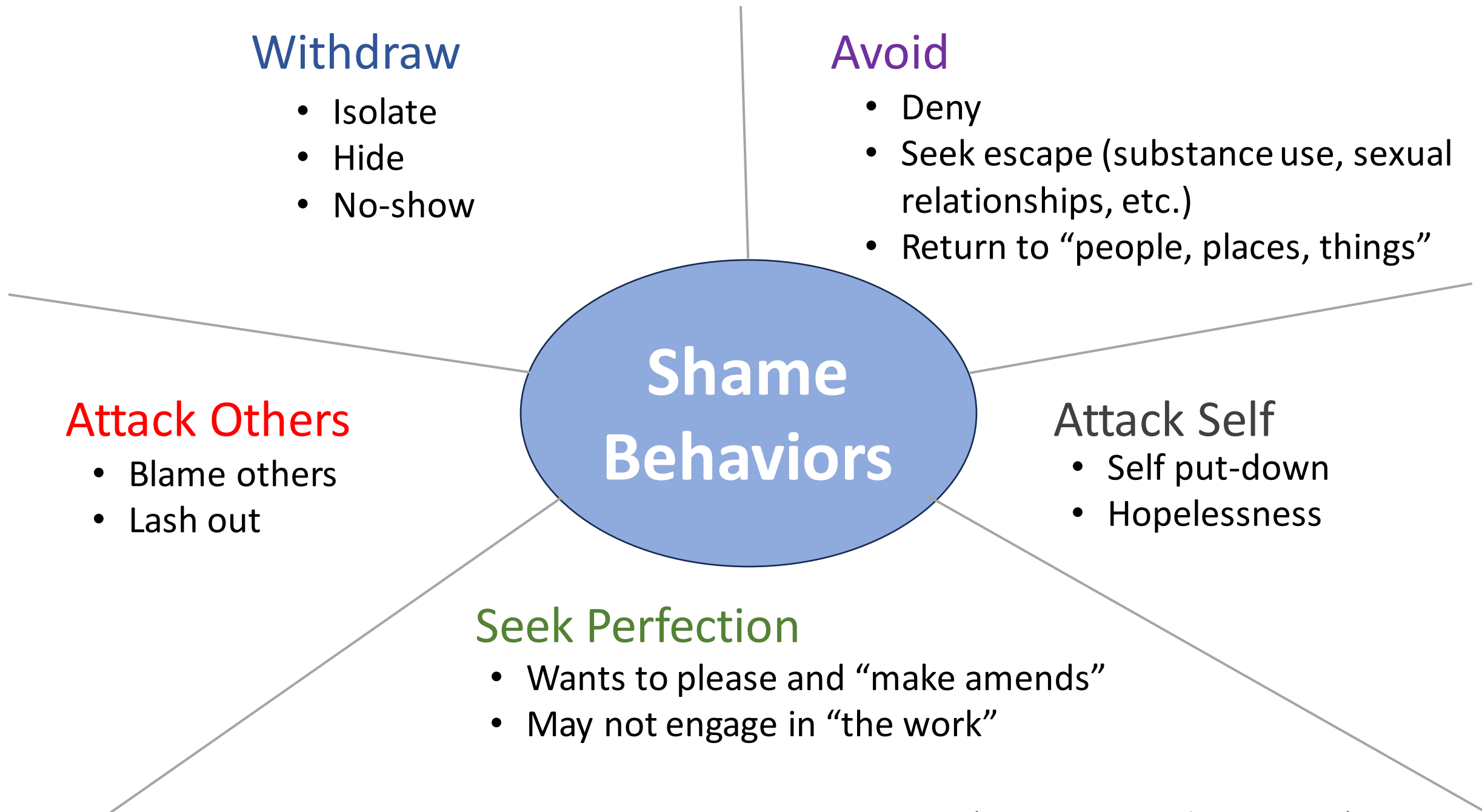


JUDGEMENT



Healthy inspiration from
shame leads to growth and
learning, modesty, respect for
self and others.

Unhealthy or toxic shame
severs connections, destroys
social bonds, and can lead to
anti-social behavior.



SHAME

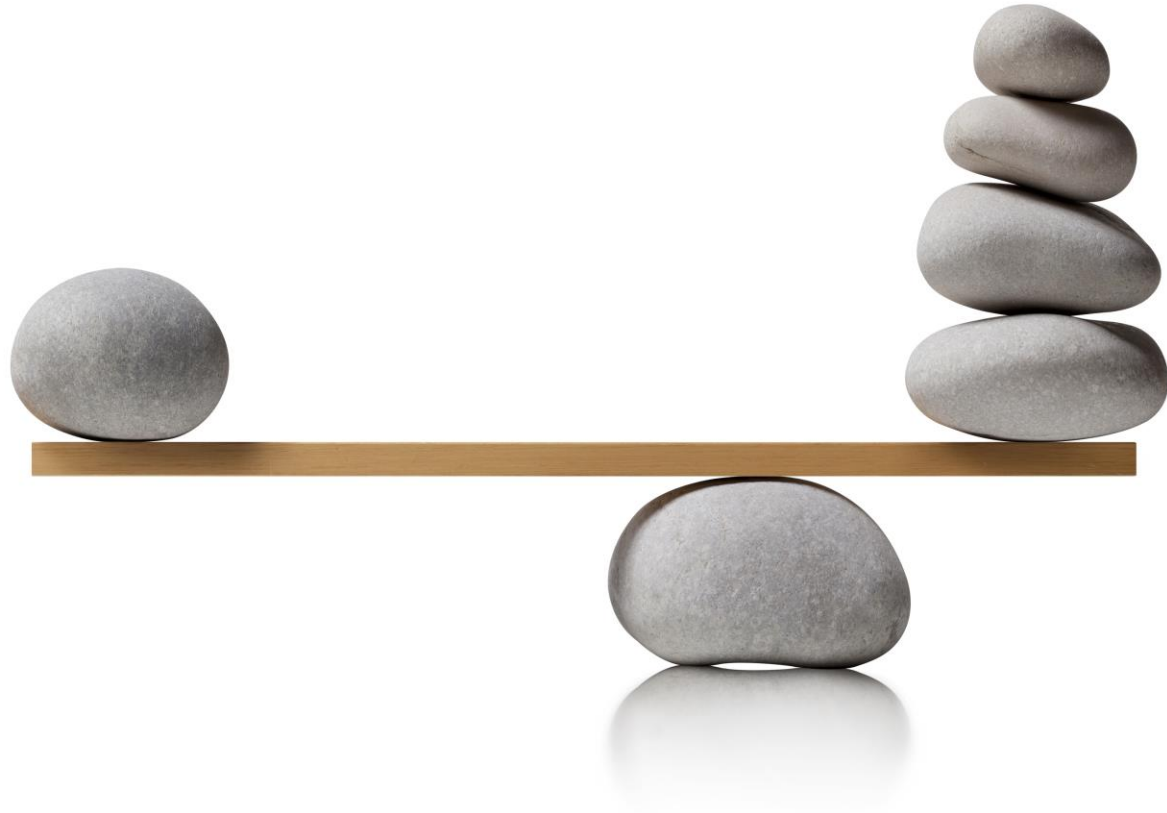
TRAUMA



HOPE

EMPATHY





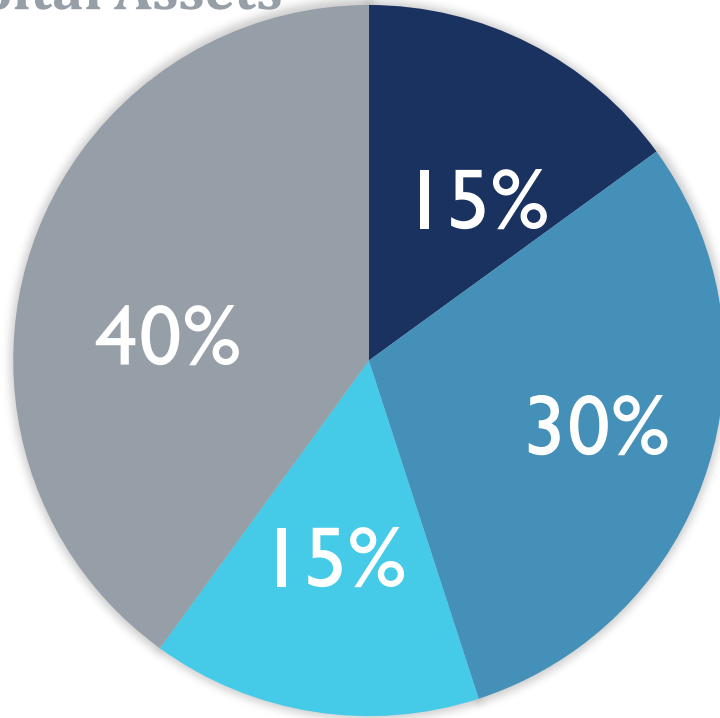
Practice Reflection

Expectations/Pygmalion Effect

Belief that the intervention will or will not work – placebo or Pygmalion effect

Recovery Capital Assets

Health
Home
Purpose
Community



Staff/Client Relationship

Empathy, therapeutic alliance, expectations of staff/therapist (Pygmalion)

Evidence-based Interventions

Evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions delivered with fidelity

Behavior Change

The Pygmalion Effect

The Pygmalion effect occurs because other's expectations impact both their behavior and our own. If someone believes we are likely to succeed, they will treat us differently to help us achieve those goals. In turn, when someone expects us to succeed, we try our best to meet those expectations.



(Rosenthal & Jacobson, 1968; Jenner, 1990)

Key Strategies to Respond to Participant Behavior



Comprehensive
Case Plan

FTC Phases

Treatment
Adjustments

Complementary
Service
Modifications

Incentives and
Sanctions

Child and
Family Focus

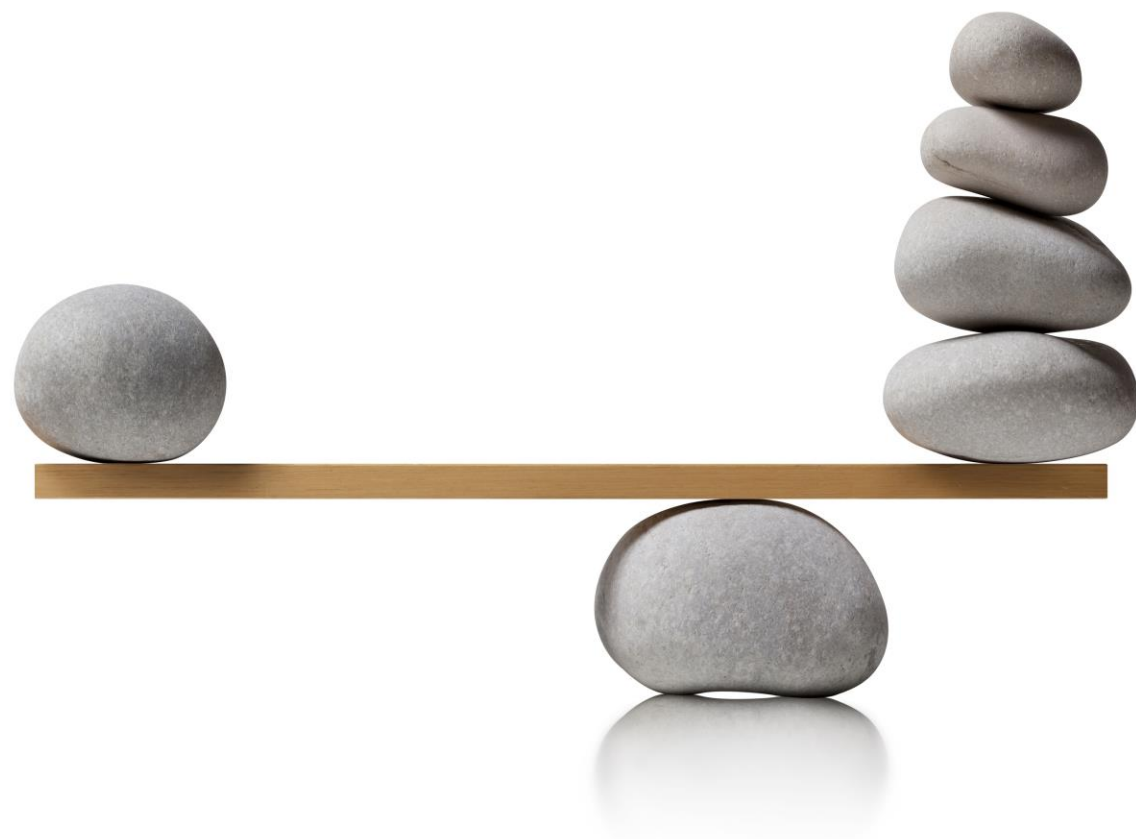
Child and Family Focus

Provide incentives that support family needs, parenting, and the parent-child relationship

Court must consider effect of a response on children and family as a unit

Accountability is focused on parent

Parenting time should be determined solely on basis of child's safety and best interest (vs. parent sanction or reward)



Practice Reflection

Principles of Behavior Modification

Standard 7,
Provision H:
Advance Notice

Standard 7,
Provision G:
Certainty

Standard 7,
Provision I:
Timely
Response
Delivery

Principles of Procedural Justice

Standard 7,
Provision F:
Equitable
Responses

Standard 7,
Provision J:
Opportunity
for Participants
to Be Heard

Standard 7,
Provision K:
Professional
Demeanor



5

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1

Positive

Negative

The “Golden Ratio” 5:1 positive comments to negative ones

Behavior Responses to Promote Engagement

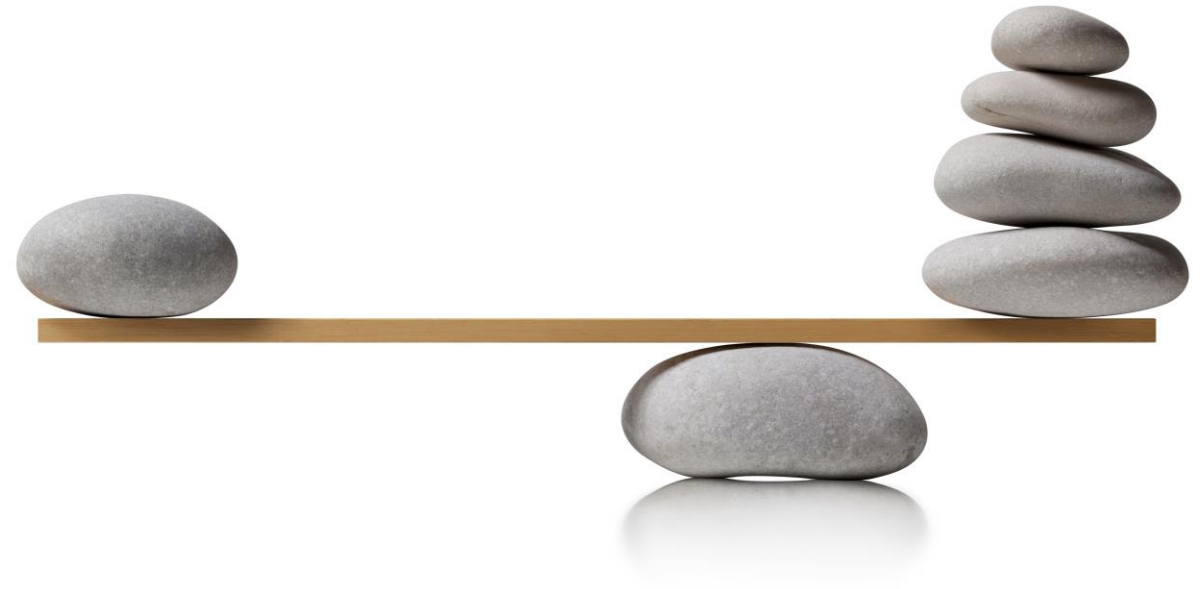
- Imposing sanctions as opposed to incentives too often can generate behaviors consistent with learned helplessness and undermine the FTC's ability to support positive behavior change. (Hiroto, 1974)
- Incentives help FTC and participants focus on desired behaviors as opposed to undesired ones. (Burdon, 2001; Kratcoski, 2017)
- When a drug court team responded to participant behavior with positive comments and treatment adjustments, participants were less likely to use drugs. In contrast, negative comments by the team are associated with increased numbers of positive drug test results. (Senjo & Leip, 2001)

Hold Accountable

To be held responsible for one's actions and behaviors

Sanction

A punitive or coercive measure or action that results from failure to comply with a law, rule, or order



Punish

To impose a penalty for a fault, offense, or violation or to inflict a penalty for the commission of (an offense) in retribution or retaliation.

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Why?

When behavior does not support long-term recovery and successful closure of the child welfare case... Ask WHY.

Is there inequitable access to services and supports? Do other barriers exist?

Treatment adjustments and complementary service adjustments are often the two most effective ways the team can respond.

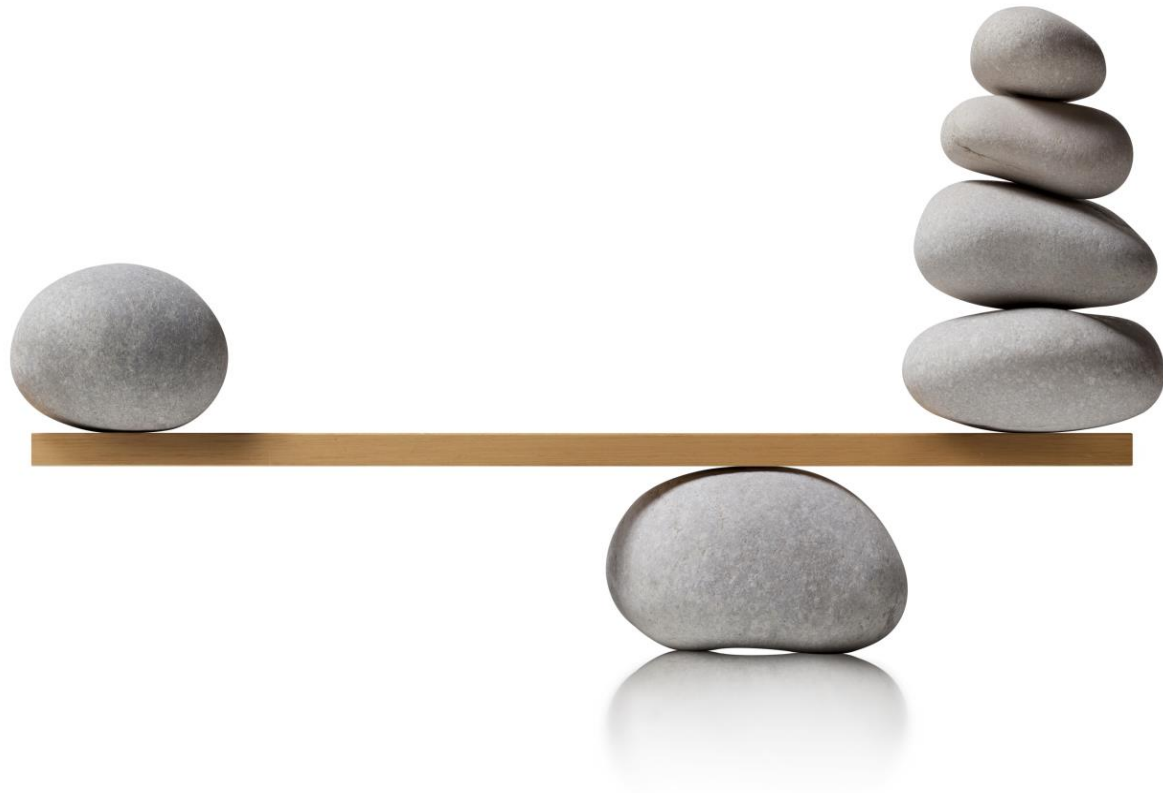
Jail as a Sanction

- FTC involves a non-criminal case in dependency or family court
- The ultimate “sanction” in a dependency case is Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)
- Jail should not be used in a non-criminal case – it can interfere with family time and dependency court requirements

Focus on Engagement and Treatment

**A participant should be discharged from the FTC
ONLY after ALL treatment adjustments,
complementary service modifications, and
targeted incentives and sanctions have been
applied.**

**What will happen to that parent after
unsuccessful termination?**



Practice Reflection



Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards

8 *Standards* and Key Provisions

*Scan the QR code
to obtain a copy:*



Family Treatment Court

Peer Learning Court Program



CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY FUTURES
Strengthening Partnerships, Improving Family Outcomes

King County FTC, WA

Tompkins County FTC, NY

Wapello County FTC, IA

Baltimore City FRP, MD

Jefferson County FIT Court, CO

Grant County FRC, IN

Pima County RAISE FTC, AZ

Travis County PIR/FDTC, TX

PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT INCLUDES:

- ♦ Virtual and in-person observation of FTC staffing and court sessions
- ♦ Discipline-specific discussions
- ♦ Technical assistance support
- ♦ Access to operational documents (e.g., policy and procedure manual, parent handbook, reporting templates, MOU, etc.)
- ♦ And much more

To learn more scan the QR code
or visit our webpage



www.cffutures.org/plc/



To participate in a peer-to-peer
connection, contact us!



peerlearningcourts@cffutures.org



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