Family Treatment Drug Court: A Program Evaluation of a Mandatory Problem-Solving Court

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Overview

- Family Treatment Drug Court Track
- Evaluation Methods
- Evaluation Results
- Mandatory FDC are perceived as fair.
Methamphetamine

Heroin

Cocaine
Family Drug Courts

- Characterized by:
  - More frequent hearings/meetings
  - Escalating sanctions
  - Rewards

- Therapeutic Jurisprudence
  - Voluntary
  - Judicial leadership
Family Treatment Drug Court

• Established 2014

• Components
  • Mandatory
  • Monthly team meetings
  • 90-day review hearings
  • Specialized trauma-informed substance abuse and parenting services
  • Corrective measures
Evaluation

How does the FTDC impact the court process?
  • Case file review

How does the mandatory FTDC impact the parents’ experience with the court?
  • Parent interviews
  • Case files
Case Characteristics

FTDC Families
- 50 Families
- 83 Children
  - Mean age = 4.99 years
  - Mean number of children = 1.66 children per family

Non-FTDC Families
- 5 Families
- 7 Children
  - Mean age = 5.86 years
  - Mean number of children = 1.4 children per family

Data collection is ongoing
Case Progression: FTDC

- **N = 50**
  - 19 closed cases
    - 8 reunification
    - 11 TPR
  - 31 open cases
    - 23 out of home placement
    - 6 reunifications
    - 2 TPR
Parent Interviews

- Perceptions of the FTDC Track
  - Voice
  - Process
  - Support

- 5-point Scale
  - 1 Strongly Disagree
  - 5 Strongly Agree

- N = 44
**Parent Interviews: Voice**

- I am comfortable speaking at family team meetings.  
  - Strongly Disagree: 5%
  - Disagree: 14%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 32%
  - Agree: 50%
  - Strongly Agree: 

- My voice is heard at family team meetings.  
  - Strongly Disagree: 2%
  - Disagree: 16%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 30%
  - Agree: 52%
  - Strongly Agree: 

- I have a say in the decisions that affect me and my children.  
  - Strongly Disagree: 7%
  - Disagree: 5%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 14%
  - Agree: 41%
  - Strongly Agree: 34%

- I can be honest in team meetings.  
  - Strongly Disagree: 11%
  - Disagree: 27%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 
  - Agree: 61%
  - Strongly Agree: 

I can be honest in team meetings.
**Parent Interviews: Process**

- **The process of getting my children back is fair.**
  - Strongly Disagree: 5%
  - Disagree: 14%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 5%
  - Agree: 30%
  - Strongly Agree: 48%

- **The main goal of this process is to get my children returned to me.**
  - Strongly Disagree: 5%
  - Disagree: 9%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 25%
  - Agree: 59%
  - Strongly Agree: 82%

- **I have access to the services that I need to get my children returned to me.**
  - Strongly Disagree: 7%
  - Disagree: 9%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 25%
  - Agree: 59%
  - Strongly Agree: 71%

- **I know what needs to be done to get my children returned to me.**
  - Strongly Disagree: 2%
  - Disagree: 2%
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 18%
  - Agree: 71%
  - Strongly Agree: 100%
Parent Interviews: Support

- Strongly Disagree  - Disagree  - Neither agree nor disagree  - Agree  - Strongly Agree

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

- 2%
- 7%
- 14%
- 16%
- 61%

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

- 2%
- 5%
- 5%
- 23%
- 66%

I can go to my case manager with any concerns I have about my ability to meet my goals.

- 7%
- 16%
- 18%
- 59%
Discussion

• Parent interviews
  • Mandatory FDC is perceived as fair

• Judicial leadership is key to successful problem-solving courts

• Limitations
Thank you!

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