



# **Skagit County Superior Court Family Recovery Court**

Information for Dependency Professionals  
November 5, 2024



# TODAY'S AGENDA

INTRODUCTION TO  
THERAPEUTIC COURTS

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FAMILY RECOVERY COURT  
OVERVIEW

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MEET THE TEAM

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HOW TO APPLY

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QUESTIONS AND  
DISCUSSION

# Introduction to Therapeutic Courts

- Adult Drug Courts
- Community Courts
- Family Treatment Courts
- Impaired Driving Treatment Courts
- Juvenile Treatment Courts
- Mental Health Courts
- Tribal Health to Wellness Courts
- Veterans Treatment Courts





# Some Key Components

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (PARTNERS)

- COLLABORATIVE APPROACH
- STRONG INFORMATION SHARING
- SHARED VISION

PRE-COURT “STAFFING” SESSIONS

REGULAR COURT REVIEWS

SANCTIONS, INCENTIVES, THERAPEUTIC  
ADJUSTMENTS

PARTICIPANT-FOCUSED





# GOAL OF BEHAVIOR CHANGE

PARTICIPANT-FOCUSED TO ACHIEVE LASTING RECOVERY  
THROUGH INCENTIVES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

# SKAGIT COUNTY FAMILY RECOVERY COURT

## Mission Statement

Family Recovery Court works to provide parents with tools and supports to stabilize and maintain a lifestyle free from substance use and create healthy family relationships through a multi-disciplinary team with judicial accountability.





# FIVE PHASES OF FAMILY RECOVERY COURT

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Pre-Phase: Prepare

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Phase I: Choices

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Phase II: Challenge

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Phase III: Change

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Phase IV: Maintain



# Program Entry

- 1) PARTICIPANT EXPRESSES INTEREST/ APPLIES
- 2) TEAM AUTHORIZES PRE-PHASE
- 3) PARENT ATTENDS COURT AND AGREES TO PRE-PHASE
- 4) IF ELIGIBLE AND INTERESTED, PARTICIPANT SIGNS IN TO THE PROGRAM

## PRE-PHASE: PREPARE

- 2 OR MORE WEEKS
- HAVE SUD ASSESSMENT
- COMMIT TO INPATIENT TREATMENT IF RECOMMENDED
- COMPLY WITH TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS



# EARLY RECOVERY

## Phase I: Choices

- At least 4 weeks
- Comply with Treatment
- Random Drug Testing
- Daily Community Support Meetings
- Start looking for a home group and sponsor
- Begin addressing other issues in dependency and housing
- Attend visitation

## Phase II: Challenge

- At least 8 weeks
- 5 Community Support Meetings each Week
- Obtain sober and substance-free housing
- Establish a home group and sponsor
- Stabilize medical and mental health
- Work on parenting calendar
- Attend children's medical/dental and educational appointments

# LONG-TERM CHANGE

## Phase III: Change

- At least 12 weeks
- 3 Community Support Meetings each Week
- Work toward long-term child-appropriate housing
- Being or continue engaging in work, volunteering, and/or education
- After two consecutive hearings in compliance, attend court once every four weeks

## Phase IV: Maintain

- At least 12 weeks
- 2 Community Support Meetings each Week
- Maintain long-term child-appropriate sober and substance-free housing
- Continue all of the progress already made in the program
- Maintain sober and substance-free friendships
- Comply with all dependency court-ordered services

# How it Works: Team Staffing

Team meets before court and:

- Discusses participant's progress, strengths, and challenges
- Makes recommendations to judicial officer
- Helps connect participant to more resources as needed
- Assigns action steps to team members

# How it Works: FRC Hearing

Participants attend court in person unless advance permission is given to attend on Zoom.

- Participant and judge discuss participant's progress, strengths, and challenges,
- Participant is determined to be in compliance or not in compliance.
  - If in compliance, an incentive may be given.
  - If not in compliance, a response will be given.
- Judge signs order and gives direction on what to accomplish by next court date.



## **Incentives and Graduation**

Recognition for participants'  
progress and hard work

# Responses

Responses are given when there is noncompliance with program requirements.

Responses address the noncompliant behavior with the goal of getting the participant back on track.

A non-compliance finding will delay moving up to the next phase.

Participant Behaviors	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
UA Violation / Return to Use	<b>Low Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1x1 mtg with SW/provider</li> </ul>	<b>Low Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calendar Assignment</li> <li>• 1x1 mtg with SW/provider</li> <li>• Daily Phone Check-in</li> <li>• Recovery Café Session</li> </ul>	<b>Low Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6-8 hrs. CSW</li> <li>• Homework</li> <li>• Daily Phone Check-ins</li> </ul>	<b>Low Response:</b> N/A
	<b>Moderate Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-4 hrs. CSW</li> <li>• Food Log</li> <li>• Calendar Assignment</li> <li>• Homework</li> <li>• Recovery Café Session</li> </ul>	<b>Moderate Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-8 hrs. CSW</li> <li>• Homework</li> <li>• Increased C/S Meetings</li> <li>• Food Log</li> <li>• Increased UA Testing</li> </ul>	<b>Moderate Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-2 <u>days</u> Work Crew</li> <li>• Increased Court Freq.</li> <li>• Roundtable</li> <li>• Daily C/S Meetings</li> </ul>	<b>Moderate Response:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-2 <u>days</u> Work Crew</li> <li>• Increased Court Freq.</li> <li>• Roundtable</li> <li>• Daily C/S Meetings</li> </ul>

# Meet the Team





# Current Team

Judicial Officers	Judge Laura Riquelme, Commissioner Heather Shand
Interim Coordinators	David Moreno, Kelli Frazier
FJCIP Coordinator	Cori Peck
SUD Treatment Provider	Natalie Miller, Brooke Lucas, Shannon Sexton
DCYF Social Workers	Brittany Bates, Hillary Mower
Guardian ad Litem	Eugenia (Nina) Thompson
Assistant Attorneys General	Amela Zukic, Sarah Reyes
Parents' Attorneys	Wendy Wall, Sandy McPhee, Kim Carrington, and anyone else
Brigid Collins PCAP Worker	Leslie Mingo
OPD Parents' Social Workers	Michael Anter, Chris Page
Behavioral Health Coordinator	Christi Brua Weaver

# Wrap-Around Support and Resources



Regular check-ins between participant and team members

Good contact between team members to connect to resources

Additional funding to support participant's needs beyond what DCYF offers

- Assistance with housing, childcare, clothing, and other needs
- Housing assistance caveat: limited to local supply, no FRC-specific housing

# Substance Use Disorder Treatment Provider

Current Provider:

Catholic Community Services

For FRC Participants, provides:

- Assessments
- Inpatient coordination
- Outpatient services
- Individual sessions
- Recovery support services that are not covered by Medicaid or other insurances

Facilitates drug and alcohol testing as required

Provides latest updates and information to FRC team pertinent to participants' progress in treatment

Other CCS Programs, separate from FRC are:

SOR/RAC (Recovery Support Services Program)

- Invested in recovery with a SUD – specifically opioid or other stimulant use

Short Term Housing Subsidy

- For individuals with SUD who are unhoused or in danger of being unhoused

# Guardian ad Litem

Supports FRC by advocating for the interests and safety of the children and advancement of families

Provides latest updates and information to FRC pertinent to the children of the FRC program's participants

Attends staffing meetings and hearings to help assess and advise on participants' progress



# DCYF Social Service Specialist

DCYF: Department of Children Youth and Families

Oversees case management for the Department including, but not limited to:

- Arranging and coordinating mental health, SUD, and other court ordered services for the family
- Communicating with medical providers
- Obtaining medical and prescription medical records
- Verifying all FRC-required services and activities
- Monitoring participant compliance with FRC orders

May participate in participant identification, orientation, and the participant admission process.

# DCYF Social Service Specialist

Also, works within all dependency cases to:

- Establish permanency for children
- Develop court reports and comprehensive family assessments
- Guide the development of a child/family-oriented case plan designed to minimize health and safety risks to children while strengthening and reuniting families
- Be a primary point of contact for parents and families
- Oversee the visitation schedule
- Participate in individual meetings and coordinate meetings for families that include both natural and professional supports involved with the parents and children
- Facilitate wraparound meetings
- Assume overall leadership in developing a unified care plan consisting of strengths, normalized needs, measurable goals, and assigned tasks to complete these goals

# DCYF Supervisor

Oversees all DCYF staff and DCYF daily operations associated with FRC

Participates in all FRC policy development meetings

Addresses DCYF personnel issues

Attends FRC court hearings as needed

Provides any requested information regarding case status/compliance

Makes recommendations on behalf of DCYF

Internally reviews and flags dependency petitions for potential participants and notes cause numbers and Shelter Care dates/times

Collaborates with the entire FRC team and FRC's community partners to improve the FRC program



# PCAP Manager

Brigid Collins PCAP  
(Parent-Child Assistance Program)



3-year intensive case management program that supports pregnant and parenting women who struggle with substance use disorder and finding resources in the community.

Meets clients where they are and works toward goals unique to their and their families' needs.

Offers transportation and support while at appointments, treatment, court hearings, and visits.

# PCAP Manager: Other Brigid Collins Services

## Parenting Programs

- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Positive Parenting Program (PPP)
- Promoting First Relationships (PFR)
- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- Family Prevention Services (FPS)
- Parent-Child Care (C-CARE)

## Case Management

- Parent-Child Assistance Program (PCAP)
- Family Support Team (FST)
- Moms in Recovery Program (MRP)

## Evidence Based, Trauma-Informed Therapy Services

- Cognitive Behavior Therapy Plus (CBT+)
- Eye Movement Desensitization Therapy (EMDR)
- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TFCBT)
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)

# Assistant Attorney General (AAG)



Represents and advocates for DCYF at the FRC hearing

Advocates for compliance with dependency statutes

Finalizes FRC orders prior to entry in court

Participates in all FRC pre-court meetings and hearings

# Parent's Attorney

Facilitates participant's entry or exit from FRC

Supports program by advocating for participant's stated interests for fair and equal participation in FRC

Keeps participant informed of their legal options and conditions to promote their best interests and participation in FRC

Attends FRC staffings and hearings to provide parent's perspective while considering their progress



# OPD Parent Support Social Worker

OPD:

Office of Public Defense

Provides various supports to parents, to include:

- Case advocacy as a liaison between parents and Department
- Housing support and resource management
- Verification of homelessness to assist qualifying parents for certain housing programs
- Transportation to various assessments and treatment, and accompanying parents to those meetings
- Support and encouragement in the face of adversity
- Advocate for reunification whenever possible
- Follow up with families after a case is dismissed

# Behavioral Health Contract Manager

Manages the contract for FRC services, including recovery support services for participants

These additional supports cover services that are not covered by:

- Medicaid or other insurance, or
- Other resources ordinarily available in dependency cases (such as goods and services typically offered by DCYF)



Contract manager for the Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment Provider



Does not provide direct services or have direct contact with participants



Can provide information about resources within the community and facilitate connections to those resources



# Coordinator



Facilitates and monitors FRC program

Provides support to all team members

Facilitates communication between team members

Secures physical and/or virtual hearing and meeting rooms for staffing and FRC hearings

Maintains incentives/rewards for participants



# FJCIP Coordinator

## FJCIP: Family Juvenile Court Improvement Project

Provides a link between participants' dependency cases and FRC

Facilities event/celebration planning and execution

- Plans, manages, monitors and evaluates projects related to the FJCIP aimed at identifying and correcting problem areas in the efficiency and effectiveness of the program, case management, and/or services; develops criteria to measure and assess the success of the program.
- Researches, analyzes and advises on service needs, process changes and other court models; assists with development and implementation of new programs.
- Assesses the needs of families, caregivers and court partners engaged in the dependency and family court systems.
- Coordinates with the court and partner agencies to ensure that court and community resources are understood by and easily assessable to court participants and judicial officers.
- Adjusts and enhances the implemented program(s) based on program feedback, decisions from the overseeing judicial officer(s) and team, and best practices as identified by state and national therapeutic court studies and associations.

# Judicial Officer



- Presides over the FRC program
- Leads team in staffing sessions and policy meetings
- Maintains and conducts FRC proceedings to ensure program integrity
- Grants rewards or imposes responses in conjunction with the FRC team in accordance with FRC guidelines
- Encourages and motivates FRC team and participants

# How to Find More Information and Apply / Refer Parents

Superior Court Website for Info

## Non-Attorneys:

- Refer parents to coordinator
- Team discusses by next FRC session with parent's attorney

## Attorneys:

- Send to coordinator
- Low barrier entry process



# More Detailed Program Information

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/SuperiorCourt/specialtycourts/FRCmain.htm>



## FAMILY RECOVERY COURT (FRC)

Family Recovery Court is an intensive therapeutic court. Its participants are parents whose children are involved in dependency of the program is to help participants with their recovery to facilitate reunification with their children.

### **Mission Statement:**

Family Recovery Court works to provide parents with tools and supports to stabilize and maintain a lifestyle free from substance family relationships through a multi-disciplinary team with judicial accountability.

Team members with FRC include Skagit County Superior Court, the Attorney General's Office, parents' attorneys, guardians ad DCYF social workers, and providers of PCAP (parent-child assistance program) and substance use disorder treatment.

FRC is held every other Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. [The 2024 FRC calendar can be found here.](#)

All program information is available on the Superior Court website.



# Information for Parents

Parents receive a binder with essential program information.

It is also available online to help make the decision about entering the program.

## More Information for Parents



### Application Process:

- About the Program and How to Apply
- Brochure
- Flyer

### Program Details:

- FRC Guide
- Phases of FRC
- Additional Services Available
- Program Responses

### Important Documents for Participants:

- FRC Inpatient Treatment Packet
- Sample Meeting Slip



# Resources for Advocates

## Information for Attorneys of Applicants



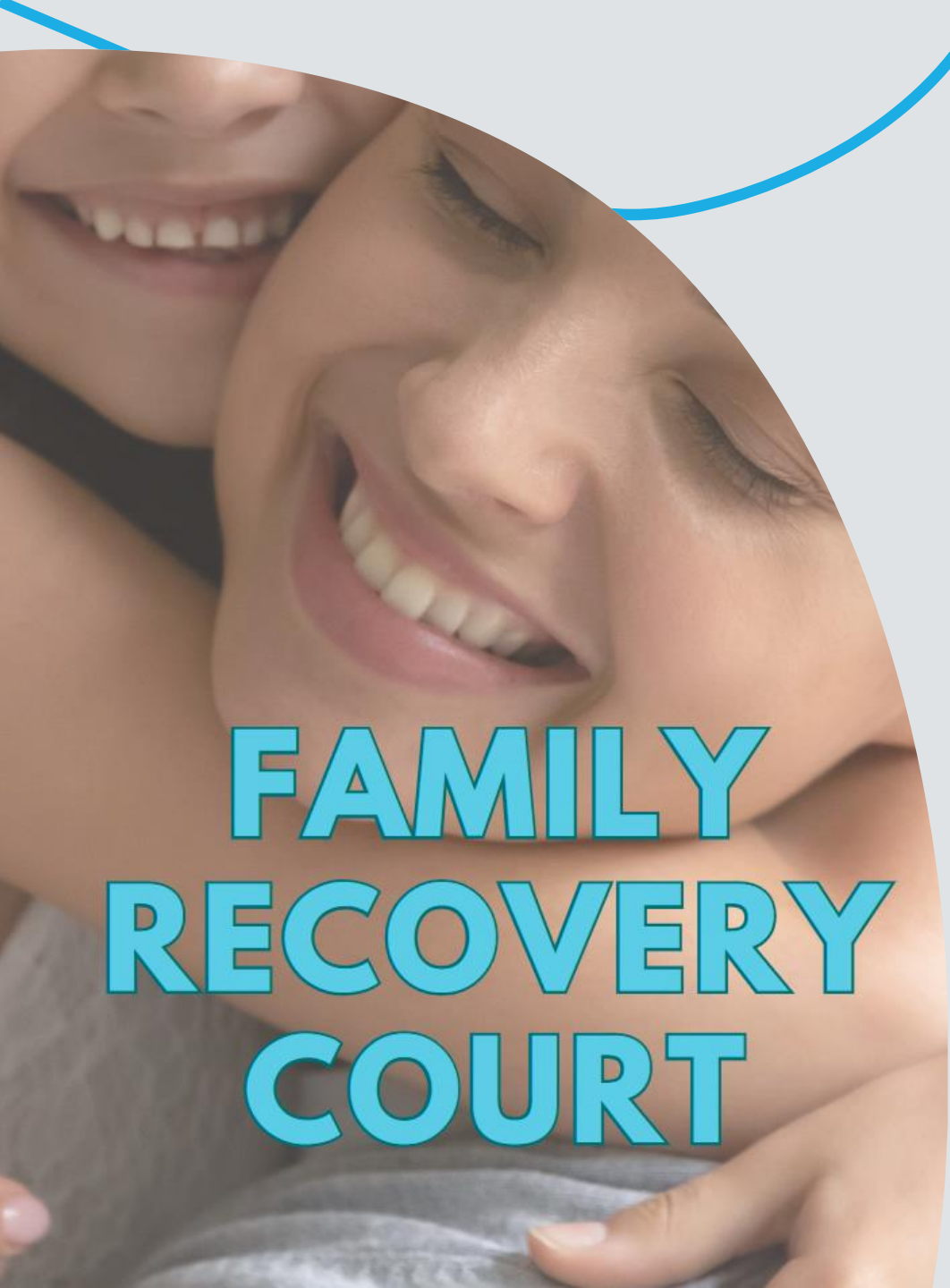
- [FRC Attorney Guide](#)
- [Expedited Application \[Pdf\] \[Docx\]](#)
- [Written Application \[Pdf\] \[Doc\]](#)

## Program Documents for Participants and Team



- [FRC Guide](#)
- [FRC Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Staffing Confidentiality Agreement](#)

Policies and procedures, participant guide, and application materials are available for you online.



# FAMILY RECOVERY COURT

## Brochure and Flyer

- MATERIALS TO KEEP IN YOUR OFFICE FOR PARENTS.
- HARD COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN COURT AND FROM THE COORDINATOR



# Questions and Discussion





**Thank you!**

TO LEARN MORE:

REACH OUT TO ANY TEAM MEMBER

CONTACT THE COORDINATOR

CHECK OUT THE FRC WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SKAGITCOUNTY.NET/DEPARTMENTS/  
SUPERIORCOURT/SPECIALTYCOURTS/FRCMAIN.HTM](https://www.skagitcounty.net/departments/superiorcourt/specialtycourts/frcmain.htm)

