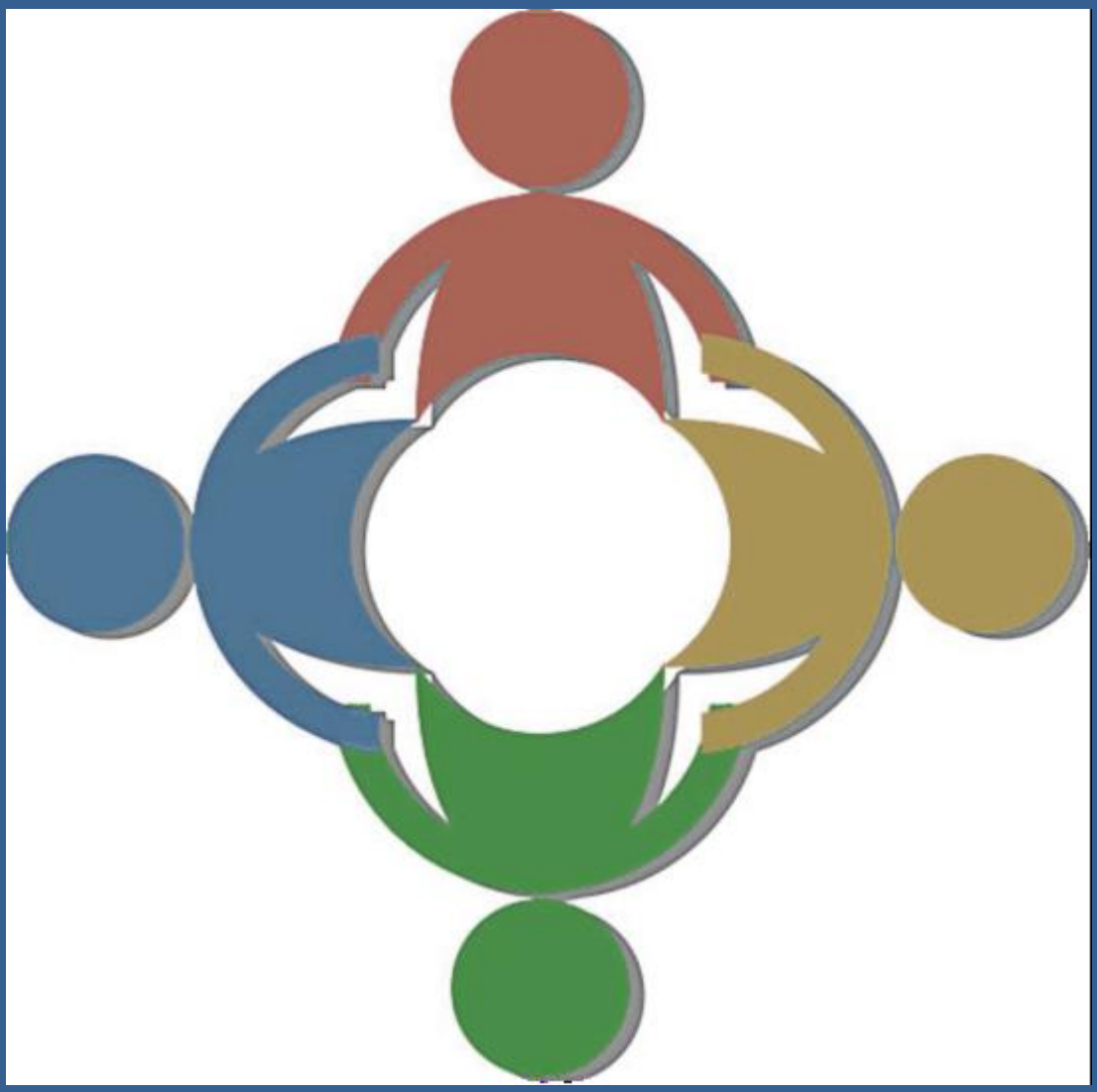
[redacted]



Walworth County Family Treatment Court

Tier 3 Program

April 2023

Table of Contents

Welcome 2

Overview 2

Eligibility Criteria 2

Mission Statement 3

The FTC Team 3

Treatment Court Hearings 3

WCDHHS Treatment Plans 4

Program Basics 4

Confidentiality 4

Drug Testing 4

Prescription Drug Use 5

Assessments 5

Phasing Structure 6

Incentives & Sanctions 7

Visitors in the Courtroom. 7

Non-Compliance from the Program 7

Termination from the Program 8

Contact Information 9

Acknowledgement of Federal Funding:

The Walworth County DHHS FTDC program is grant-funded by a SAMHSA Family Treatment Drug Court Award for calendar years 2019-2024 of $1,872,890.00 (Total).

Welcome

Welcome to the Walworth County Family Treatment Court (FTC). If you are reading this handbook, it means you are thinking about or are participating in the Tier 3 Program, due to your history of drug/alcohol use and the need for Walworth County to become involved with your family. The eligibility requirements of the Tier 3 Program include an Informal Disposition Agreements (IDA), Consent Decree, or In-Home Child in Need of Protection of Services (CHIPS) court case, alcohol or substance use, and involvement with a family case manager.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with the information you need to be successful in the FTC Tier 3 Program; most importantly maintain your sobriety and provide a safe and nurturing family setting. Should you decide to participate, you will be expected to adhere to the expectations outlined below, as well as any instructions given to you by various FTC Team members.

Overview

The Walworth County Family Treatment Court is a collaborative effort between the Walworth County Courts, the Walworth County Department of Health & Human Services (WCDHHS), and other agencies to provide further assistance to keep the family unit intact and maintain your sobriety. The purpose of the program is to provide you with the services and support you need to maintain sobriety and provide a safe and secure environment for your children. Most services are provided free of charge or billed through your insurance.

Participants are requested to enroll in substance abuse and/or mental health treatment (i.e. Functional Family Therapy-FFT, individual, and/or group therapy); submit to required, random drug testing; and attend monthly court reviews or team meetings as directed by the FTC team.

Eligibility Criteria

To be determined eligible for Family Treatment Court Tier 3, you must meet the following criteria:

- Have a pattern of alcohol or drug use.
- Have an open child welfare case in Walworth County and have an IDA, Consent Decree, or In-Home CHIPS action

- Meet with the Family Treatment Court Coordinator to complete an intake assessment

* Please note, that if your children are removed from your care for any reason during your child welfare case, you will move to the traditional FTC phase track and will enter the phase that best fits with your current circumstances.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Walworth County Family Treatment Court is to provide substance abuse treatment in a non-adversarial setting distinct and separate from the traditional criminal and juvenile justice systems. Family Treatment Court provides a comprehensive approach to individuals whose substance use has impacted their family. The central focus of the program is on treatment and recovery; however, the goal of the program is to help participants make changes in all aspects of their lives in order to achieve and sustain permanence and stability for their family.

The FTC Team

Team members may include:

- You (identified as the FTC participant or consumer)
- WCDHHS caseworker(s)
- AODA/mental health treatment representative(s)
- Judge(s), if applicable
- Corporation Counsel attorney (limited involvement)
- Guardian Ad Litem (GAL; limited involvement)
- Treatment court coordinator(s)
- Treatment court supervisor(s)
- Clerk of Courts representative(s)
- Child welfare case manager(s)
- Treatment provider(s)
- Contracted staff representative(s)
- Probation/Parole agent(s), if applicable

Your child welfare case manager will be your primary contact person during your involvement in the program. However, all members of the FTC team will play a role in your case, and all are committed to your success in the program.

Treatment Court Hearings

Court appearances are a key part of the FTC program. Tier 3 Program is only required to attend court review sessions once a month.

Before your FTC court hearings, the Judge reviews a progress report put together by the members of the FTC team. This report will include information about your drug test results, participation and attendance in treatment, family time with your children, and your general progress toward your treatment plan goals. At your hearings, you will have the opportunity to inform the Judge of any problems you may be having. You will be informed what time you need to come to court.

WCDHHS Treatment Plans

Both your caseworker and behavioral health treatment provider will work with you to establish treatment plans. These treatment plans will outline the specific requirements each agency expects you to follow. Because these agencies will work together to address your treatment needs, many of these goals and requirements will be the same. The WCDHHS parenting plan will identify any of the requirements not specifically related to substance abuse, such as participation in parenting classes or mental health treatment.

Program Basics

By following a few basic guidelines, you can greatly increase your chances of successfully completing the program. A few suggestions:

- Attend all scheduled court hearings, Family Team meetings, and appointments.
- Comply with the requirements of your WCDHHS treatment plan.
- Be honest! Although your honesty will not prevent a sanction from being imposed, it will help the team to consider the most effective response.
- Put effort into completing your obligations and responsibilities.
- Stay in touch with your caseworker and various FTC Team members. Be sure they always have a current address and telephone number in case they need to reach you.
- Be as organized as possible. You will need to keep track of lots of meetings, court dates and appointments. A calendar or planner is very helpful.
- If you are not sure about any requirements or expectations, ask your caseworker or other FTC Team members.

Confidentiality

State and Federal laws require that your identity and privacy be protected. In response to these regulations, the FTC has developed procedures that guard your privacy. You will be asked to sign an Authorization for Release of Information. This authorization is for the sole purpose of hearings and reports concerning your FTC case.

Drug Testing

Random drug and/or alcohol screening is a very important part of the program. While drug use is typically monitored through urine and/or breath testing, you may also be required to submit to other types of testing, including saliva tests (swabs) or sweat patch testing. You will be expected to comply with any testing ordered by your caseworker or the Court.

Positive, missed, altered or refused tests will be considered positive and subject to sanction. Abnormal creatinine levels can indicate tampering or deliberate flushing. Samples with creatinine levels below 20 mg/dl or above 400 mg/dl will be considered invalid and subject to sanction.

You are ultimately responsible for ensuring the screens you provide are valid. You should be aware that prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, herbal remedies, and dietary or energy supplements can affect your test results. As such, it is strongly advised for you to learn how the ingredients of any given medicine or supplement might impact results before you start taking them. Ultimately, you are responsible for what you put in your body.

Prescription Drug Use

All participants will be expected to inform their health care providers, within our discretion, of their substance use concerns so that informed decisions can be made when prescription medications are being considered. If prescription medications are deemed necessary, participants should make every effort to obtain a non-narcotic alternative, if one is available. Participants will be expected to notify their caseworker within 24 hours of being placed on a prescription medication, or if any changes are made to existing prescriptions. Failure to do so could impact your case negatively.

Participants with a history of abusing prescription drugs, or who have been prescribed potentially habit-forming medications, may be subject to additional requirements. These may include:

- Being restricted to one prescribing physician.
- Agreeing to work with your physician to discontinue use of a potentially habit-forming medication.

Assessments

The Walworth County FTC is continuously working on ways to improve the quality of the program for all participants. Therefore, it is important that the FTC team complete

assessments with FTC participants to evaluate their individual progress and the progress of the program. These assessments will primarily be completed by meeting with the FTC Coordinator, and will occur at the initial intake appointment, at a 6 month follow up appointment, and upon discharge from the program. There are several other short assessments that participants will be asked to complete every 3 months to track individual progress.

Phasing Structure

Phase 1- Engagement and Motivation (minimum of 30 days)

Sign all necessary forms and releases
Attend a behavioral health intake appointment and follow up appointment
Communicate honestly and timely with your family case manager and the Family Treatment Court team
Complete drug and alcohol testing as required by your family case manager
Comply with all safety services and providers as outlined in your safety plan
Maintain a minimum of 14 days of sobriety. Any substance use will be subject to the review of the FTC court team for approval to phase.
Utilize formal supports to accomplish the above goals (examples include: family case manager, behavioral health treatment providers, MTM, VIP)
Acquire approval and complete a "petition to phase" to be presented in court

Phase 2 Behavior Change (minimum of 90 days)

Actively engage in treatment and follow all treatment recommendations
Identify barriers and develop a plan to overcome these barriers (examples include housing, employment, financial stability, risky acquaintances/friends, transportation)
Develop an informal support network that will help you maintain your recovery
Utilize treatment skills to engage in activities that support a recovery lifestyle
Engage in family orientated activities with your children
Demonstrate involvement in your child/children's lives including but not limited to: involvement in their school, extra-curricular activities, medical and mental health appointments, and friends
Maintain a minimum of 60 days of sobriety. Any substance use will be subject to the review of the FTC court team for approval to phase.
Complete drug and alcohol testing as required by your family case manager
Comply with all safety services and providers as outlined in your safety plan
When your safety plan has been marked "safe", complete a "petition to phase" to be presented in court

Phase 3 Continuing Care and Monitoring (minimum of 45 days)

Attend all treatment and/or aftercare appointments and develop a plan to continue with supportive services
Demonstrate the ability to utilize your informal support system
Participate in and maintain sober family activities
Continue to demonstrate that your AODA use does not impact the safety and stability of your children
Complete drug and alcohol testing as required by your family case manager
Maintain financial stability and independence to be able to meet the needs of your child/children
Acquire approval to graduate from the FTC team and complete a "long term safety plan" to be presented in court

Incentives & Sanctions

The FTC Treatment team will decide whether you will receive an incentive, a sanction, or neither. This decision will be based on several factors, including your attendance and participation in treatment, drug screen results, family time, and general progress in the program. While incentives and sanctions may not be the same for everyone, they will be fair, and the Judge will explain the specific reasons for the response chosen. Possible incentives include verbal recognition from the Court, applause, and family-friendly items.

Throughout your participation in the program, you will be asked to complete additional assessments to help track your progress in the program. There are times you may be eligible to receive a $20 gift card for completing assessments (at the 6 month follow up and upon discharge). These assessments are completely voluntary, however completion of these assessments help determine how the program is working.

Possible sanctions include verbal warnings from the Court, essay presentations, delay in phasing, being unable to draw for additional gift cards, community service, or increased drug testing. In the event you are given a sanction, its severity will depend upon several factors, including how long you've been in the program, your history of compliance or noncompliance, phase, previous sanctions imposed by the Court, and the nature of the infraction.

Visitors in the Courtroom

To protect the privacy of all participants in FTC, no guests or visitors will be allowed in the courtroom while cases are being discussed unless approved by the FTC Judge. When FTC graduations occur, family members and/or friends of the participant graduating will be allowed into the courtroom for that participant's hearing time only.

Non-Compliance with the Program

While the FTC is always willing to help you overcome barriers, there are certain events that may result in being placed in non-compliance status with the FTC program. If you are placed in non-compliance status from FTC, you will be able to resume the program after speaking with your case manager and re-engaging in FTC court review sessions. Possible reasons for non-compliance status include the following:

- You fail to complete the assessment and evaluation with WCDHHS (or other approved agency) in a timely manner.
- You are incarcerated for an extended period of time.
- A pattern of noncompliance that suggests you are either unable or unwilling to abide by program rules.
- You disappear or become unavailable from WCDHHS supervision and fail to contact the department within 30 days of last contact.
- You miss 2 or more consecutive FTC review sessions.

Termination from the Program

While every member of the FTC team is committed to helping you successfully complete the program, there are certain events that can result in termination. If you are terminated from the program, you will not automatically lose your children. You will still have the opportunity to demonstrate to the Court that you can be a safe and stable parent. The following are reasons for possible termination from the FTC:

- Your family court case is amended or closed
  ***Note:** *Requirement for further assessment as may be eligible to transition to Family Treatment Court Tier 1, 2, or 4 Programs*.
- Walworth County no longer has jurisdiction over the Children's Court case.
- You are determined to have a condition that would prevent you from participating in or achieving benefits from the FTC program.
- A pattern of noncompliance that suggests you are either unable or unwilling to abide by program rules.
- You are sentenced to prison or unavailable to participate in program requirements due to an extended period of incarceration.

Contact Information

If you're interested in becoming a part of our program or just have additional questions about the Walworth County Family Treatment Court, please contact 262-741-3200 and ask to speak with the Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services Family Treatment Court Coordinator.

My Family Case Manager:
Name: _____
Phone Number:_____
Email: _____

Family Treatment Court Coordinator:
Name: Emma Madura, MSW APSW, SAC
Phone Number: 262-741-3230 or 262-379-0657
Email: emadura@co.walworth.wi.us.
Address: 1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121

Southeastern Monitoring (SEM) Drug Testing Information:
SEM Office: 262-723-4849
Drug Testing Line: 262-753-2405
Web Check In: mycallin.com
Address: 7 W. Walworth, Elkhorn, WI 53121

Walworth County Health and Human Services:
Phone Number: 262-741-3200- 24/7 Crisis line
Address: 1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121

Walworth County Family Treatment Court:
Location: 3rd Floor of the Courthouse (Branch 4)
Address: 1800 County Road NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121