



Family Intervention Court Program Plan

Vision Productive parents supporting healthy children emotionally and financially.

Mission To effectively provide for children's safety and welfare by optimizing opportunities for the recovery and healing of substance dependent parents through early intervention, education, and treatment, using a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to the entire family, which balances understanding with accountability.

Strategy Use a comprehensive, judicially supervised, case management process to promote personal accountability and facilitate socially adaptive change by adults who are delinquent in fulfilling their obligations to their children.

Target Population

Participants will come from two distinct populations:

1. Parents who have had children removed from custody due to physical abuse or neglect and for whom family reunification is the identified goal.
2. Non-custodial parents who are non-compliant with court orders and are facing incarceration for contempt of court.

Eligibility

Participants must:

- Be willing to participate in the program.
- Have a diagnosable substance abuse problem, as defined by the most current version of the *DSM-IV*.
- Be a non-violent offender, as defined by statute.
- Not have an acute mental health disorder that would preclude participation in substance abuse treatment.

Components

The Family Intervention Court team consists of:

- Judge
- Attorney representing county
- Defense Attorney for parent
- Ad litem Attorney for child
- FIC Coordinator
- Treatment Representative
- FIC Case Managers
- FIC Case Aides

The treatment services available through Family Intervention Court are:

- Detoxification
- Residential Treatment
- Outpatient Treatment
- Aftercare

Ancillary services available through Family Intervention Court include:

- Employment training/counseling
- Physical health services
- Mental health services
- Parenting skills enhancement
- Anger management education
- Family education
- Social/life skills training
- Literacy training
- Transportation

Process

1. Potential participants will be referred to the Family Intervention Court (hereafter FIC) Coordinator for preliminary screening.
2. FIC Coordinator conducts screening. If the parent is eligible and willing to participate in the program, the parent appears before the judge, who will admonish the parent to ensure the parent is aware of the legal ramifications of acceptance to the program. The parent is then formally admitted to the FIC program.
3. Participant is comprehensively assessed to determine the level of treatment needed, urine and hair samples are obtained for drug testing to determine baseline status, and is admitted to an appropriate program.
4. Participants attend court hearings at schedule commensurate with length of time in the program and progress toward treatment goals.
5. Incentives and sanctions are applied throughout the process to reward positive achievements and discourage maladaptive behaviors.
6. Random drug testing continues throughout process.
7. Upon completion of program, participants will be monitored for minimum of one year to determine long-term impact on program.
8. **LENGTH OF TIME IN PROGRAM: 12 – 18 MONTHS.**

Phase System

Phase I: 6 – 12 weeks in length
Weekly court appearances

Phase II: 3 – 6 months in length
Bi-weekly court appearances

Phase III: 3 – 6 months in length
Monthly court appearances

Phase IV: Up to 6 months

All phases include regular random drug testing, treatment and support group attendance, and education and/or employment activity.

Existing Funds Pay For:

1. Residential treatment services (through TCADA)
2. Outpatient treatment services (through CPS, TCADA)
3. Judge and court personnel
4. County and DRO Attorneys
5. FIC Caseworker (through CPS)

Grant Funds Pay For:

1. Additional residential treatment services
2. Personnel (FIC Coordinator; FIC Case Aides; Defense, Ad Litem Attorneys)
3. Job training
4. Travel for FIC team to conferences
5. Evaluation
6. Participant transportation

Participants:

- 247th District Court
 - The Honorable Bonnie Crane Hellums, Judge
 - The Honorable Leta Parks, Associate Judge
- Harris County Attorney's Office
- Harris County Domestic Relations Office
- Office of the Attorney General-Texas
- Harris County Children's Protective Services
- HoustonWorks
- Santa Maria Hostel
- VOA-Texas
- Unlimited Visions Aftercare, Inc.
- All About Recovery, Inc.
- Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.
- Turning Point
- Sunrise Recovery Programs, Inc.
- DAPA
- TRS, Inc.
- Zebra, Inc. dba Cheyenne Center
- The Council on Alcohol and Drugs – Houston
- University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work, Office of Community Projects
- Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers
- Travis – Jackson & Associates, Inc.
- Fresh Spirit Wellness, Inc.
- Attorneys in Private Practice:
 - Lorraine Cervantes
 - William B. Connolly
 - Bruce R. Steffler
 - Terisa Taylor
 - Meca Walker
 - Eric McFerren
 - Bill Morris
 - Katrina Griffith