

Family Reunification through Recovery Court



**SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
JUVENILE DIVISION
JUDGE LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO
650 DAN ST. AKRON, OH 44310**

FAMILY REUNIFICATION THROUGH RECOVERY COURT



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES AND:
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
DEFENSE COUNSEL FROM THE JUVENILE
LAW SECTION OF THE AKRON BAR
ASSOCIATION
COUNTY OF SUMMIT ADM BOARD
LOCAL SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL
HEALTH PROVIDERS
HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

WHY A SPECIALIZED DOCKET?



- Family Drug Courts (FDC) are among the most effective programs for improving substance abuse treatment initiation and completion in child welfare populations.
 - Treatment completion rates were 20-30% higher for FDC participants than for comparison participants
 - Parents who completed substance abuse treatment were 5x more likely to be reunified with their children
- Family reunification rates were 20-40% higher for the FDC programs than for the comparison groups.
 - Children of FDC participants spent significantly less time in out-of-home placements.
- At least a dozen evaluations offer convincing evidence that FDCs produce clinically meaningful benefits and better outcomes than traditional family reunification services for substance abusing families
- The average net cost savings from FDCs ranged from \$5,000 to \$13,000 per family.
 - The child welfare system realized the largest cost savings as a result of reduced use of foster care
 - The total taxpayer costs savings increased 10 fold over 5 years from a FDC in Oregon.

The Numbers



FRRC Program Overview

102

total adults enrolled since 2015

21

currently open cases

81

cases closed

330.0

average case length

45

reunifications

10

discharges

Enrollment Year

2015

2016

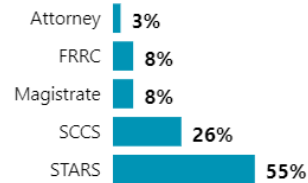
2017

2018

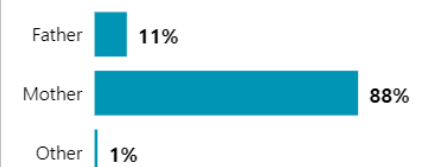
2019

2020

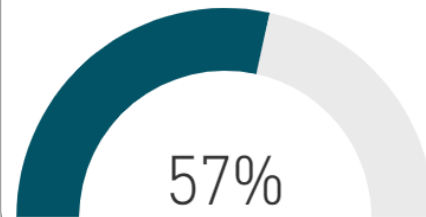
Referral Source



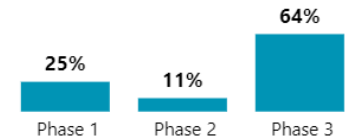
Adult Role



Successfully Closed Cases



Highest Phase Achieved (Closed Cases)



2019 Numbers



FRRC Program Overview

22

total adults enrolled since 2015

14

currently open cases

8

cases closed

263.8

average case length

4

reunifications

1

discharges

Enrollment Year

2015

2016

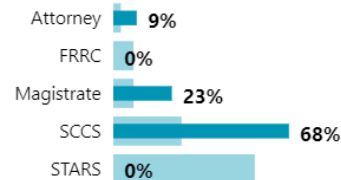
2017

2018

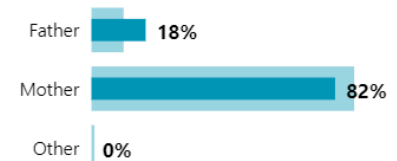
2019

2020

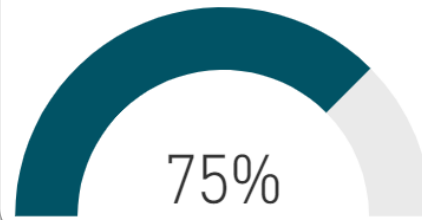
Referral Source



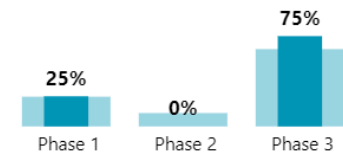
Adult Role



Successfully Closed Cases



Highest Phase Achieved (Closed Cases)



KEY PRINCIPLES



The FRRC adheres to the national Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards and The Supreme Court of Ohio 12 Specialized Docket Standards

Standards related to:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Organization and Structure | Disorder Treatment |
| 2. Role of the Judge | 6. Comprehensive Case |
| 3. Ensuring Equity and Inclusion | Management, Services, and |
| 4. Early Identification, Screening & Assessment | Supports for Families |
| 5. Timely, High-Quality and Appropriate Substance Use | 7. Therapeutic Responses to Behaviors |
| | 8. Monitoring and Evaluation |

* The FRRC has been a certified specialized docket pursuant to Sup.R.36.23 since August 15, 2014.

MISSION AND GOALS



MISSION

The Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC) seeks to quickly, creatively and effectively partner with court-involved families to address substance use and other family challenges to create a healthy, stable home environment that allows the family to permanently reunify.

GOALS

- Increase rate of reunification for program involved families
- Decrease program involved families who become re-involved with SCCS within 12 months of reunification

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?



Families are eligible to participate in FRRC if the parent of the child with whom SCCS has sought some level of protective supervision:

- Has an open case with both SCCS and SCJC and
- Has a history of substance use disorder and
- Is referred for FRRC consideration by the Magistrate or any party to the case based upon allegations within the complaint

The parent(s) must not:

- Have a history of violent behavior
- Have a mental illness or developmental delay that would prevent full, authentic program participation. Participants with co-occurring mental illness will be considered on a case-by-case basis; however, potential participants will be automatically excluded if previously diagnosed using the DSM-IV with a personality disorder or Mental Retardation other than Mild.

REFERRAL PROCESS



- SCCS may indicate on the complaint that a referral to FRRC is requested as an interim order
- As early as shelter care the Magistrate or any party may make a referral to FRRC
 - The Magistrate may order 1) the parent speak with the FRRC Coordinator; 2) the parent observe and FRRC hearing; and 3) the parent release an AOD assessment to the FRRC for the limited purpose of determining FRRC eligibility
- The parent(s) should be directed to speak with the FRRC Coordinator as soon as possible
- The FRRC Coordinator will explain the program, ask the parent to sign necessary releases, conduct a screening interview, and assist with obtaining an AOD assessment
- The FRRC treatment team will review the case and make a recommendation for participation
- The FRRC coordinator will attend the dispositional hearing to provide the treatment team recommendation and support transfer to FRRC
- If accepted to FRRC, the case is transferred to FRRC

EXPECTATIONS



- Attend all scheduled hearings either in-person or by videoconferencing
 - Initially weekly hearings are required
- Submit to random, frequent and observed UDS
 - Text or call-in daily
- Attend all recommended treatment appointments
- Keep in contact with FRRC coordinator, SCCS caseworker, treatment provider and sober support
- Engage in appropriate parenting time with child(ren)

SERVICES



- **Parents:** assignment of a Substance Intervention Unit caseworker at SCCS, parenting programming, regular court hearings, referral for evidence-based treatment and supportive services, a Recovery Coach, assistance with transportation, housing, and education/job training, access to mentors, support and case management by the FRRC Coordinator
- **Children:** parent/child relationship support, parenting time, mentors, tutors, Help Me Grow, counseling, and any other services normally provided by SCCS to children

CASE MANAGEMENT



- The FDC Coordinator and the SCCS Unit will provide collaborative case management through a 5 step integrated court model.
 - Orientation – participant is referred and ultimately ordered to participate in FRRC at the dispositional hearing
 - Phase One – the beginning of the intensive intervention phases. Regular court hearings begin. The primary goal is to attain sobriety and connect with community services.
 - Phase 2 – an intensive intervention phase. The primary goal is to engage in the recovery plan. Regular court hearings and drug testing continue.
 - Phase 3 - the final intensive intervention phase. The primary goal is sustain success and stand alone. Regular hearings and drug testing will continue but the frequency of hearings and drug testing will decrease.
 - Aftercare/Recovery – the final step of the program. Recovery programming will be available to program graduates on a monthly basis
- Program participants may receive incentives for their success as they progress through the program. Participants may also receive consequences for failing to comply with program requirements.

PROGRAM COMPLETION



In order to successfully complete the program the FRRC participant must demonstrate to the treatment team that they are able to sustain their life changes independent of the FRRC program. The FRRC participant must:

- Demonstrate abstinence from alcohol and drugs as evidenced by negative alcohol and drug screens and FRRC participant self-report
- Demonstrate ability to access supportive services such as treatment providers, sober support, financial support and other ancillary services
- Demonstrate stability and responsibility in the community with housing, employment, and custody of children
- Complete case plan and FRRC treatment plan requirements
- Complete a Relapse Prevention Plan and petition for successful completion

Discharge from the program may occur at any time at the discretion of the judge or FRRC magistrate. Sup.R., Appx. I, Std. 3(B). There are two types of termination: Unsuccessful Discharge and Neutral Discharge.

Benefits to Client



- A court experience that allows for more visibility and transparent communication
- Attentive support to the parent working toward recovery
- Frequent rewards and recognition to provide motivation
- More efficient access to services
- Integrated care
- Improved parenting skills
- Long term success
- Increased likelihood of reunification. This program is more likely to expedite the parent's progress and thus expedite reunification.
- Access to experienced professionals and the combined expertise of over 15 professionals committed to the collaborative approach of FRRC

Panelists



- Magistrate Lynd-Robinson, FRRC Magistrate
- Chelsea Bollin, Assistant Prosecutor
- Chelsay Finney, SCCS Legal Counsel
- Michele Tomer, FRRC assigned defense counsel
- Alan Medvick, defense attorney
- Holly Farah, CASA/GAL attorney
- Constance Sales, FRRC Coordinator
- Constance Bozeman, FRRC Graduate

Questions

