CALL TO
Take Action Guide

TAKE A NEXT STEP
Here are some possible steps as you take what you have learned and put it into action. Please contact us if you have any questions or need further assistance.

1 MAKE QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION A PRIORITY
Visit: American Bar Association - Family Justice Initiative at: www.familyjusticeinitiative.org
Contact: Mimi.Laver@americanbar.org

- Partner with parallel initiatives such as Court Improvement Program (CIP) or Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) and explore how the role of quality and interdisciplinary legal representation can have in achieving their goals and objectives
- Ensure that attorneys are included in planning, design, and re-design phases of the Family Treatment Court (FTC)
- Ensure that attorneys are present in all FTC staffing and sessions
- Contact Family Justice Initiative at American Bar Association for additional resources and information about claiming federal Title IV-E Funds of the Social Security Act to pay for legal representation for children and parents

2 ENSURE REASONABLE EFFORTS FOR ALL SUD FAMILIES: QUALITY FAMILY TIME AND APPROPRIATE SERVICES

- Examine current practice in your FTC or jurisdiction and identify specific effective strategies for serving families affected by Substance Use Disorders (SUDs)
- Review the principles and strategies of Cornerstone Advocacy with particular focus on quality family time and well-matched services
- Identify and implement necessary small adjustments at critical points in time within first 60 days of a Child Welfare Services (CWS) case
- Train attorneys on what works for families affected by parental SUDs, including evidence-based, family-centered and trauma-informed approaches, treatment, and services
- Discuss how to connect attorneys with well-trained professionals and staff, including social workers and parent mentors to better serve families affected by SUDs
3 CLARIFY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conduct ongoing training for non-legal professionals on judicial ethics and the role and responsibilities of all attorneys involved in a dependency case
- Conduct ongoing training for attorneys on substance abuse treatment, recovery, trauma, and parent-child relationships
- Ensure that attorneys have a solid understanding of the FTC program so they can inform parents of expectations and benefits of participation
- Discuss with attorneys their role and responsibilities in balancing zealous advocacy and collaboration
- Discuss with attorneys about the balance of serving the short-term and long-term goals and interests of their clients

4 COVID-19 RESPONSE

Letter dated March 27, 2020 written by Jerry Milner

- Review the recommendations in the letter dated March 27, 2020 by Jerry Milner of Children's Bureau
- Examine current practice in your FTC program or local jurisdiction to determine alignment with recommendations
- Identify practice and policy areas that need immediate attention and bring these to the attention to FTC governance structure and/or court leadership
- For additional resources, visit the webpage - "How to Deliver High-Quality Legal Representation in the COVID-19 Crisis" on Family Justice Initiative website

5 CONTACT US

- Contact us about FTCs and court teams that have successfully implemented high quality legal representation in their jurisdictions
- Contact us about training and technical assistance resources
- Contact us at fdc@cffutures.org
- Visit: www.cffutures.org

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