Ready-Set-Go!

NATIONAL FAMILY DRUG COURT TTA Program

5 Key Planning Decisions

As You Successfully Launch Your Family Treatment Court

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Hon. Casey Clevenger, 13th Judicial Circuit

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Acknowledgement

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Learning Objectives

- Identify key decision and planning points for all Family Treatment Courts (FTCs)
- Explore the important role of governance structure, leadership, and data during the planning process
- Learn from the experiences of FTC teams that have successfully launched a FTC and hear about a newly published resource, *Family Drug Court Planning Guide*

Family Treatment Court Mod

Judicial Oversight

Comprehensive Services

Drug Court Hearings

Therapeutic Jurisprudence

Intensive Case Management & Recovery Support

Enhanced Family-Based Services

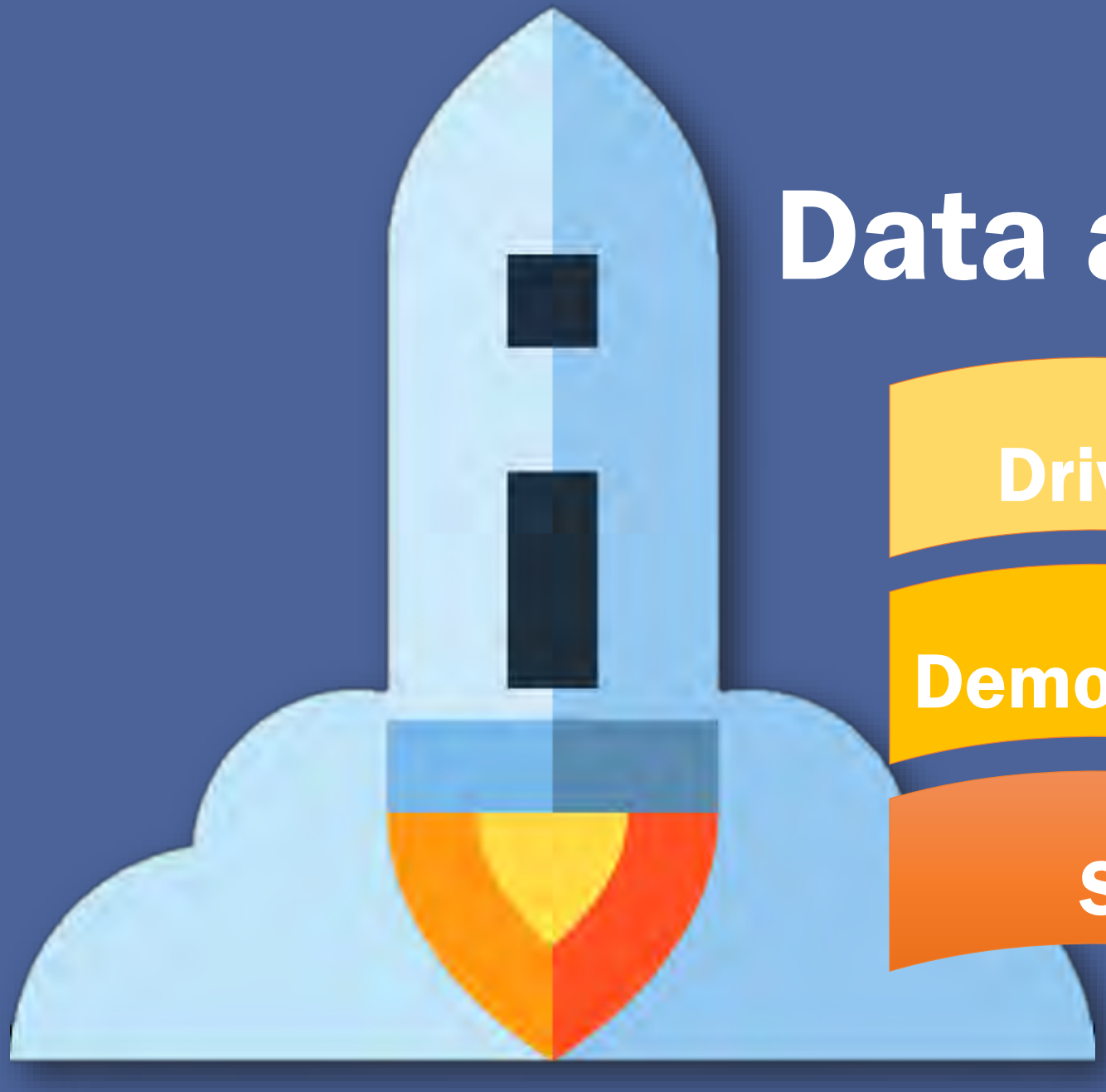
1 Do you need a Family Treatment Court?

Using data to establish need for FTC

5Rs

- Recovery
- Remain at home
- Reunification
- Repeat maltreatment
- Re-entry into out-of-home placement

What proportion of the total CWs population will your FTC serve?



Data as Fuel

Drive decision-making

Demonstrate effectiveness

Secure resources

2 How will you organize your work?

Establishing a governance structure

Involved in Systems That Struggle to Serve Them

The lack of coordination and collaboration across child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, and family or dependency court systems have hindered their ability to fully support these families.

Multi-level

Multi-agency

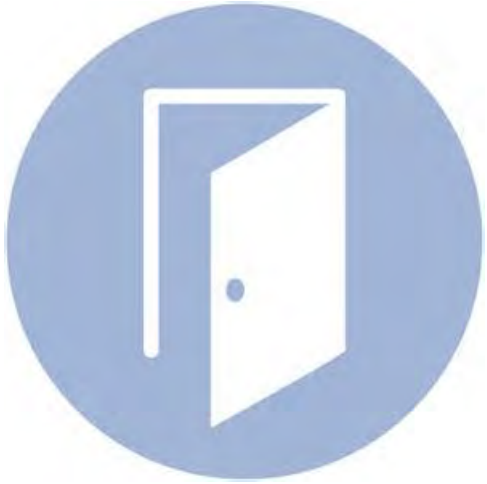
Executive or Oversight Committee

Planning Team

Steering Committee

Operational Team

Collaborative Structure for Systems Change



Opportunities to Build a Strong Infrastructure

- Develop a timeline to hold each other accountable
- Identify the right people for the right committees and workgroups
- Be crystal clear about functions and membership
- Need strong leadership to pull and keep momentum in between meetings
- Ensure information flow between different committees and the Planning Team

3 What model will you implement?

Selecting a structural design for your program

Integrated vs. Parallel

Integrated Model

- One judge, one court
- FTC is embedded into regular dependency dockets with integrated case plans

Pros:

- Involves key systems – Court, CWS, Treatment
- All-encompassing view of family

Cons:

- Ex-parte communication and judicial ethics
- Limited scale

Parallel Model

- Different judges, separate dockets
- FTC is embedded into regular dependency dockets with integrated case plans

Pros:

- Confidentiality and protection of “privileged” information
- Opportunities to operate at higher scale

Cons:

- Communication and information challenges
- Can result in duplicative and poorly coordinated case plans

Key Considerations

- What is the need of your community or jurisdiction?
- Have you identified shared principles and developed goal statements?
- Have you weighed the benefits and challenges of each model?
- Have you explored all challenges related to information sharing?

4 How will you set the course for success for families?

Develop key processes for identification, access to treatment, and recovery support

The Adoption and Safe Families Act

ASFA Time Clock

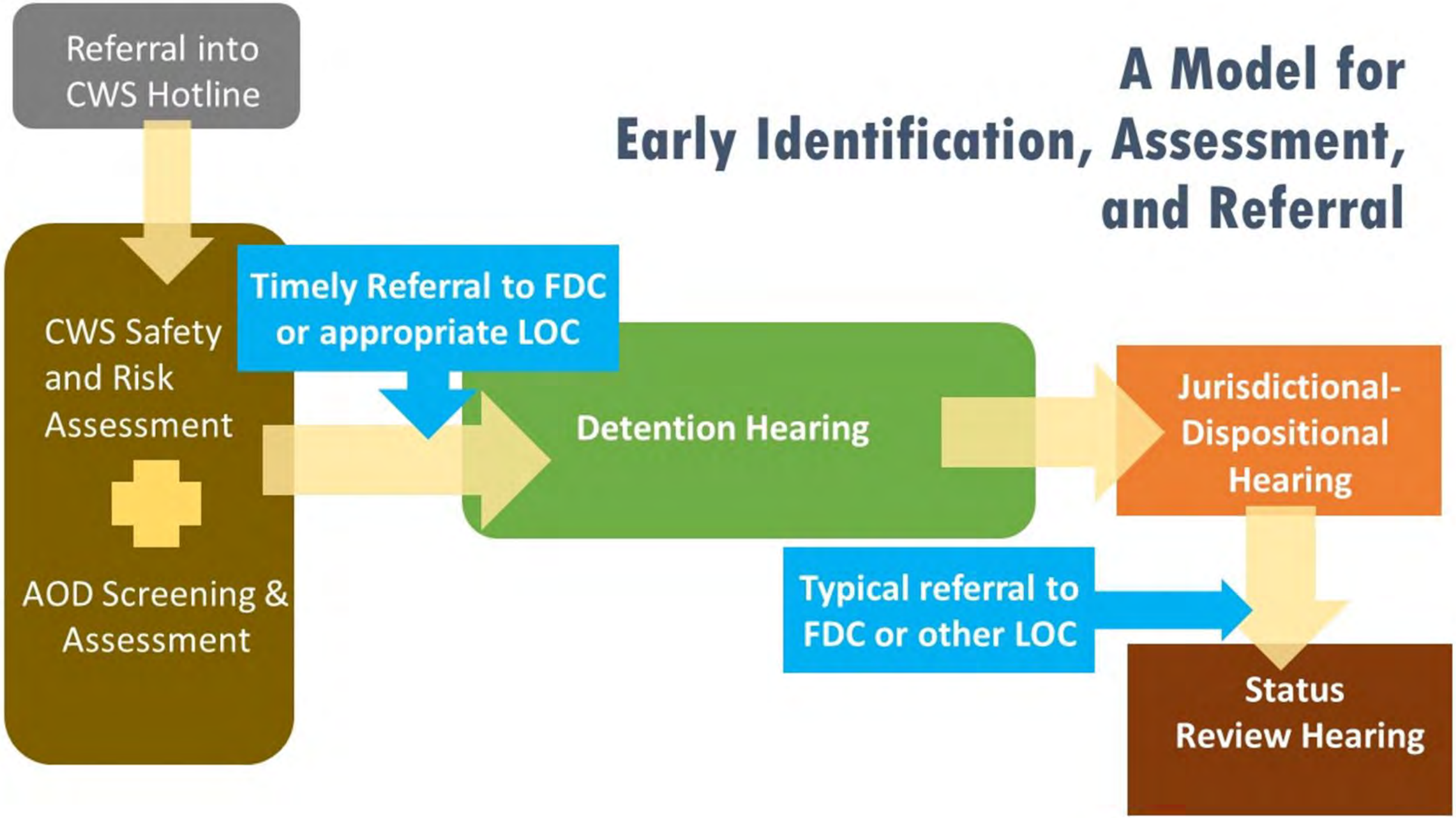
FTC's goal is safe and stable permanent reunification with a parent in recovery within time frames established by ASFA

No Time to Waste
Child Welfare –
12-month timetable for reunification
Conflicting Clocks
Treatment and Recovery –
ongoing process that may take longer
Child Development –
Impact of removal on the child and parent-child relationship

Early Identification

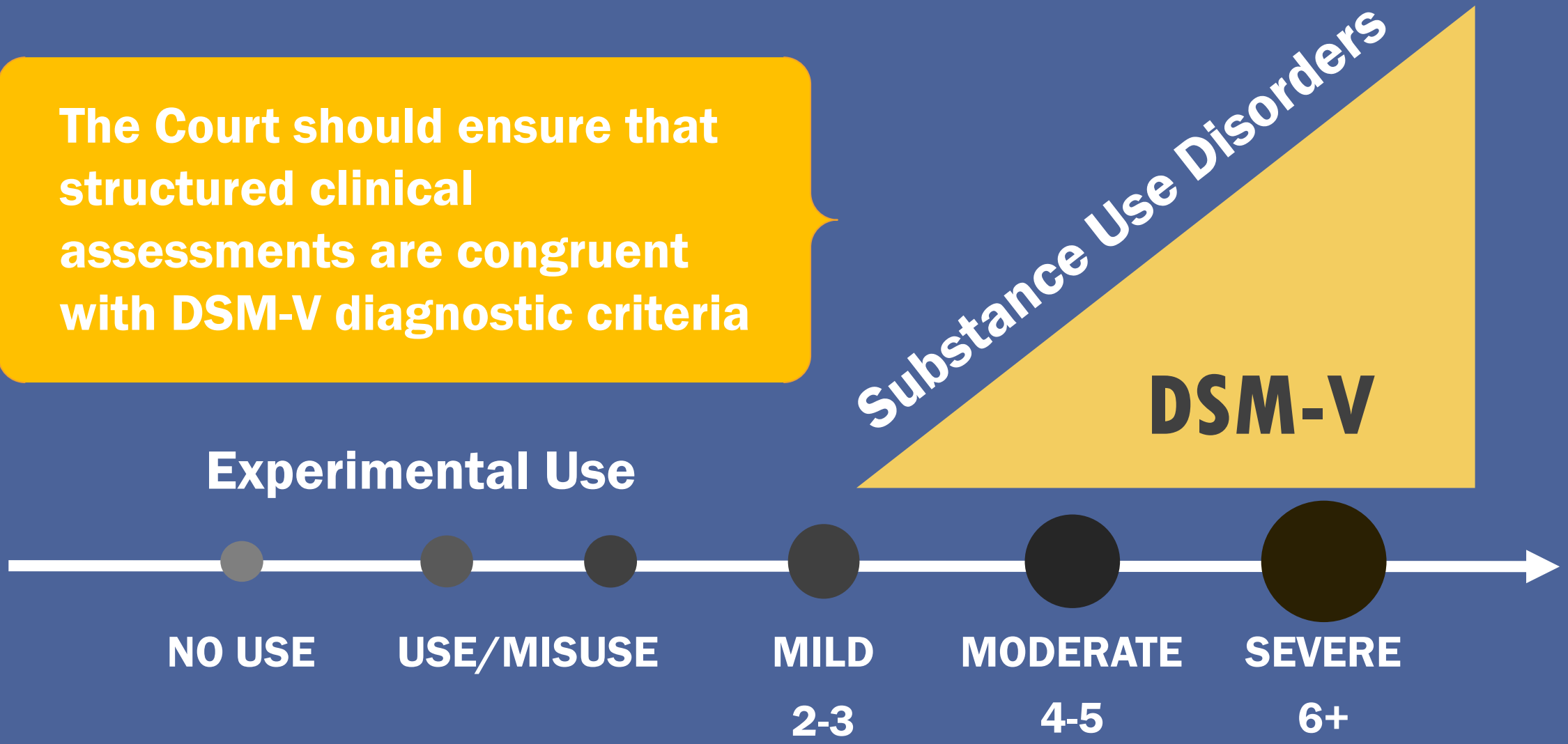
- At the earliest point possible – integrated with risk and safety assessment by CWS
- Multi-prong approach – including screening tools, drug testing, reports, and observations
- Structured protocols that send clients with positive screening to timely assessment
- Warm hand-offs, follow-ups, and communication are critical

A Model for Early Identification, Assessment, and Referral



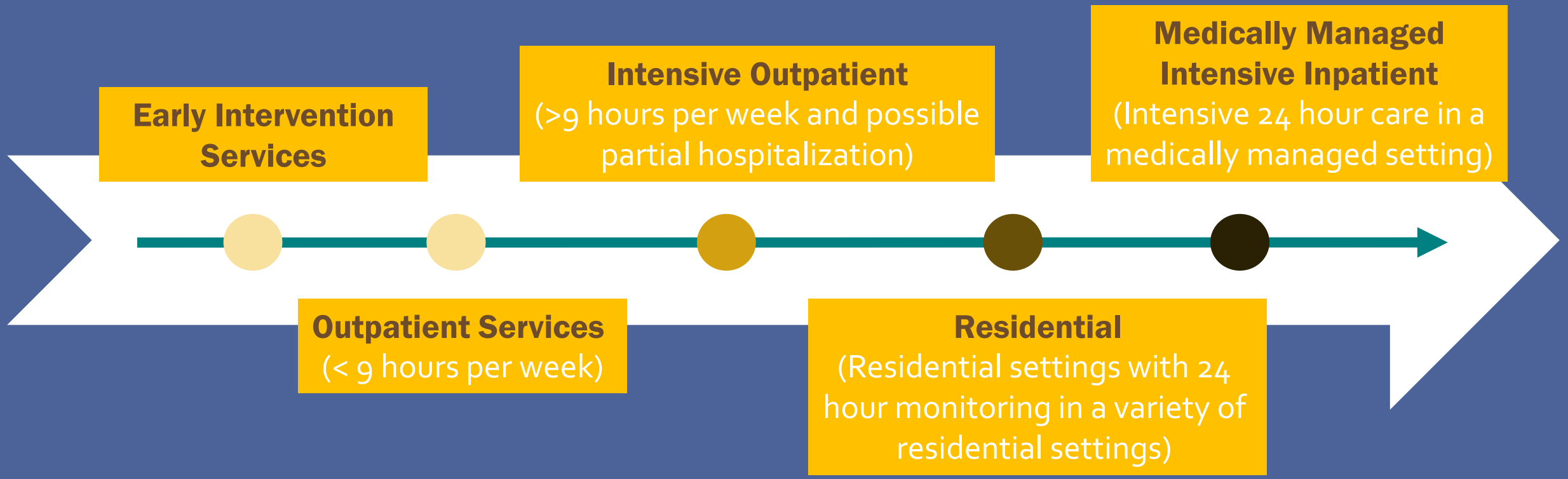
Diagnosing Substance Use Disorders

The Court should ensure that structured clinical assessments are congruent with DSM-V diagnostic criteria



DSM-V Criteria (11 total)

Levels of Treatment Services Across a Continuum of Care



Source: American Society of Addiction Medicine, 2016

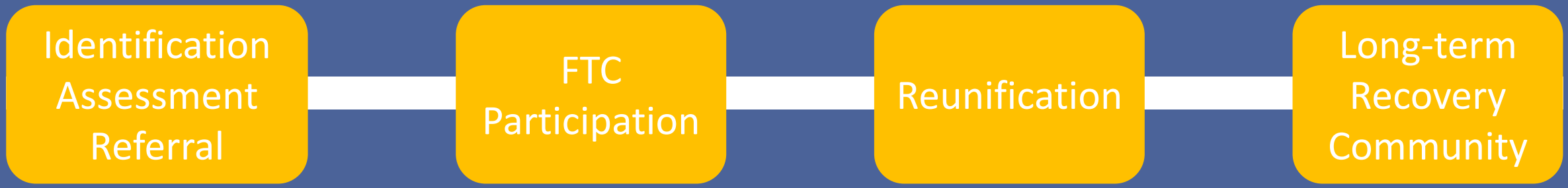
Time To & Time In Treatment Matters

In a longitudinal study of mothers (N=1,911)

Entered substance use disorder treatment faster after their children were placed in substitute care	Stayed in treatment longer
Completed at least one course of treatment	Significantly more likely to be reunified with their children

Source: Green, Rockhill & Furrer (2007)

Ongoing Recovery Support



Each phase has its own unique recovery needs and supports

- **Peer Support**
- **Warm Hand-Offs**
- **Resource Linkages**
- **Recovery Community**

Titles and Models

- Peer Mentor
- Peer Specialist
- Peer Providers
- Parent Partner

Experiential Knowledge, Expertise

- Recovery Support Specialist
- Substance Abuse Specialist
- Recovery Coach
- Recovery Specialist
- Parent Recovery Specialist

Experiential Knowledge, Expertise + Specialized Trainings

YOU NEED TO ASK:

What does our program and community need?

Recovery Support Matters

A Randomized Control Trial – Cook County, IL (n=3440)

Comprehensive Screening & Assessment

+

Early Access to Treatment

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Consistently High Reunification Rate

Ryan, Perron, Moore, Victor & Park (2017) "Timing matters: A randomized control trial of recovery coaches in foster care, Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment (77): 178-184.

Recovery Support Matters

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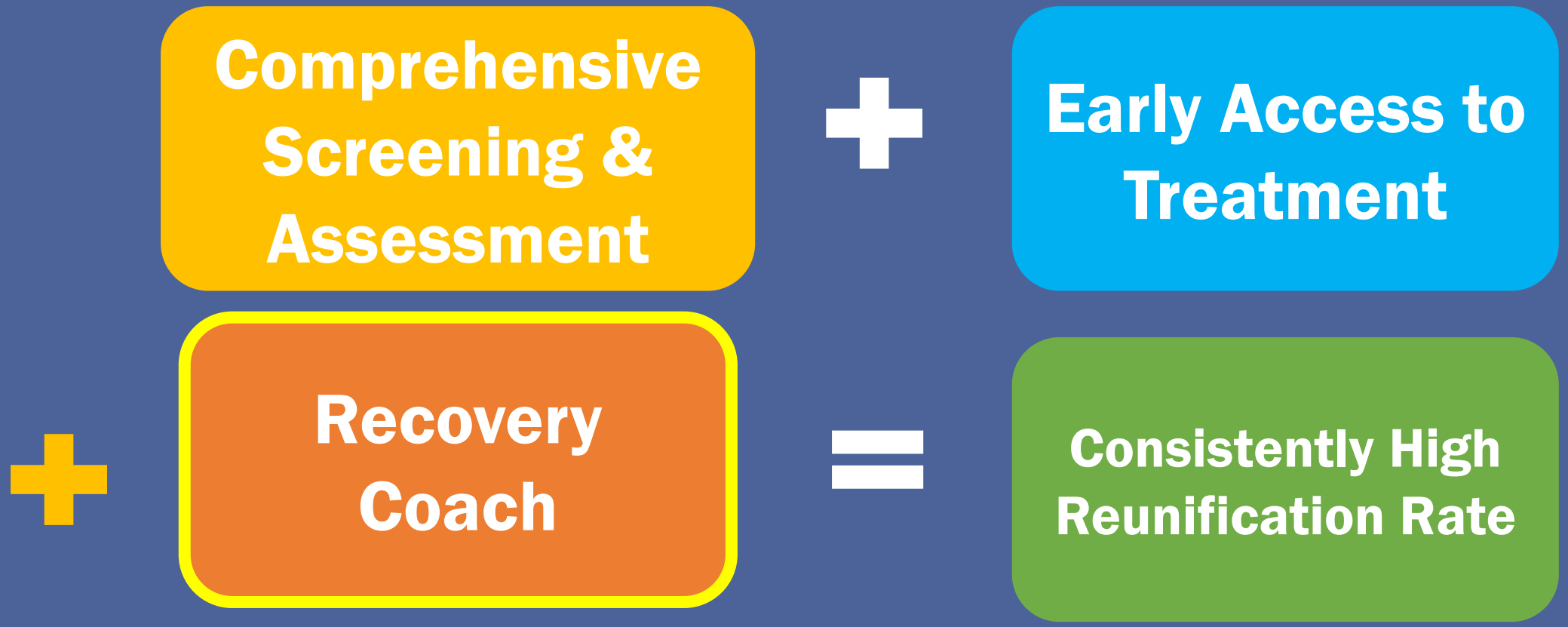

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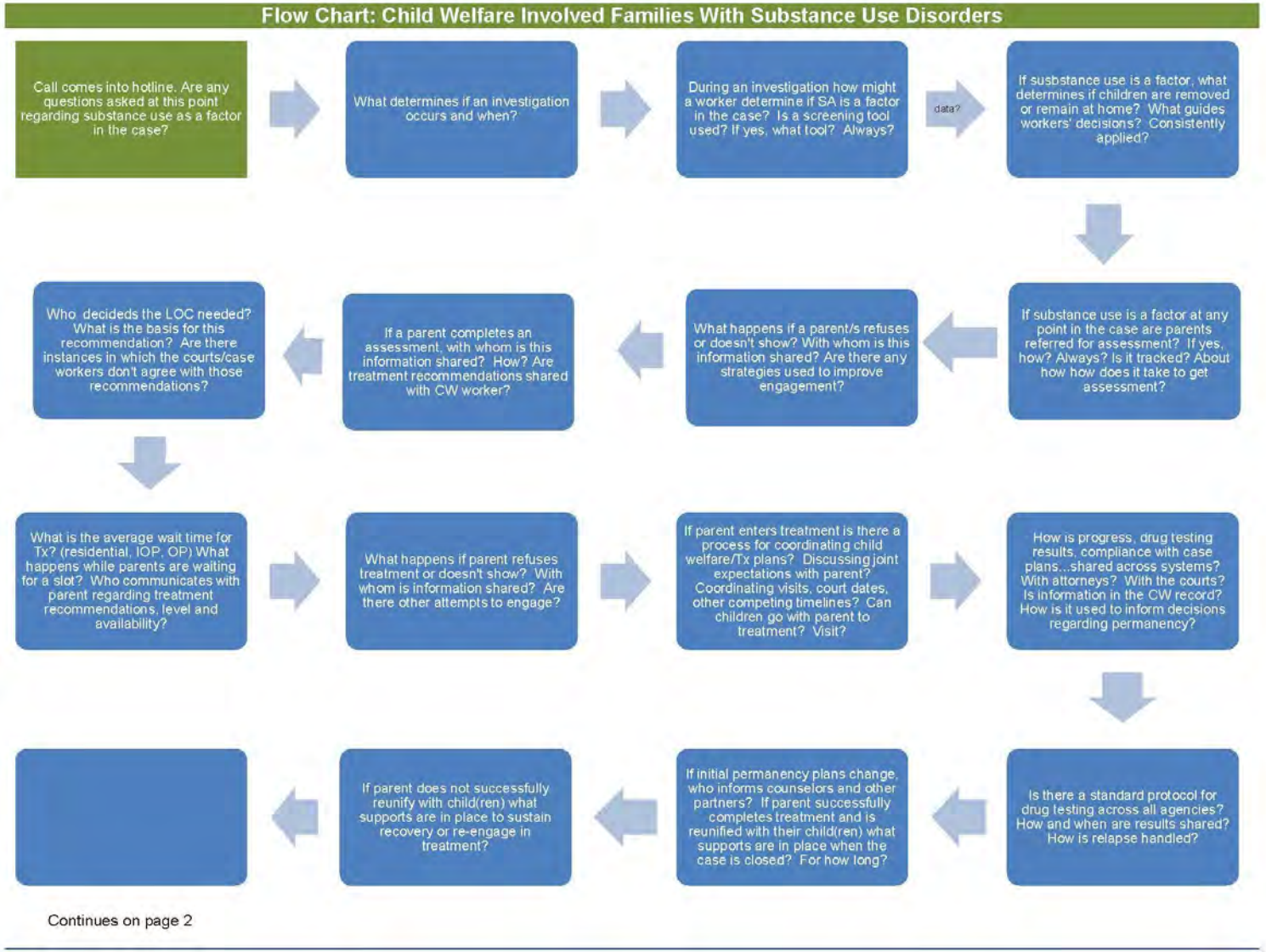
System Walk-Through

Screening

Assessment

Referral

Monitoring



5 How will you train stakeholders and partners?

Develop a plan for interagency training

Becoming Consumers of Quality Treatment?

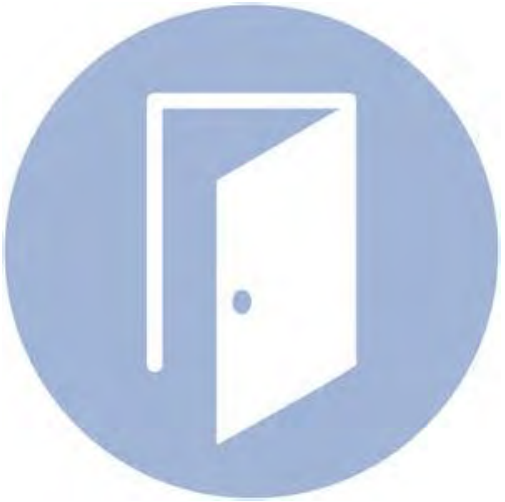
- Is it evidence-based? Will you offer medication-assisted treatment?
- Is it trauma-informed? Will you offer trauma-focused services?
- Is it family-centered? Will you offer services to focus on the parent-child relationship?
- Is it gender-responsive? Will you offer services specifically on engaging fathers?
- Is it culturally competent? How will you serve families of color?

Understanding Your Partners

- Legal mandates of each system, including ASFA timelines
- Information sharing, including confidentiality regulations
- Collaborative values
- Collaborative capacities

Educating Your Community About FTC Program

- Mission, goals, objectives
- Target population, eligibility criteria
- Referral process
- Phasing system
- Case staffing
- Court processing
- Desired shared outcomes

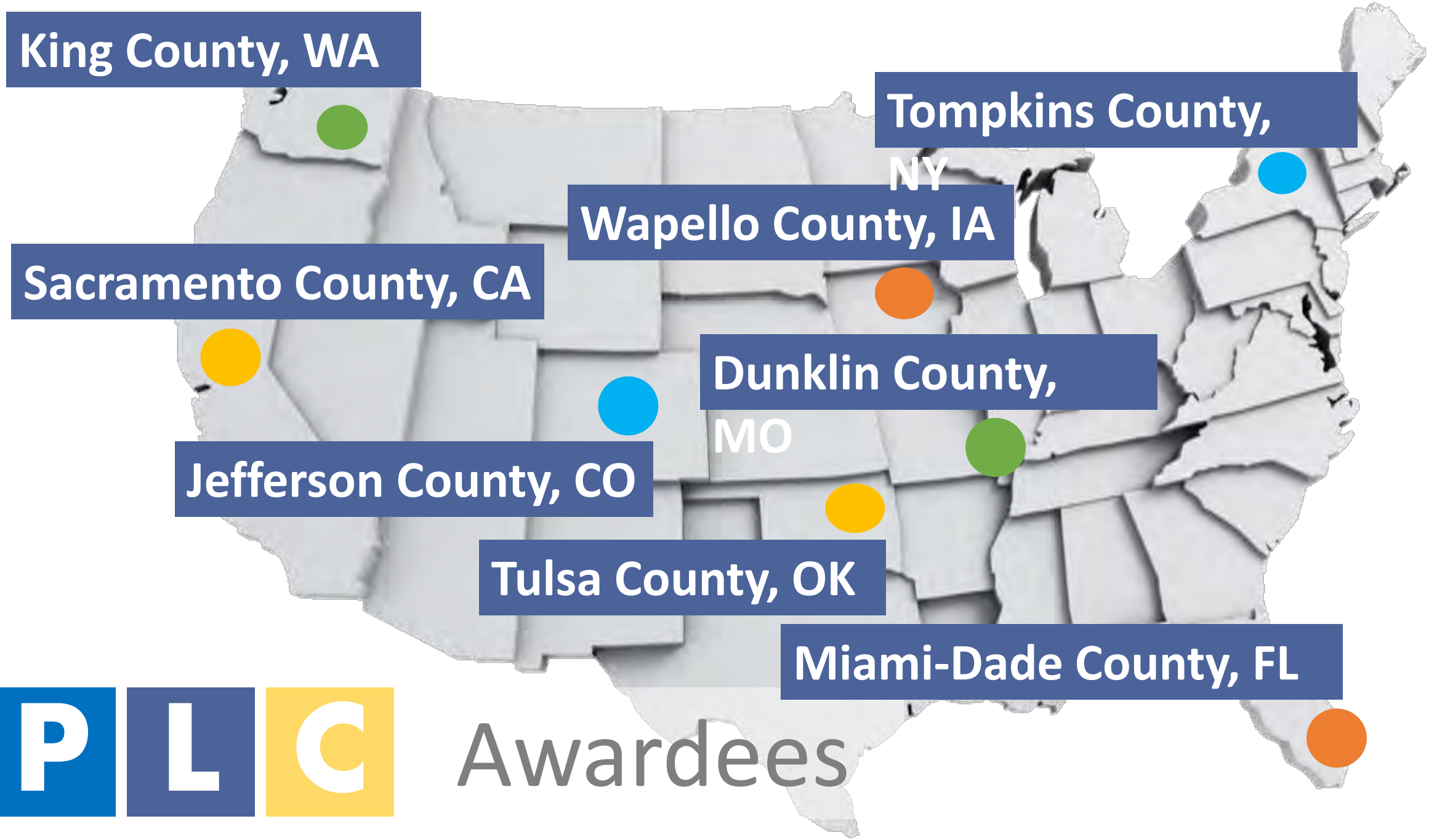


Assessing Collaborative Capacity

- Examine mission & values – *where is there agreement and divergence?*
- Conduct system walk-throughs – *how are clients moving through systems?*
- Conduct drop-off analysis – *what happens to clients?*
- Data profile to establish data baselines – *compared to what?*
- Feedback from front-line staff and providers – *what is really happening?*
- Feedback from clients – *what is their experience?*
- Assess cross-training needs – *where are there knowledge gaps?*

Peer Learning Opportunities

Visit an FTC
as a team



PLC Awardees

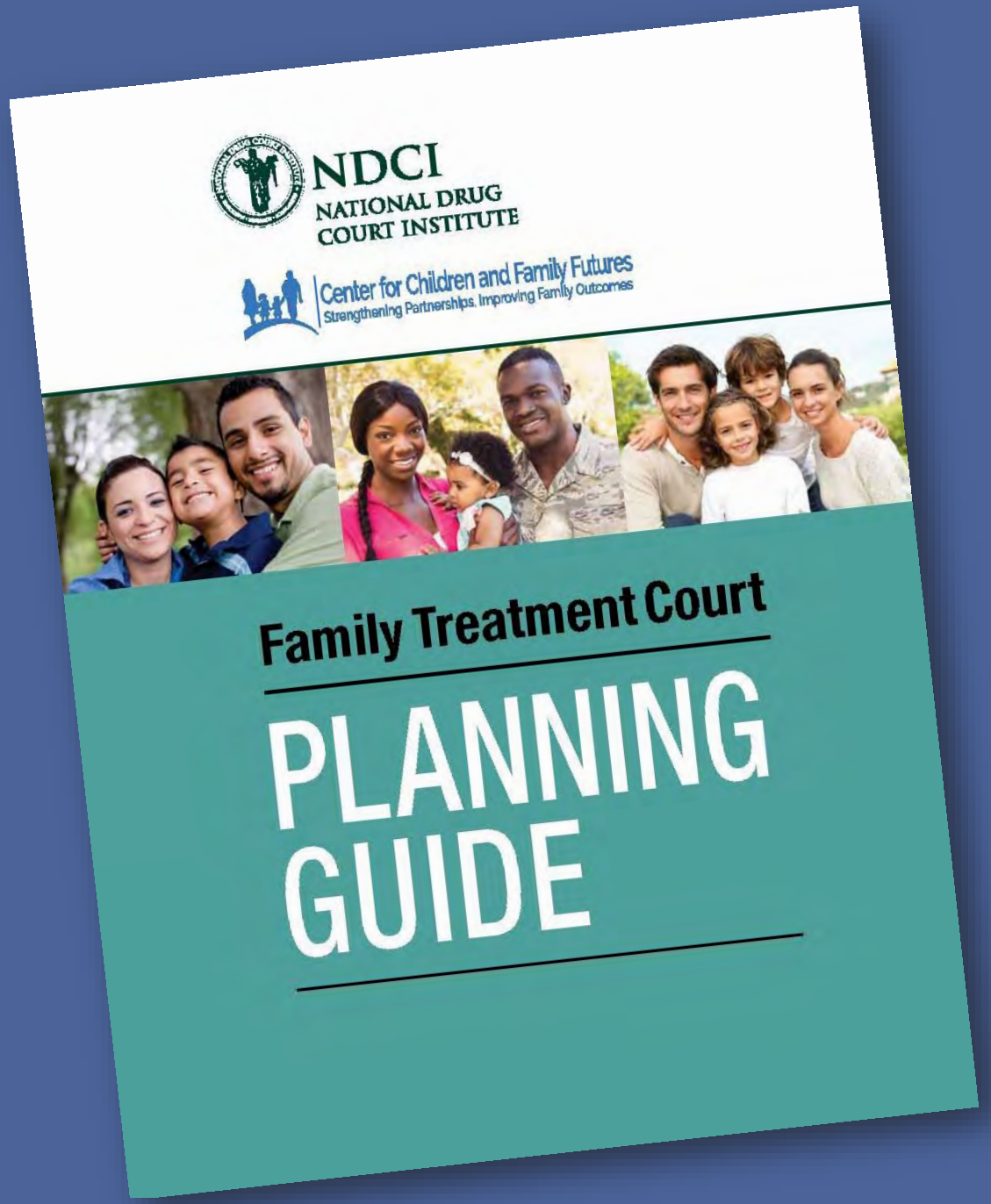
If you want to go fast,
go alone.

If you want to go far,
go together.

African Proverb

You can do this.

We can help.



- Designed to provide step-by-step instructions
- Use Guide to gather needed information to present FTC concept
- Worksheet Activities

Resources

- Video presentation (30 minutes)
- Team Discussion Guide
- Café Conversation – IN, OH, FL (April 2018)
- Action Guide

Take Action Guide

- **Take the next step**
- **Resources to help you move forward**
- **Contact us @ fdc@cffutures.org**

Contact Information

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