



# Iowa Family Treatment Court Update

January 13, 2016

## Family Treatment Courts

### **Black Hawk County**

1st Judicial District

*Hon. Stephen Clarke*

### **Buena Vista County**

3rd Judicial District

*Hon. Mary Timko*

### **Cass/Audubon Counties**

4th Judicial District

*Hon. Susan Christensen*

### **Cerro Gordo County**

2nd Judicial District

*Hon. Annette Boehlje*

### **Cherokee/Ida Counties**

3rd Judicial District

*Hon. Mary Timko*

### **Johnson County**

6th Judicial District

*Hon. Jason Burns*

### **Linn County**

6th Judicial District

*Hon. Susan Flaberty*

### **Polk County**

5th Judicial District

*Hon. Romonda Belcher*

### **Scott County**

7th Judicial District

*Hon. Mark Fowler*

### **Wapello County**

8th Judicial District

*Hon. William Owens*

### **Warren County**

5th Judicial District

*Hon. Kevin Parker*

### **Webster County**

2nd Judicial District

*Hon. Kurt Wilke*

### **Woodbury County**

3rd Judicial District

*Hon. Brian Michaelson*

## Children and Families Served by Family Treatment Courts

As of October 2015, twelve family treatment courts have served:

- ◆ 703 Families
- ◆ 823 Parents or Caregivers
- ◆ 1,345 Children

### Results for Parents

- ◆ 97% of the parents were admitted to substance-abuse treatment.
- ◆ Average length of stay in substance-abuse treatment for participants is **4 times longer** than other parents in the child welfare system (**235 days compared to 67 days for others**).

### Results for Children

- ◆ 77% of the children were able to remain in the custody of their parent or caregiver.
- ◆ 77% were returned home within 12 months of removal.
- ◆ 96% of the children did not suffer a recurrence of maltreatment.

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## Current Activities

In October 2014, Children's Justice received a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for "Statewide System Reform." The grant is:

- A collaborative partnership between State Court Administration, the Iowa Department of Human Services, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Governor's Office on Drug Control Policy.
- A two-year planning grant to allow thoughtful expansion of Family Treatment Courts, including more clearly identifying which families can benefit best from family treatment court.
- To infuse key elements of working with families with substance abuse issues into more traditional Child In Need of Assistance cases.

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## Key Elements of Family Treatment Courts include:

- Early substance abuse assessments and entry into treatment for parents.
- Regular, frequent judge-led court hearings.
- Recovery support services for families.
- Coordinated delivery of services for families.
- Common vision and training on substance abuse and child welfare.