

Dual Involved Youth: Fairfield County's Collaborative Approach

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Collaboration is Key!

- Historical collaboration
- Importance for our families
- Not about always agreeing but about seeing each perspective

PACT
Protecting
and
Advocating
for Children
Together

What drove us to apply for the Dual
Status Technical Assistance Grant?

- Improved outcomes for dually involved families
- Family focused collaborative teams
- Increase relationship between Court and Protective Services direct line staff

PACT Policy and Procedure Narrative

- Identification
- Referral Process
- PACT Meeting Process
- Data Collection



PACT Identification Points

- With prosecutor prior to filing
- At intake of new PS involvement
- Direct line staff ongoing work with families

PACT Referral Process Following Identification

PACT Referral - form

PACT Full/PACT Intake - flow chart

Writing into policy steps to ensure notification of events occur for both Protective Services and Court Staff

PACT Meetings

The foundational
approach that drives our
PACT work



Trainings that Contribute to Our PACT Meeting Approach

Family Group Decision Making

- Families have strengths and can change
- Family members know their families best and are their own experts
- Empowering families is preferable to managing families
- All families have some resources they can count on to help them in times of need

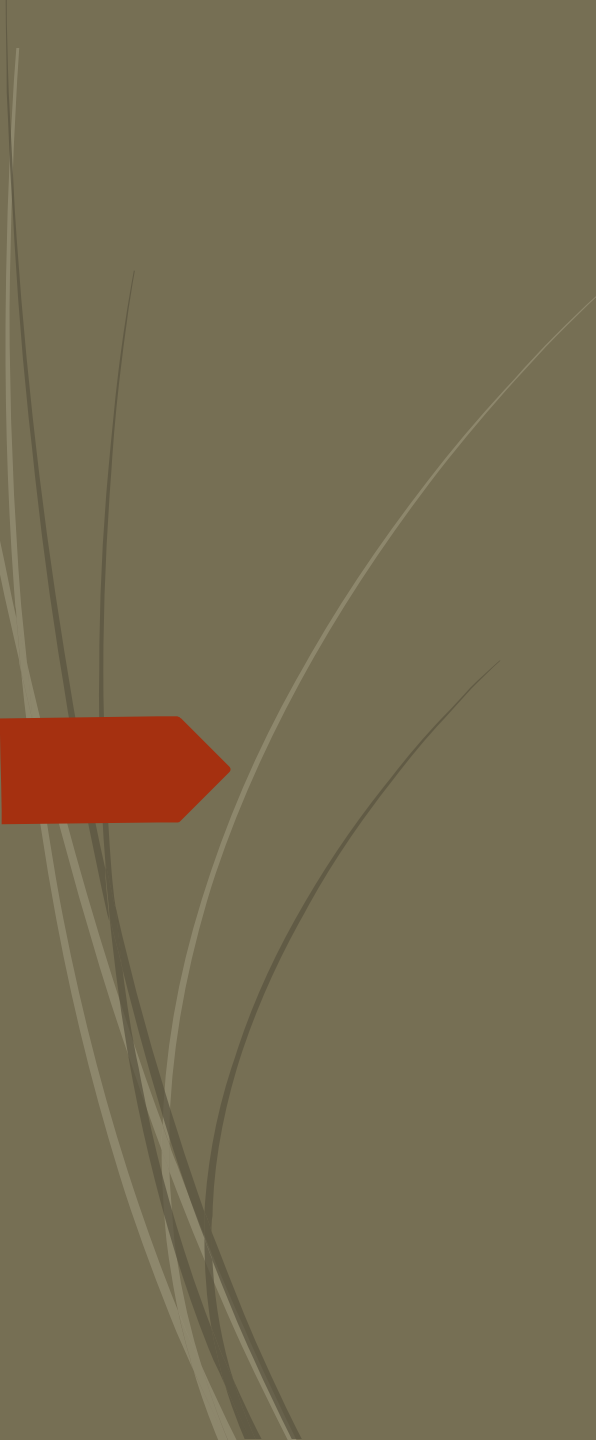
Wrap Around Ohio

- Team and strength-based meeting process designed to help families and youth meet their needs to maintain within their communities
- Belief that a youth's poor behavior comes from an unmet need
- Needs-driven rather than service driven

Why did we choose these models to inform our approach?

- Family Voice and Choice
- Family Empowerment
- Strengths Based
- High Priority on Natural Supports
- Collaborative Approach
- Community Based
- Seeing Families as Partners





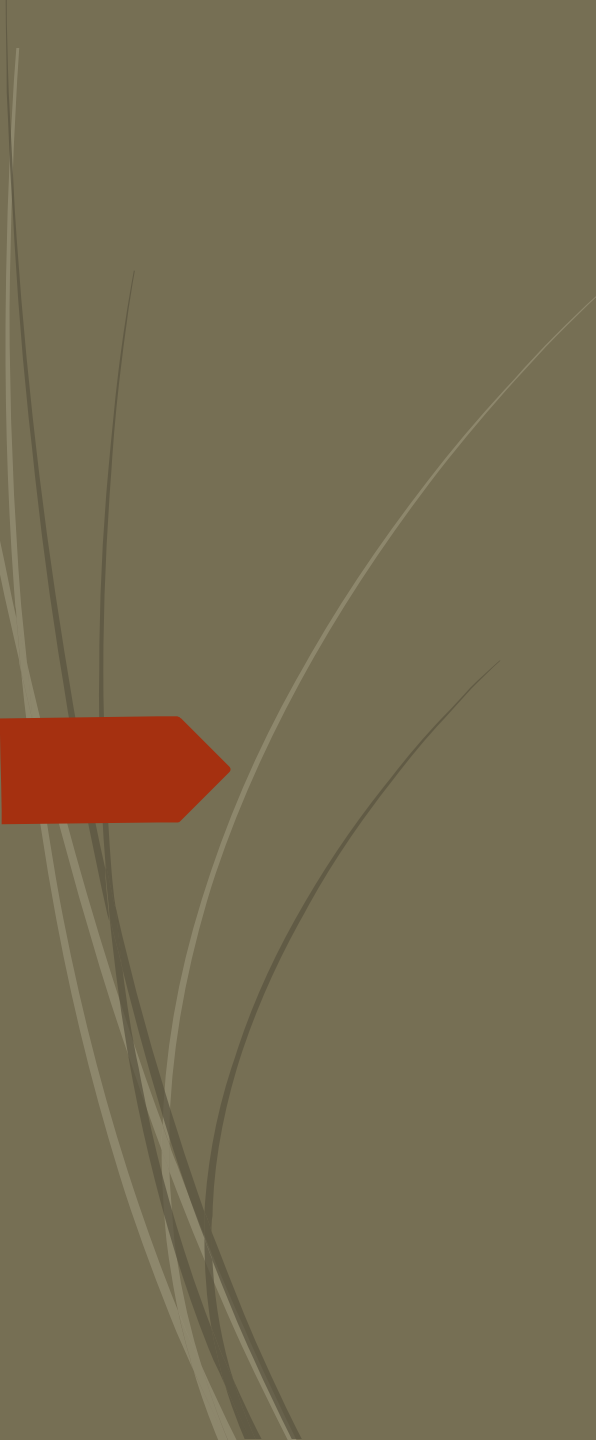
PACT Meeting Prep

It makes a difference!



Preparation with the family and service teams look different

Family Preparation	Service Team Preparation
• Intro to dual status process • Family preference for meeting • Foundational framework for meeting • Meeting notifications <i>Not just best practice but policy expectation.</i>	• Logistics • All family/youth providers and supports • Additional releases • Merging meetings



Embodying a Strengths Based Approach

It takes work!

Early conversation about strengths for youth and family.

- Helps set the tone and develop framework for the type of meeting we aim to have.
 - Development of strengths list
 - Identified by youth, family and service team members
 - Living document
- Weave strengths into planning whenever possible
 - Strength spotting

Acknowledging the strengths of the team helps develop cohesion toward a common goal and highlight team-wide capabilities.



During the PACT Meeting

- Create practical, concrete plans around identified goals and action steps.
- Be clear on non-negotiables
- Stay in the present and keep the meeting future-focused
- Maintain neutrality with skillful advocacy for family voice and choice
- Mutual accountability for all team members
- Be Flexible!
- Allow families to see themselves in their plan-non prescribed
- Focus on strengthening family skills rather than providing insight



Essential Elements to Remember as PACT Facilitator

- PACT facilitator is a neutral party
- PACT facilitator is not a case manager
- Assure goal/objectives are more than just the application of services
- Empower families and their team to take ownership of the process
- Setting the expectation for shared accountability
- Solicit team feedback
- Develop a structure that allows for everyone to participate
- Be ready for silence



Consistency is a Fundamental Element of Meeting Facilitation

In every meeting, we discuss...

- What we hope to accomplish at the meeting.
- Is everyone on the team happy with the communication from other team members?
- Is there any way we can look to expand the team?
- Review actions steps and ensure follow-through from all team members.

What can the
GAL role look
like in a PACT
meeting?



PACT Facilitation Takeaways

Allow family to
see themselves
in their plan

Language
matters;
Positives go a
long way

Allow creativity

Normalize that
conflict can be
a part of the
process

Explore the
“No”

Focus on family
skill building

Consistency is
key

PACT Outcome Measures

- **Reduce
Recidivism**
- **Stabilization of
Placement**
- **Education
Stabilization**
- **Increase in
Developmental
Assets Profile**



PACT Data Snapshot

PACT Steering Committee

- Meets Monthly
- Members
- Charter

Challenge Areas and Refining Practice

Keep the spirit of
the process at the
forefront of the
work.



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Questions??