

Chippewa Cree Tribal Courts



Family Healing to Wellness Court PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK



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Introduction Welcome!

You have taken an enormous first step in your Healing Journey. By participating in the confidential Family Healing to Wellness Court (“FHTWC”), you will be offered exceptional support in your journey to sobriety and family reunification. You will have access to services that will increase your ability to become sober, stay sober, and improve your life. The Healing Journey Team will coordinate these services and collaborate to best meet your health and wellness needs. The four-phase Healing Journey program is designed to help participants recognize how these values can guide you and your family to lives of peace and wellness. In the FHTWC, you will receive incentives (rewards) for successful participation and progress. Your progress in recovery is followed, and your efforts will guide the Court’s decision about when to return your child(ren) to your home safely. Your family can be reunited when you are ready and able to meet your child(ren)’s needs. Reunification can happen before you graduate from the program. The benefits of FHTWC participation include building healthy family relationships and reconnecting to your culture and community life. This handbook provides general information about the FHTWC program. You are encouraged to share this handbook with your family and friends. As a participant, you are expected to follow the instructions given to you by the judge, participate in developing your Wellness Plan, and comply with program rules and expectations. You will have the Healing Journey Team by your side the whole way. By actively participating in the Family Healing to Wellness and working with the team, we hope you will see positive changes in your life very soon. We wish you much success and happiness in your recovery! --Your Healing Wellness Team

Mission Statement

The Chippewa Cree Family Healing to Wellness Court, is an alternative to the traditional court process which works to reunify families and build a stronger community by providing support and connections to cultural and healing services for those impacted by mental health and addiction. The Chippewa Cree Tribe has community values rooted in our history and culture. These values form the foundation of our lives and ground the Healing Journey program.

Program Goals and Descriptions

The Family Healing to Wellness Court Program goal is to continue implementing a healing to wellness court by providing access to enhanced treatment and critical support services to improve the quality of services based on the needs assessment. The current FHW program will be guided by the National Association for Drug Court Professional best practice standards and consistent with the 10 key components.

1. FHW program team is comprised of criminal justice staff, treatment providers, and other direct service providers. These team members work together, making a coordinated effort to pool and utilize community healing resources to assist individuals in achieving physical and spiritual healing, and ensure the safety of the community.
2. Participants enter the program through referral as early in the process as possible. They may enter pre-trial, pre-adjudication, or post-adjudication, depending on the circumstances. The due process rights of participants are protected in every instance.
3. Eligible offenders are identified through an early legal screening tool, assessment and placed promptly into the program. Each participant's criminal history is investigated by court personnel. Legal Screening Tool and CAIS is administered by Program Coordinator and Probation Office. Clinical Assessment will be completed to diagnose and create a treatment plan, including treatment for co-occurring disorders, where applicable.
4. The program provides access to holistic, structured, and phased treatment and rehabilitation services that are inclusive of our unique culture, language, and traditions. Traditional concepts of justice and healing are incorporated into each offender's treatment plan. Traditional healing modalities are offered and encouraged, as these practices have proven highly effective in the treatment of alcohol and substance abuse in Native people. These services are highly coordinated and supervised by court staff to ensure compliance with treatment plans.
5. All program participants are required to submit to frequent, mandatory, random testing for drugs and alcohol. There are no exceptions to this element of the program. Our drug testing procedure is based on established guidelines and is reliable and tightly controlled for quality assurance and integrity of results. Results are promptly available to quickly respond to non-compliance. A coordinated response to positive or missed tests is put into place immediately upon receipt of results. High Risk offenders may be required to wear SCRAM bracelets.
6. Sanctions and rewards are used to encourage program compliance. These must be consistent and predictable. Sanctions may include increased drug/alcohol testing, community service, increased monitoring, fines, increased program duration. Rewards may include tokens of progress, community recognition, reduced supervision, traditional gifts, reduced fines, dismissal of charges, reduction of probation, reduced/suspended incarceration, and graduation. The intensity of sanctions and rewards depend on the severity of the noncompliance, or the breadth of successful progress demonstrated by the participant.
7. Judicial interaction with participants and judicial involvement with the team staff occurs continuously. The Program Judge participates during case staffing and has

thorough awareness of alcohol and drug treatment. The judge calls regular status hearings to gauge participant’s progress. The judge responds to both positive and negative participant behaviors in a timely and consistent manner and continuously reinforces handbook policies and procedures.

8. Constant monitoring and evaluation activities occur to provide information for continual improvement to the program, gauge participants progress, and compile evaluate information for the community and the funding agency. The program will utilize case management and CAIS. The data is used to measure client and program progress toward our established goals and objectives. The Case Manager will use compiled data to complete our progress reports and develop interim and final reports.
9. FHW staff and team members continuously receive supplemental education and training to assist in the effectual planning, implementation, and maintenance of the program. Our key personnel and Team Members are all uniquely qualified to implement the project. We ensure that personnel and Team Members attend the proper training and seminars, as well as conduct cross-training among team members. We understand how important it is to remain abreast of new developments in the justice and treatment fields. The importance of cultural awareness/appropriateness is also stressed, and training provided on these topics, if necessary. Team members are also Elders from the Chippewa Cree Tribe.
10. FHW works to continuously strengthen the communication, coordination, and cooperation of the program team, the tribal community, and relevant organizations to ensure program success. Team Members meet monthly with the Wellness Coalition to report progress and collaborate resources. Partnerships between courts, law enforcement and treatment providers are strengthened for maximum program benefits. Community input and involvement is continuously solicited.

Team Members

Judge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will hear all Family Wellness Court cases, offer constant judicial oversight of participants, and attend weekly staffing for the FWC Program. Judge will facilitate the FHWC. • Will provide supervision and support for recovery: review reports; encourage client compliance; establish a working relationship with the client; assume the role of the mentor; and respond to non-compliance.
Prosecutor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is responsible for referring and pre and post-trial defendants participating in the program. If a client is unsuccessful in meeting the program requirements, the prosecutor will pursue original charges per court procedure. •

Executive Director/Court Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will provide oversight, management, supervision, and reporting functions. • Will contribute 10% of their time to the project on an in-kind basis. • Serves as the FHW team member.
Case Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for day-to-day administration of the project facilitate MRT, coordination of services with partners, reporting, and overall project management. • Serves as a CCT Wellness Coalition Member.
Probation/Enforcement Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is responsible for monitoring clients to ensure they are in compliance with program requirements. • File all client narratives to prosecution.
Public Defender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is responsible for defending clients during court hearings. • File all motions on behalf of clients.
Law Enforcement Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report violations or incidents involving clients. • Assists monitoring clients and administering BAC's
Chippewa Cree Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides services for participants who are eligible, including but not limited to GED preparation, parenting classes, family activities and testing and driver's license program.
Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides up to date reports on the status of referrals and removals.
Rocky Boy Health Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides local physical and mental health services. • Provides out-patient substance abuse treatment services. • Responsible for screening, assessment, and treatment plan development. • Behavioral Health will conduct mental health screening, assessment, and treatment plan development and hold one on one client counseling services and therapeutic mental health treatment as needed. • White Sky Hope Center will conduct screening, assessment, and treatment plan development. Will provide culturally appropriate substance abuse treatment and recovery support for clients using the Matrix Model

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the program, a person must: • Be a Chippewa Cree Tribal Member, or be the parent, guardian, or custodian of a minor child who is either a Chippewa Cree member, a member descendant, or who is eligible to become a member; • Be a parent or caregiver involved in a Chippewa Cree Social Services case pending before the Chippewa Cree Tribal Court; • Be diagnosed with a substance abuse condition (also known as substance use disorder) and be willing to comply with treatment recommendations, and • Never have been convicted of felony child abuse or convicted of a sex crime within the preceding ten years. A person interested in participating in the program starts by meeting with the case manager and completing a Program Application. The case manager will refer the applicant for a substance use disorder (SUD) evaluation. Once the applicant's eligibility is verified, the SUD evaluation is completed, and treatment recommendations have been made, the applicant or the applicant's attorney files a Petition for Admission to the Family Healing to Wellness Court. The Healing Journey team will review the application and petition and decide whether the applicant meets the criteria for admission. If the team approves admission, the FHTWC judge will issue an order granting the petition and admitting the person into the FHTWC program.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Wellness Plan

You will work with the FHW case manager to develop your own holistic Wellness Plan, which includes the following parts: • Your Chippewa Cree Family Services case plan (if one was court-ordered in your case), • Your individualized treatment plan based upon chemical dependency and behavioral health evaluations and Correctional Assessment Intervention System case management plan • The FHW phase requirements, and • Develop a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (W.R.A.P). Any other services or activities that will help you achieve sobriety and safely care for your child(ren) and be able to meet their needs. The FHW understands that substance use disorder is a health condition that requires treatment. attendance to Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) sessions and Interactive Journaling will be required as part of the program. Every FHW requirement and response to your behavior is designed to be therapeutic and help you become and stay sober and healthy.

Drug Testing and Monitoring

The case manager will monitor your progress through the phases and Wellness Plan adherence. Monitoring may include but is not limited to: (1) Regular meetings between you and the Case Manager; (2) Random testing for alcohol and controlled substances; (3) Home visits; (4) Verification of your completion of phase

requirements; and (5) Inquiries of treatment providers and probation or parole officers (if applicable). Your case manager will visit you at home or in the field, such as at work, community events, and other locations, to ensure you maintain a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle. Testing is a critical part of your compliance with the Healing Journey requirements. When you are notified of the need to submit to a drug test, it is your responsibility to give the appropriate sample that day. It is up to you to be aware of the hours of operation. Missing a test will be treated as if it was a positive test. If you miss a test for emergency and unforeseen circumstances, you must notify the case manager as soon as you know that you will miss it. Depending on the circumstances, you will be allowed 1 hour to complete the missed test. If you fail to provide a specimen on the day selected, this will be considered a “No Show” and will be reported immediately to the FHW case manager. The FHWC may request additional drug testing or take other steps to address the missed test. The FHTWC will pay the cost of the initial drug tests and reporting. If your drug test shows a positive result and you disagree that you have used any drugs or prohibited substances, you may request a lab to validate the positive test.

Participant Conduct Expectations

This program is characterized by mutual honor and respect. When you respect staff and other participants, you can expect to be treated the same in return. Maintaining appropriate behavior shows the progress you are making toward your recovery. Talking in the courtroom during hearings, group treatment, or recovery group sessions when it is not your turn is disrespectful. Do not bring your cell phone into the Court facility. Without prior approval, there is no eating, drinking, or chewing gum in the courtroom. Do not attend hearings under the influence of substances or impaired by medication. If you have had a recurrence of drug use or feel impaired, call the case manager to let her know ahead of time, but still attend the hearing. Dress appropriately when appearing in court. Wearing clothing with alcohol, drug, and violent slogans, graphics or brands is not allowed. Inappropriate sexual behavior, comments, or harassment toward staff and other participants is not tolerated. This would mean behavior characterized by making unwelcome and inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances toward another. If what you are going to do or say might make someone else uncomfortable, do not do or say it.

Confidentiality

Child protection cases are confidential. The public cannot attend hearings or see case documents without the permission of a child’s caregiver or a court order. Likewise, the FHWC program is confidential. Other caregivers of your child or children who are not fellow participants in the program will not have access to your information. Your medical and treatment records are further protected by federal law and

regulations, including HIPAA. It is necessary for your recovery success for the case manager and the rest of the Healing Journey team to understand your treatment needs and ensure you receive the appropriate care promptly. So, you will need to sign a release of information for your treatment providers to be able to share information with the Healing Journey team. We respect your privacy and do not discuss sensitive personal information during court hearings without your permission. However, your drug and alcohol test results, recurrence of drug use, and any health problems you are experiencing may need to be discussed. As an FHW participant, you must keep all information about other participants, including their identities, confidential. No information you hear or learn during court sessions or elsewhere in the program may be discussed with persons outside the Healing Journey program. An exception exists, however, for participant statements which by Chippewa Cree law require mandatory reporting, such as about the abuse or neglect of a child or a vulnerable adult.

How it works

The Family Wellness Court is a 12 Month Program. There are four phases to the Healing Journey, 1. New Beginnings 2. Personal Responsibility 3. Growth 4. Moving Forward. When you complete all four phases, you will have achieved a lengthy period of sobriety, will have had custody of your child or children restored to and will be eligible to graduate! The components of each of the phases are detailed later in this handbook. You will have the entire FWC team's support to achieve each phase's components. They will share information and collaborate to ensure you have the treatment and resources you need to succeed. There are also ways in which you will be held accountable if you are not complying or making progress in the phases. The FWC case manager will track your progress through the phases and provide this information to the team when each phase requirement is met. From time to time, as you demonstrate progress, the team may give you a reward, also known as an incentive. After you complete a phase, you will be presented with a certificate of completion, and you will be ready to move up to the next phase. When all the circumstances that led to your child(ren) being removed from your custody have been addressed, you have a significant length of sobriety, and it is safe for them; a court hearing will be scheduled and the Judge may order them to be returned to your care. Once you complete Phase 4, with the case manager's assistance, you will plan your Graduation Ceremony!

Program Phases

There are four phases to the Healing Journey, (1) Tobacco – New Beginnings – (2) Cedar – Personal Responsibility – (3) Sage - Growth – (4) Sweetgrass - Moving Forward. You will have the entire FWC team's support to achieve each phase's components. There are also ways in which you will be held accountable if you are not

complying or making progress in the phases. All the phases will require you to do certain things, such as drug testing, meetings with the case manager, and attending FWC status hearings. You may also have Review hearings, but the FWC judge will conduct them in separately scheduled hearings. Your child(ren)'s other parent, guardian, or custodian must attend these child-focused hearings. As you progress and experience sobriety, the phase requirements will lessen and will be replaced with ones that help you maintain a healthy, good life for yourself and your child(ren).

Phase 1 –Tobacco - New Beginnings

	Minimum 45-90 days
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation • Assessments • Stabilization • Complete Chemical Health Assessment and follow recommended treatment program
General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least three support group meetings per week • Random drug testing 3x week • Engage in cultural and family activity one time per week • Weekly task sheet • Develop a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (W.R.A.P)
Advancement to Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When in compliance with all General and Phase 1 requirements and having 45 consecutive sober days.

Phase 2 – Cedar - Personal Responsibility

	60-90 days
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize recovery skills to maintain sobriety and work on your wellness plan
General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend at least 3 support groups per week • Random Drug Testing 3x week • Continue work on Wellness Recovery Action Plan (W.R.A.P) • Learn new skills to cope with stress and challenges • Create a safety plan for when the child(ren) returns home • Enroll in a program for education, employment or life skills development • Identify a personal community engagement project • Begin to perform community engagement hour (60 hours by Phase 4)

Advancement to Phase 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When in compliance with all General Phase 2 requirements and having achieved a minimum of 60 sober days.
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Phase 3 – Sage - Growth

	45-60 days
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue abstinence and recovery maintenance to live a sober free lifestyle.
General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly task sheets Attend at least 3 support group meetings per week Random Drug Testing 2-3x per week Participate in a program for education, employment or life skills development Complete parenting enrichment program Perform community engagement hours (complete 60 hours to graduate)
Advancement to Phase 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When in compliance with all Phase 3 requirements and having achieved 90 sober days with no consequences

Phase 4 – Sweetgrass - Moving Forward

	Minimum 9 months
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce healing and healthy behaviors Weekly task sheets Prepare for life after graduation Identify and share long term goals and visions
General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend at least 3 support groups a week Random Drug Test 2-3x per week Participate in a program for education, employment or life skills development Perform community engagement hours (complete for 60 hours before graduation) Pay of restitution, if any, or have a payment plan Complete Wellness Plan Plan Graduation Ceremony Complete a program exit interview
Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible for graduation when in compliance with all Phase 4 requirements and having achieved 180 consecutive sober days.

INCENTIVES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SANCTIONS

FWC is about support and encouragement.

Your progress & achievements will be recognized, we will provide incentives and celebrate with you. Please note that as you progress in FWC, the same behavior may result in a different response depending on what stage you are in. The Judge ultimately decides on the response based upon recommendations of FWC team members. Behaviors that will be monitored include: Compliance with UA/Drug Screening requirements; Support Meeting attendance; SUD Treatment compliance; Mental Health/Family Counseling attendance; Parenting classes; any other requirements specified in Court Order.

Responses to Behavior	
Achievements	Incentives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Attendance at court appearances ❖ Attendance at Drug Testing ❖ Attendance, participation & engagement in treatment ❖ Attendance, participation & engagement in Parenting Classes ❖ Attendance at sober support meetings ❖ Honesty to the court ❖ Stage Advancement ❖ Follow through and engagement with services (e.g. Mental health) ❖ Housing ❖ Progress in Education ❖ Completion of GED or High School Diploma ❖ College enrollment or attendance ❖ Progress in Employment ❖ Positive feedback from community ❖ Participant specific goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Recognition and Praise by the Judge ❖ Certificates of achievement ❖ Gift Cards ❖ Movie/Event Passes ❖ Decreased court appearances ❖ Stage Advancement ❖ Expedited in court ❖ Pins ❖ Trip Requests Granted

Negative Behaviors	Consequences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dishonesty ❖ Missed court appearances ❖ Missed drug testing (considered a positive) ❖ Positive drug test (positive for drugs/dilute) ❖ Adulterated/Tampered drug test ❖ Missed treatment ❖ Missed Parenting Class ❖ Inappropriate behaviors at treatment ❖ Noncompliance with Individualized services plans ❖ Failure to perform/complete Consequence ❖ Violation of court order ❖ Missed sober support meetings ❖ Failure to update information with the court ❖ Failure to submit paperwork as directed by the court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reprimand from the Judge (SVA) ❖ Verbal Warning from the Judge ❖ Increased court appearances ❖ Community give back hours ❖ Delay in Stage advancement ❖ Writing Assignment ❖ Life Skill Assignment ❖ Letter of Apology ❖ Team Roundtable ❖ Termination

Termination

It has been proven that the longer a person stays in treatment, the greater the probability of a successful outcome. The FWC team will do everything possible to keep you in treatment and on your recovery path. If you are non-compliant with your treatment plan, the most effective course of action will be to adjust treatment or supervision requirements or apply graduated consequences. One of the most difficult decisions the team will face is whether to terminate a participant from the program. Termination will only occur after all therapeutic adjustments and responsive consequences have been exhausted. Grounds for termination include, but are not limited to: Persistent non-compliance with program requirements, drug test tampering, or lack of progress in treatment; Committing a crime that is violent, endangers a child, or is committed while securing alcohol or prohibited drugs; Evidence of drug dealing; Driving under the influence or while impaired by an intoxicant or illegal substance; Threatening, abusive, or violent verbal or physical behavior toward another, and Hostile, disruptive, or disrespectful conduct toward the Judge, court staff, the FWC team members, or other participants Termination will be discussed at a team staffing, and once consensus is reached, a recommendation to terminate the participant from the program will be made to the Court. A copy of the written recommendation for termination shall be provided to the participant or the participant’s legal counsel by the case manager. Upon receiving a termination recommendation, the Court will set the matter for hearing and provide the participant with notice of the hearing. The Court will appoint defense counsel if the participant requests a lawyer and cannot afford to hire one. If, after the hearing, the Court accepts the termination recommendation, the Court will issue a written order terminating the participant from the

program. When a participant is terminated from the Healing Journey, the child protection matter resumes in Tribal Court under the usual court procedures established by Social Services standards and guidelines and court orders. Participation in the FWC is voluntary, and the program is intended to be rehabilitative and promote families' successful reunification. However, termination from the program does not mean reunification is impossible. A terminated participant can be readmitted to the program 30 days after the termination date.

Graduation

Once you complete all four phases of the Healing Journey and the components of your Wellness Plan, including a recovery management plan, you are eligible for graduation. The Healing Journey team will review your progress, and if it concludes that you have completed all requirements will recommend your graduation to the Court. The case manager will assist you in planning a graduation ceremony to be held following your final status hearing. You will decide which individuals to invite to the ceremony, if any. At your final status hearing, if the Court agrees with the team's recommendation, the judge will issue an order finding that you have completed the Family Wellness Court. Upon receiving the graduation certificate, the Judge will promptly file a motion to dismiss your case where it shall be granted. Upon completion of the Healing Journey, you will be contacted by a team member for an exit interview. The exit interview aims to obtain your feedback about the program, learn how FWC graduates perform after completing the program, and measure how well the FWC is doing. You will not be identified individually or penalized in any way for your answers. You are asked to provide your contact information upon program graduation and that you update the FWC case manager if that information changes. You are encouraged to contact the FWC case manager or other team members if you need support or assistance as you continue your healing journey.

Conclusion

The FHW Court Program works to balance the rights and needs of both parents and children. The overall goal is to reduce child maltreatment by treating parents underlying substance use disorders through a coordinated and collaborative approach that involves a multitude of agencies and professionals.