

Family Court Services

PRESENTATION TO PP & J 6/18/24

STAFF MAKE UP

- ▶ 1 Director
- ▶ 8 counselors, APSW (3), LPC (2), LMFT (3), LCSW (1)
 - ▶ 5 staff are licensed psychotherapists and two have additional training as an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor
- ▶ 1 Admin Assistant (Clerk IV)
- ▶ 2 LTEs

- ▶ 1 open position
 - ▶ Reallocation?
 - ▶ Additional Counselor?
 - ▶ Supervisor?

WHAT WE DO

- ▶ Statutorily required programming to assist the judiciary in resolving complex family court cases through the following:
 - ▶ Education
 - 2x per month orientation
 - ▶ Mediation
 - parents decide
 - ▶ Evaluation
 - study or brief focused assessment

REFERRAL NUMBERS

2022

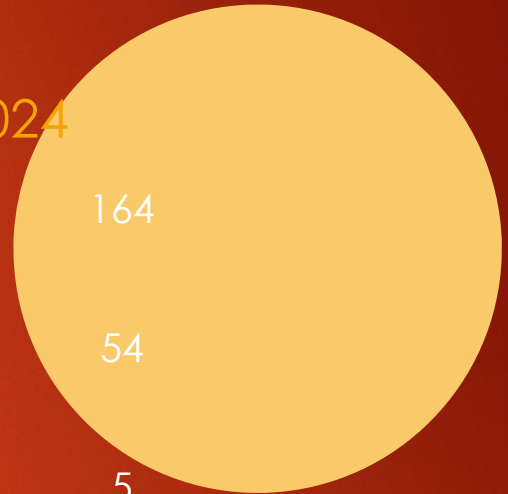
MEDIATION	494
STUDY	166
BFA	8
RELO MED	12
RELO STUDY	9

2023

MEDIATION	477
STUDY	159
BFA	10
RELO MED	31
RELO STUDY	12

2024

MEDIATION	164
STUDY	54
BFA	5
RELO MED	8
RELO STUDY	4



FEE SCHEDULE

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEES SHALL BE SET BY FCS ACCORDING TO THE FEE SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED BY DANE COUNTY ORDINANCE:

\$100 Repeat Mediation Fee per party

Tier 1 Study Fee waived for parties when combined annual gross incomes of both households is less than \$60,000

Tier 2 \$1000 Study Fee for parties when combined annual gross incomes of both households is \$60,000 to \$99,999

Tier 3 \$1,500 Study Fee for parties when combined annual gross incomes of both households is \$100,000 to \$139,999

Tier 4 \$ 2,000 Study Fee for parties when combined annual gross incomes of both households exceeds \$140,000

Fees continued

Brief Focused Assessment fee for parties based on combined annual gross incomes. Please see above tier reference in deciding fee:

Tier 1 Waived **Tier 2** \$600 **Tier 3** \$900 **Tier 4** \$1200

ADDITIONAL FEES

- ▶ Parent Education is \$40 pre person, with attendance required every 4 years
- ▶ First mediation is **free**
- ▶ Repeat mediation is \$100 per parent
- ▶ Copy fees following file review are .50 per page
- ▶ Study update is ½ the original fee

Beginning in 2023 Tier 1 fees were waived by ordinance

- ▶ As of May 17, 2024 \$26,500 in Tier 1 study fees and \$800 in brief focused assessments have been waived

- ▶ Other fees waived

▶ Parent Education	\$1,823
▶ Extended Mediation	\$0
▶ Repeat Mediation	\$1,455
▶ Brief Focused Assessment	\$1,750
▶ Study Other Tiers	\$8,350

Numbers tentative at this time

SPACE

- ▶ We are located at the Courthouse, on the second floor by the Doty Street end of the building.
- ▶ Currently we are completing a space study with O'Kroley 646 Design LLC, and Public Works, to better utilize space after 18 years in the same area and after back scanning paper files. Recently received blueprints with 4 options.
- ▶ Goals are to expand our playroom (current observation room is the conference room), add a conference room, add another office, relocate the kitchen area and add a dedicated file review area.

FRONT ENTRANCE

INSIDE TO OUT OUTSIDE TO IN



CURRENT PLAYROOM

DESIGNED FOR LITTLES

CROWDED WITH LARGER FAMILIES

BRIGHT LIGHTING

GETS LOUD

NO SNUGGLE SPACE



Current kitchen area

Directly off hallway in front of
counselor offices

Noisy and sometimes
rambunctious (which can be
good, but not in this location)

No room for full sized fridge



Former file storage area

ONLY 3 SHELVES LEFT!!




AWKWARD SPACE





Moving forward with a new case management system

Legal files is working to customize a system to increase efficiency which will benefit FCS customers and staff which will help us better support the judiciary



Staff have been learning the scanning process to support electronic files

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- ▶ FCS staff work with some of Dane County's most vulnerable, delicate residents, children in difficult circumstances
- ▶ Family court counselors are immersed in conflict day after day
- ▶ Staff follow current research, and continue learning about their own biases and strengths as we navigate these complex family systems
- ▶ We have a dedicated, knowledgeable staff who work hard to determine what is in the best interest of children