

# Developing a Self-Assessment Tool for Juvenile Healing to Wellness (JHW) Courts that is Trauma-Informed

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**Tribal Youth Resource Center**  
[www.TribalYouth.org](http://www.TribalYouth.org)

# ▶ BEFORE WE GET STARTED...

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# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

## Attendees will learn:

1. About the Tribal Youth Resource Center (TYRC) Juvenile Healing to Wellness (JHW) Court Trauma-Informed Self-Assessment tool to use in:
  - Assisting Tribes/Tribal Courts/Tribal Programs in designing and implementing the JHW Court model
  - Adding a trauma lens and perspective
  - Assessing the level of planning for implementation in the current JHW Court, that is trauma-informed
2. About the history and updates made to the JHW Court Self-Assessment Tool by utilizing:
  - SAMHSA's Six Key Principles and 10 Implementation Domains to Trauma-Informed Approaches
  - OJJDP's Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines
  - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' "Individualizing Responses to Motivate Behavior Change in Youth: a Four-Pronged Approach"



# ▶ SELF-ASSESSMENT HISTORY

First developed as an initial CTAS Purpose Area 8 grantee intake survey (2022) for JHWCs to collaboratively complete with team members.

The survey was developed to guide the Tribal Law and Policy Institute's and the Tribal Youth Resource Center's Juvenile Healing to Wellness technical assistance team and consultants:

- To assess how each Tribal JHWC grantee's practices met the Tribal 10 Key Components of Healing to Wellness Court standards, and to assist with the training and technical assistance plan
- To develop TTA services and grantee TA plans addressing the unique qualities of each Tribal community and justice system.

# PURPOSE

To support Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness (JHW) Courts in assessing current practices, policies, and/or standards that have been implemented as part of the overall operations of the JHW Court.

The original assessment tool was based on the following frameworks:

- National Association of Drug Court Professionals': Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components
- Tribal Law and Policy Institute's: Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: The Key Components (2014)
- Lessons Learned in Implementing the First Four Tribal Wellness Courts (Gottlieb, 2005)
- Tribal Law and Policy Institute Needs Assessment Survey w/over 90 Tribes (2009)

The tool was developed in close collaboration and consultation with Tribal Healing to Wellness Court practitioners and a Tribal Advisory Committee.



## 2024 REVISIONS:

+JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURT (JDTC) GUIDELINES

+TRAUMA-INFORMED FOCUS

**The Tribal Youth Resource Center's JHW Court TTA Team applied the guidelines and the recommendations of:**

- The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (JDTC) Guidelines (2016)
- The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' "Individualizing Responses to Motivate Behavior Change in Youth: a Four- Pronged Approach"

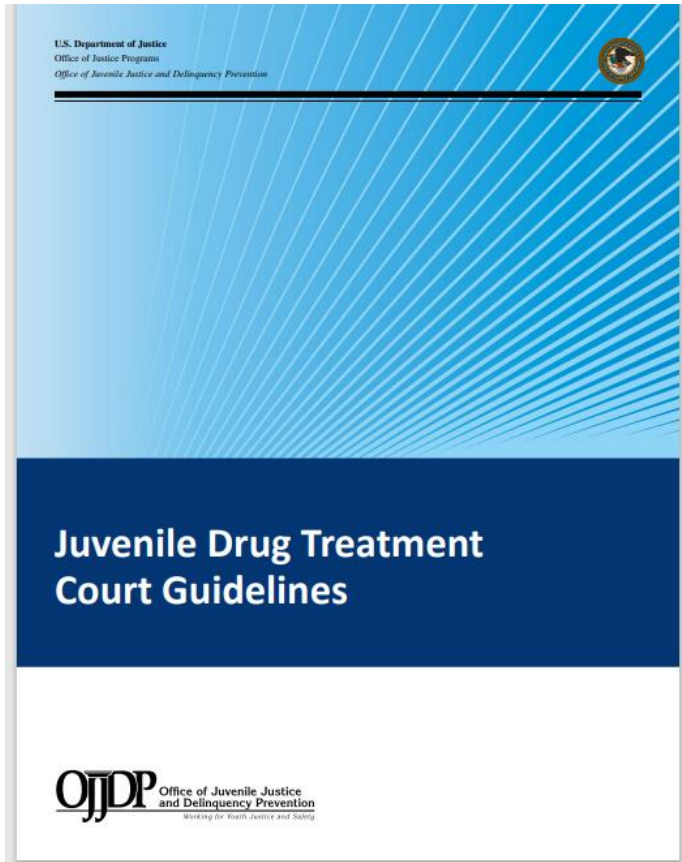
**The National Native Children's Trauma Center(NNCTC) reviewed the JHW Court Self-Assessment tool for trauma-informed strengths and recommendations using:**

- SAMHSA's 6 Key Trauma-Informed Principles
- SAMHSA's 10 Implementation Domains
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network's Trauma-Informed Juvenile Court Self-Assessment
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network's NCTSN Bench Card for the Trauma-Informed Judge





# 2024 ASSESSMENT UPDATES

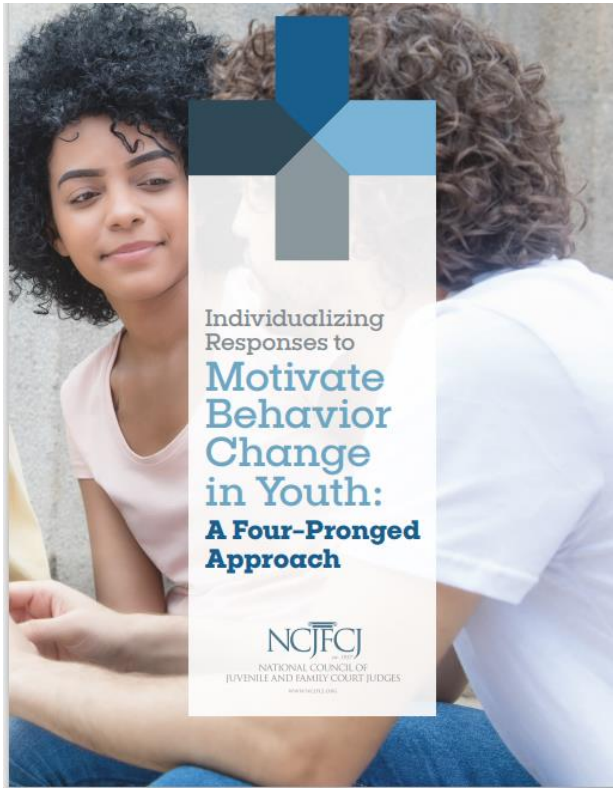


[Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines | Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(ojp.gov\)](https://www.ojp.gov)

## Juvenile Drug Court Treatment Guidelines

- OJJDP partnered with a research team, experts in the field, and other federal agencies to develop the guidelines to support judges and professional court staff, young people with substance use disorders, and their families.
- The guidelines are organized into key objectives with corresponding guideline statements, and include rigorous supporting research and considerations for implementation.

# ▶ 2024 ASSESSMENT UPDATES (CONT.)



## Individualizing Responses to Motivate Behavior Change in Youth: a Four-Pronged Approach.

- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Based on contingency management with an emphasis on rewards, consistency and ongoing monitoring and case management to address youth's needs in holistic, developmentally appropriate manner.
- The Four-Pronged Approach guidebook is designed to help JDTC teams create and sustain a system of therapeutic responses to help motivate youth to adopt appropriate behaviors. Provides recommendations on processes and procedures.

[Individualizing Responses to Motivate Behavior Change in Youth: A Four-Pronged Approach - NCJFCJ](#)

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# JHW COURT TRAUMA-INFORMED SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

**Rating Element Benchmarks:** For each section, indicate the degree to which your JHW Court has implemented the strategy or approach based on the following scale:

## Rating Scale

- 1 - **Not a current practice:** The practice or policy is not applicable or the team has no current knowledge of its practice.
- 2 - **Under discussion or consideration:** Code, policy, or practice has been discussed or considered for development but is not currently part of routine operations.
- 3 - **Informal practice:** Code, policy or practice is not formalized but is used by court staff, judges, or other individuals in the JHW Court.
- 4 - **Formal operating policy:** Practice is formalized in policy and followed by the team and staff.



# JHW COURT TRAUMA- INFORMED SELF- ASSESSMENT TOOL (CONT.)

## Key Component #3 – Screening and Eligibility:

Eligible court-involved substance-abusing parents, guardians, juveniles and adults are identified early through legal and clinical screening for eligibility and are promptly placed into the Tribal Healing to Wellness Court.

### JDTC Guideline 2.1:

Eligibility criteria should include the following:

- Youth with a substance use disorder
- Youth who are 14 years old or older
- Youth who have a moderate to high risk of reoffending

### JDTC Guideline 2.2:

Assess all program participants for the risk of reoffending using a validated instrument.

### JDTC Guideline 2.3:

Screen all program participants for substance use using validated, culturally responsive screening [instruments].

### JDTC Guideline 2.4:

Potential program participants who do not have a substance use disorder and are not assessed as moderate to high risk for reoffending should be diverted from the [JHW COURT] process.

### JDTC Guideline 2.5:

[JHW COURT]s should ensure that eligibility criteria result in equity of access for all genders; racial and ethnic groups; and youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and gender nonconforming (LGBTQI-GNC) and Two-Spirit.





# JHW COURT TRAUMA-INFORMED SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL (CONT.)

Criteria	Rating	Notes
1. The JHW Court has written <u>legal screening criteria</u> which are included in the policies and procedures (e.g., Tribal member or eligible for membership; pre or post adjudication in Tribal Court; reported, referred, transferred or diverted from State/county; eligible offense/crime; and/or not a “violent offender;” and appears to be otherwise eligible under the JHW Court eligibility criteria).		
2. The JHW Court has written <u>clinical screening criteria</u> which are included in the policies and procedures (e.g. youth have been initially screened to possibly have a substance use disorder, mental health disorder, and/or trauma).		
3. The JHW Court has a written process for undertaking a <u>criminogenic assessment</u> which is included in the policies and procedures (e.g., where youth are assessed for their risk of reoffending, and also their service, monitoring, and supervision needs, given the assessed risk/need level).		

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# ▶ CONDUCT THE SELF-ASSESSMENT

- When conducting the self-assessment, Tribes should use the existing interdisciplinary JHW Court team, or an interdisciplinary team comprised of internal and partner representatives.
- The self-assessment team may work together to select some or all of the sections to evaluate.

**Best Practice: “Using a trauma-informed lens” and “being trauma-informed” is a process. It happens when a JHW Court team works to assess what it does and to make changes to their system, and to their policies, procedures, and practices, based on training and the assessment. At least one team member should have experience in trauma work. In addition, the team should receive ongoing training in trauma-informed approaches.**

## JHW COURT INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM:\*

- Chief of Police • Chief Court Clerk • Member of the Tribal Council • School Superintendent or Administrator • Directors of local nonprofits • Elders and/or Culture Bearers • Religious Leaders • Business Representatives • Judges • Court Administrator • Prosecutor/Presenting Officer • Public Defender/Advocate or Defense Attorney • Tribal Department Directors (e.g., Behavioral Health, Education, etc.)
- Community college or university representatives • Local funders – private and public • Treatment provider representatives • Medical directors or hospital administrators

\*Please refer to the JHWC Strategic Planning Template’s “Recruit a Steering Committee” for detailed information.

# NEXT STEPS

## BEST PRACTICE:

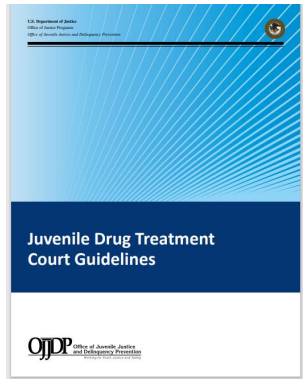
Analysis and reflection as a team assists with transparency and cohesiveness.

## REVIEWING YOUR SCORE

- What are the strengths?
- What are the challenges?
- What are the priorities for development?
- What are the priorities for change?
- What are the action steps as a team?

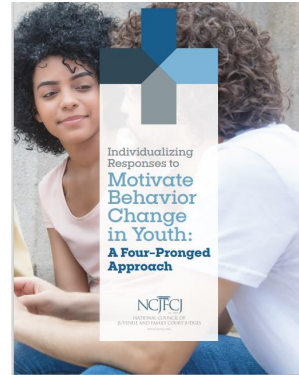






## OJJDP, Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines (2016)

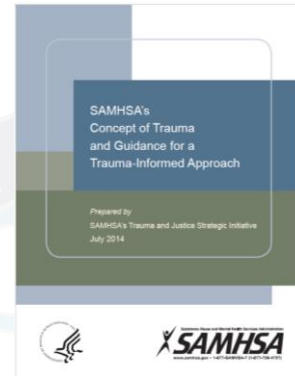
Available at:  
<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/juvenile-drug-treatment-court-guidelines>



## National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), Individualizing Responses to Motivate Behavior Change in Youth: A Four-Pronged Approach (2019)

Available at:  
<https://www.ncjfcj.org/publications/individualizing-responses-to-motivate-behavior-change-in-youth-a-four-pronged-approach/>

# RESOURCES



## SAMHSA, Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach (2014)

Available at:  
<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/samhsas-concept-trauma-and-guidance-trauma-informed-approach/sma14-4884>



## NCTSN, Trauma-Informed Juvenile Court Self-Assessment

Available at:  
<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/trauma-informed-juvenile-court-self-assessment>



## NCTSN, Bench Card for the Trauma-Informed Judge

Available at:  
<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/nctsn-bench-cards-trauma-informed-judge>



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[www.TribalYouth.org](http://www.TribalYouth.org)

**THANK YOU!**

