



Procedural Justice and Alternatives to Contempt

October 17, 2018 • 1:30 – 3:00 pm

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Center for the Support of Families

PJAC Demonstration Grant



- Procedural Justice-Informed Alternatives to Contempt (PJAC)
- 5-year, Section 1115 demonstration project launched in FY 2017
- Testing whether providing alternatives to contempt that are guided by procedural justice principles will increase cost-effectiveness and reliable child support payments

Key Elements of Procedural Justice



- **Voice and Participation**
- **Neutrality**
- **Respect**
- **Understanding**
- **Helpfulness**

Vision for the PJAC grants



- **Increase**
 - reliable child support payments
 - compliance with child support orders
 - trust and confidence in the child support agency
- **Cost-effective alternatives** to inappropriate use of contempt
- **Build evidence** of what works
- Provide **best practices guidance**

PJAC Program Sites



- **Arizona** – Maricopa County
- **California** – San Bernardino & Riverside Counties
- **Michigan** – Muskegon County
- **Ohio** – Franklin County
- **Ohio** – Stark County
- **Virginia** – Richmond & Newport News District Offices

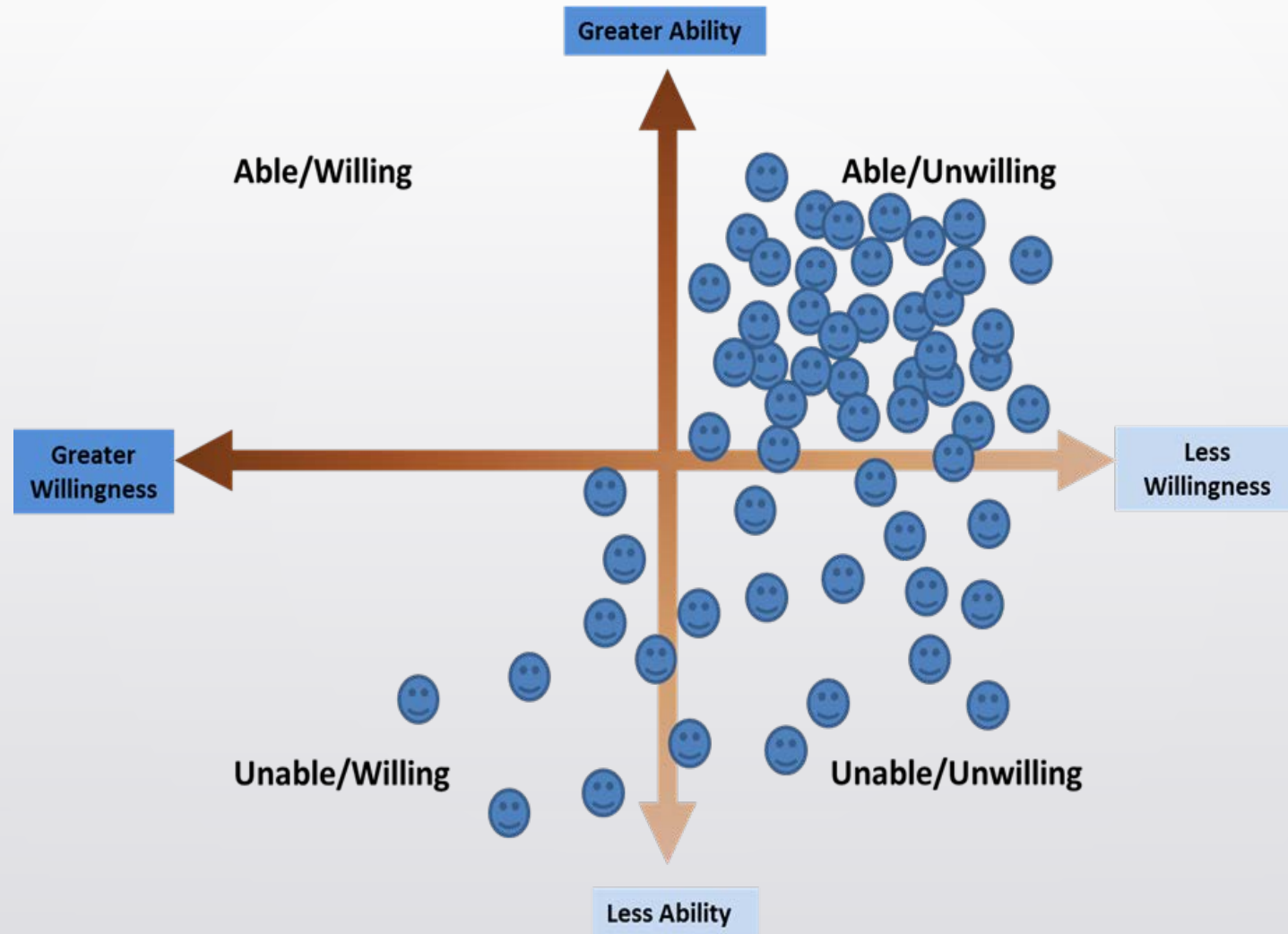
National Evaluation

- The Georgia Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) was awarded the evaluation grant
- Evaluation partners
 - MDRC
 - MEF Associates
 - Center for Court Innovation (CCI)

Evaluation Method

- **Evaluation Goals**
 - Determine whether PJAC increases reliable child support and at what cost
- **PJAC will use Randomized Control Trial (RCT)**
 - Individuals are randomly assigned to receive PJAC Services
 - This method ensures that there is no bias when selecting individuals for PJAC Services

Target Population for PJAC



Focus on Engagement, Not Employment



The program components of PJAC assist parents who owe child support to engage with the child support program by:

- **Increasing willingness** to pay support through the formal process,
- **Overcoming barriers** to reliable payment of child support, and
- **Promoting positive engagement** with the agency and other parent.

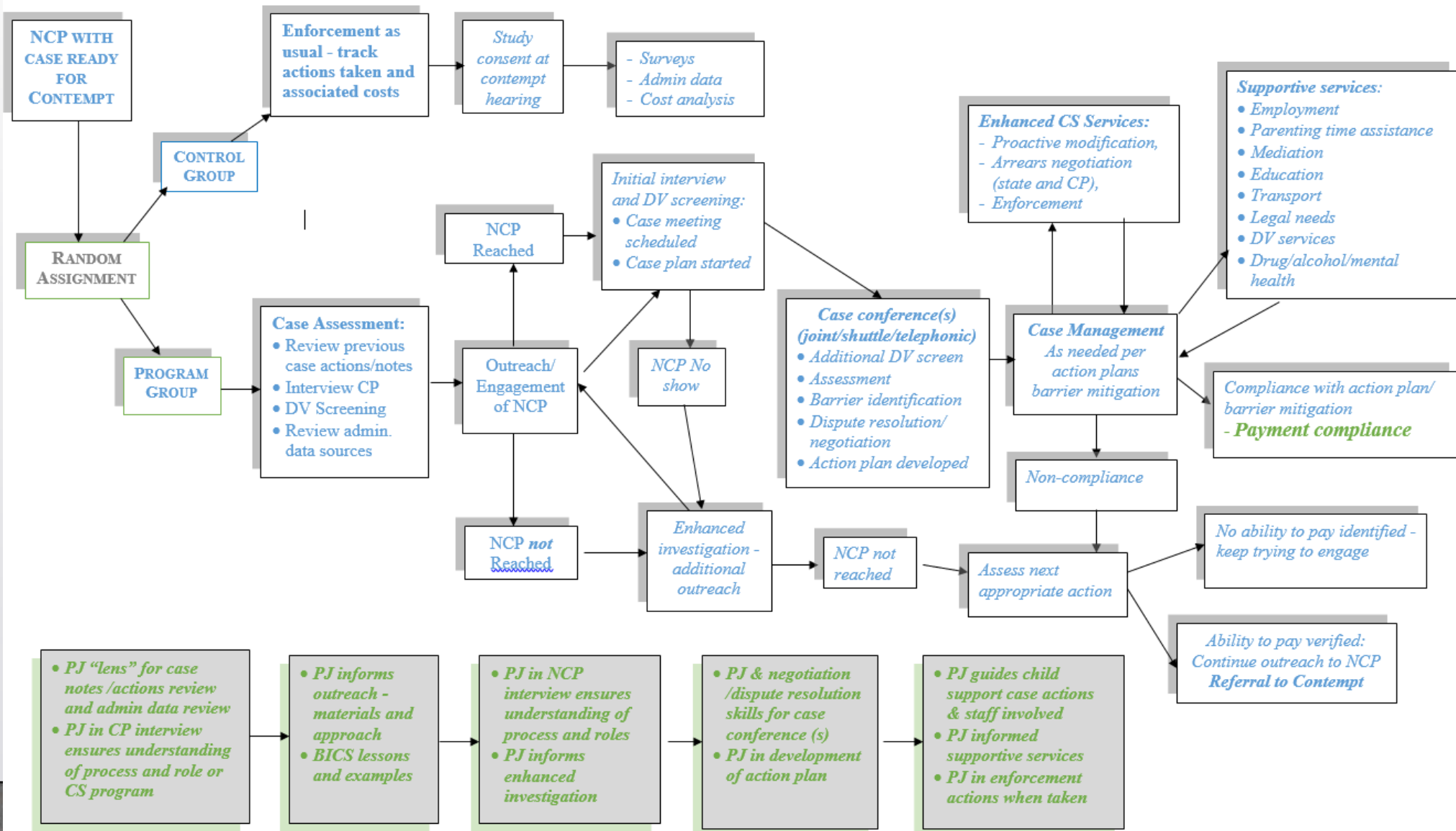
PJAC TIME LINE



Planning Year



PJAC Program Model Flow



Program and Evaluation Planning

- Flexibility, Efficiency and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs **“Final Rule”**
- Reviewing their **“business-as-usual”** services
- Understanding **flow of cases** through enforcement process
- Reviewing **pre-contempt screening** processes
- Determining **point for random assignment**

Program and Evaluation Planning

- Developing Service Delivery Model
- Domestic Violence Screening & Protocols
- Securing Community Partners
- Staff Training
 - Procedural Justice
 - Domestic Violence
 - Dispute Resolution/Mediation

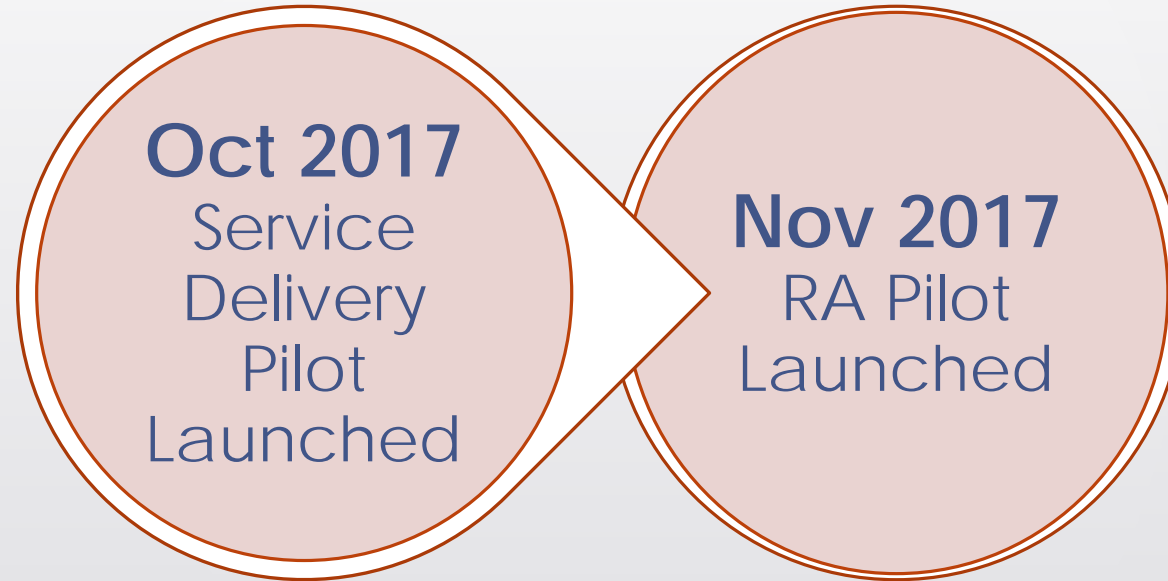
Overview of Core Program Elements



Staff Training and Site Visits

- **Bi-Weekly Planning Calls**
- **Monthly Learning Community Calls (LCC)**
 - *Subject Matter Experts*
- **Procedural Justice**
 - *Katherine Wurmfeld Center for Court Innovation*
- **Domestic Violence Training**
 - *Michael Hayes, OCSE*
- **Dispute Resolution/Mediation Training**
 - *Sites identified local training resources*

Year 2



Year 2




Feb 2018
Annual
Grantee
Meeting &
Training

**Feb/March
2018**
Full Study
Launched

Years 2 - 4 Enrollment Continues



Early Experiences/Observations

- 
- NCPs in treatment group do have some ability to pay
 - Have some income through other sources
 - Express fear and distrust of the program
 - Feel they were not treated fairly
 - Parents are more likely to respond to text messaging than phone calls
 - Early success engaging parents with new PJ approach
 - Building trust of both parents with CS agency and each other
 - Parents reconnecting with children and the program
 - Seeing consistent payments resume
 - CPs are excited about the program
 - Willing to forego CP owed arrears for consistent payments

Stay Tuned for PJAC Updates



- Updates/Briefs
- Bi-Annual PJAC newsletter
- Implementation Study
- Impact Study
- Benefit-Cost Study



Thank you for your time!