

Strengths and Opportunities in Rural Justice Courts

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1

In our work life, we are mostly focused
on the daily tasks we need to get done.

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But it is important to take time to focus on the BIG picture too.

3

One tool to help you think about big picture ideas is a SWOT analysis.

4

What is a SWOT Analysis?

- A SWOT analysis is a tool often used by businesses and government organizations to think about the organization at a high level.
- SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
- Brainstorm!
- Rank!
- Turn into action items!

5

Strengths – Internal, Positive

- What resources do we have? What processes are running well? What does your court excel at?
- *Examples: Run an efficient budget on little money. Manage a great staff who are well-trained. Involved in the community.*

6

Weaknesses – Internal, Negative

- Be honest!
- Where can we improve? What isn't working well? Where are we lacking resources?
- *Examples:* Technology integration. Hiring staff. Getting along with the [insert example] office.

7

Opportunities – External, Positive

- What new developments [in our county/state/overall] will help our court?
- Example: People using Zoom/video magistration software due to COVID. All of the evictions changes made your staff learn eviction procedure more than they ever have.

8

Threats- External, Negative

- What new developments [in county/state/society] threaten our court?
- Example: Budget cuts. Move to more tech (may be both an opportunity and a threat.) Increasing jurisdiction (may be both an opportunity and a threat.)

9

Opportunities/Threats

- Two sides of the same coin?
- Big changes: COVID, Harvey, Ice storm, Legislature, Technology

10

You want to look at
something you see
everyday (your court)

in a new way.

11

Let's Do It! SWOT Analysis for Rural Justice Courts

- In groups:
 - Divide your easel pad into 4 areas.
 - Spend time brainstorming for each area.
 - Think about rural justice courts ***in general***.
- If you think of something important for your court in particular, write it down on your personal diagram – we'll add more to these later!

12

Let's Share

13

Now for Your Individual Court

On your own diagram, what applies to your individual court?

14

Now rank the top two for each category.

15

Action Items

Throughout the program, you may add things as you learn about new topics.

There are more diagrams at the back if you want a clean copy.

At the end of the program, we are going to ask each person:

1. What is your number one leadership takeaway from the program?
2. What is one thing you hope to implement in your court soon?

16