

# *Attention All Treatment Courts: Innovations to Improve Family Functioning and Wellness*

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# Learning Objectives

1. Bolster an understanding of the effect of substance use on the family unit and the importance of addressing the needs of the whole family as a critical part of recovery
2. Gain knowledge of the critical role of cross-systems collaboration, communication, and community partnerships in serving the complex needs of children and families in your treatment court
3. Understand the risks to participants' engagement and recovery when treated outside the context of their family systems
4. Learn innovative strategies, key lessons, and takeaways from a panel of treatment court programs that are transitioning to a family-centered approach

**#BetterTogether**

***Break the Cycle***

# Participants Do Not Exist in Isolation

SUD is a family disease affecting all relationships in the family unit

Participants are parents, grandparents, spouses, children, siblings, aunts/uncles

**Treat the Family – Heal Relationships  
Break the Cycle**

# The Importance of the Parent-Child Relationship

A child develops attachments and recognizes as parents adults who provide **day-to-day** attention to his needs for physical care, nourishment, comfort, affection, and stimulation.

The loss a child experiences when separated from his parent is **profound** and can last into adulthood.

Strengthening parent-child relationships can be **the foundation needed to repair** the harm and improve family functioning.

# The Attachment – Delinquency Link

Bowlby, 1944 - “It is concluded that ... prolonged separations (of the small child from his mother) are a specific and very frequent cause of chronic delinquency.”

2012 meta-analysis of 74 studies - youth with poor attachment relationships have higher levels of delinquency

- *“Attachment could therefore be a target for intervention to reduce or prevent future delinquent behavior in juveniles.”*



# From Child Welfare to Juvenile Justice

A prospective study found that being abused or neglected as a child before age 12 increased the likelihood of:

- Arrest as a juvenile by **59%**
- Arrest as an adult by **28%**
- Arrest for a violent crime by **30%**

These children:

- Are **younger** at the time of their first arrest
- Committed nearly **twice** as many offenses
- Are **arrested** more frequently

Source: Widom, C.S. & Maxfield, M.G. (2001). An update on the “cycle of violence”. *National Institute of Justice Research in Brief*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice.



Pause |

*Breathe*

Numbers

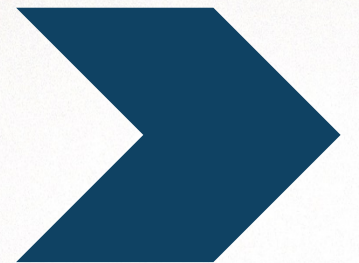
Needs

Networks

3Ns

What Can You Do to Be  
More Family-Centered?

Take the Next Steps



# Understanding the Challenge



# KEY STRATEGY | NUMBERS

*You cannot change  
what you cannot  
count*

## Take the Next Steps:

# Numbers

- Ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location and quality of relationship)
- Ask questions about family status at intake
- Ensure you are asking questions about family structure
- Strategize on how to get entire family into treatment
- Ensure information systems including tracking of family members

**We Know What  
Works for Families**



# KEY STRATEGY | NEEDS

***Provide services that support family needs and the parent-child relationship***



# Numbers

## Take the Next Steps: Needs

- Are child's/youth's medical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional needs assessed?
- How will you ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings and assessments?
- Has child and family been assessed for trauma? Relationship issues?
- Did child/youth receive appropriate interventions or services for the identified needs?
- How are strengths identified and leveraged?

# Montana Pilot: Family Issues & Recovery

- **52.7%** had concerns regarding one or more of their **children's social and emotional well-being**
- **47.2%** had concerns regarding **medical problems or issues** with one or more of their children
- **40.0%** had concerns about one or more of their **children's behavior**
- **17.8%** had significant concerns about their spouse's or significant other's **mental health**

# Family Centered Treatment Residential Treatment

## INDIVIDUAL

**Parent** - substance use, employment, health or mental health status

**Child** - developmental progress, educational performance, improved resiliency

**Other family members** - substance use, employment, health or mental health status

## SYSTEM - SOCIETAL

**Community** - cost savings and increased tax base from improved employment, cost savings from reduced criminal recidivism, improved prenatal and birth outcomes, reduced school problems, future health costs

## RELATIONAL

**Whole families** - family stability, reduced violence, healthy communication and parenting improvement

**Between family members** - parent-child relationship, attachment, relationship satisfaction, reunification

# **Parent-Child: Key Service Components**

**Developmental &  
behavioral  
screenings and  
assessments**

**Quality and  
frequent visitation**

**Early and ongoing  
peer recovery  
support**

**Parent-child  
relationship-based  
interventions**

**Parent  
Education**

**Trauma**

**Community and  
auxiliary support**

# Parenting Programs Specific to Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders

- **Celebrating Families** - <http://www.celebratingfamilies.net/>
- **Strengthening Families** - <http://www.strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org/>
- **Nurturing Program for Families in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery** - <http://www.healthrecovery.org/publications/detail.php?p=28>

Please visit:

- **California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse** - [www.cebc4cw.org](http://www.cebc4cw.org)
- **SAMHSA's Evidence-Based Resource Center** - [www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center](http://www.samhsa.gov/ebp-resource-center)

# Treatment During Pregnancy

# Windows of

- Motivation to make health related changes is enhanced during pregnancy
- Prenatal care is a touch point with the system

# Roadmap to Collaboration



# KEY STRATEGY | NETWORKS

## *Community Mapping*



# Mapping

Mapping the community's existing resources identifies the client-level service gaps, program overlap, and opportunities to leverage available resources, particularly for shared clients.



*How*

# Numbers

# Needs

Take the Next Steps:

# Networks

- Do you refer and follow-up to outside agencies with children's services?
- Are child and family-serving agencies on your collaborative team?
- Are you mobilizing and linking to new resources from other agencies that already serve children and families?
- Have you developed formal relationships and information sharing protocols?



***Pause | Breathe***

# *Panel Discussion*

**Honorable Marcia Hirsch**

Queens, New York

**Audrey Clairmont**

Merrimack County, New Hampshire



# Motivation





***Innovation***



# *Evaluation*



# Q&A | *Discussion*

**Next Steps**



***Big steps***

***Small  
steps***

***Just keep  
moving***







# TRANSITIONING TO A FAMILY CENTERED APPROACH:

Best Practices and Lessons Learned  
from Three Adult Drug Courts



Children and Family Futures  
National Drug Court Institute



## Transitioning to a Family Centered Approach: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Three Adult Drugs Courts

To download a copy:

<https://www.ndci.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Transitioning-to-a-Family-Centered-Approach.pdf>

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