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Children's Justice Initiative- Alcohol and other Drug Project: Best Practices Tool Kit

Presenters

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Presentation Objectives

- Development of collaboration between government agencies
- Challenges of AOD and Child Safety Overlap
- Sharing lessons learned from Parents
- Presenting the Best Practice “Tool Kit” Strategies
- Sustainability

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CJI-AOD Project

- Under the umbrella of the Minnesota's Children's Justice Initiative
- NCSACW In-Depth Technical Assistance
- Project Team
 - State Advisory Committee
 - Advisory Team
 - courts, child safety, chemical health, county, parents, community provider
 - Local CJI Teams
 - Mentor Counties - Itasca, Stearns
 - Ten Phase I Counties
- Tribal engagement and involvement



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The Mission of CJI-AOD

To ensure that, in a fair and timely manner, abused and neglected children involved in juvenile protection court have safe, stable, permanent families by improving parental and family recovery from alcohol or other drug problems.

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Minnesota's Context

- Total Population over 5 million; Child Population 1.3 million
- State Supervised; County Administered Child Welfare System
- Primarily locally funded
- Governed by Reporting of Maltreatment to Minors Act 626.556
- 18-19,000 reports per year are accepted for a CP response
 - **Almost half of all reports are made by school personnel and law enforcement****Regardless of response path**
- Disproportionately involves poor, single mothers and their children and families of color
- MN CPS objectives:
 - **respond proportionately to the severity of the safety concern**
 - **enhance family engagement**
 - **promote early intervention and prevention**
 - **broaden community involvement**

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- **Differential Response System**
 - 57.5% received family assessment ; 42.5% an investigation
 - Substantiation rate is 56% of all investigations
- **Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund**
 - 28,000 public pay clients
 - State funded – County Administered with a 15% match
 - Free market treatment system
- **Majority of child maltreatment being addressed is for neglect (65%)**

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- Families who neglected more likely to experience multiple family issues, including alcohol and other drug issues and poverty.
- Approximately 1/3 of all families receive services.
- AOD concerns are seen in over half of families needing services.
- Only 11% of all CP interventions result in a Juvenile Protection Court Intervention of placement out of the home.

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The Five Clocks

- MFIP



- Child welfare system



- Recovery process



- Child development



- Agency and staff timelines



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CJI-AOD: The Why and How

- Now, more than ever, system collaboration is needed to improve outcomes for children
- Achieving Better Outcomes
 - Important for personal growth, healthy emotional development, and positive sustained relationships of family members
 - Can reduce future child safety concerns
 - Can reduce treatment recidivism
 - Can reduce broader community consequences related to capacity, resources and cost

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Review and Research

- Statewide best practice inquiry
- Eleven parent focus groups conducted across the State, including Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Reservation and MN Indian Women's Resource Center
- NCSACW database search
- Internet research on evidence-based practices

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Laying the Project Foundation

- Shared Values and Principles
- Parent Focus Groups
- Best Practice Inquiry
 - Nationally and Minnesota
- Best Practice Toolkit
- Parent Consultant Handbook

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Lessons Learned from Parents: Highlights

- Use an approach that is collaborative, culturally competent, family-centered and strengths-based
- The intervention was warranted at the time of occurrence in their lives – however services and/or the way they were delivered alienated the parent from wanting, believing and in some cases succeeding in making improvements with limited permanency time frames.



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Continued Lesson Learned

- Fathers expressed:
 - the need for reparation of the father-child relationship
 - inclusion in the intervention and recovery process
 - acknowledgement from professionals that they are important in the lives of their children.



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- Parents found themselves working through a seemingly endless, confusing and often conflicting stream of rules, requirements and paperwork.
- Parents continually questioned how a system that is designed to help families justifies separating the family for the purposes of treatment and recovery.



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Samples of the Best Practice Strategies in the "Tool Kit"

- **Parent Mentors/Recovery Specialists**
 - Parent mentors - work as a guide for parents working to enter and maintain recovery, they can help educate the family on child welfare concerns.
 - Recovery Specialists - facilitate immediate access to services by assisting the parent/family in navigating and removing barriers as it relates to treatment and recovery
- **Shared Family Care**
 - designed to prevent out of home placement, allowing the entire family to be placed in a supervised setting while parent works on recovery
- **Family Dependency Treatment Court**
 - Court based system combining criminal and juvenile protection matters to quickly identify and assess parental AOD issues with frequent court supervision.

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- **Motivational Interviewing**
 - Training and client-centered, directive method for enhancing self-motivation to change by exploring and resolving ambivalence thus better engaging the parent in the treatment and recovery process.

- **Wellbriety - Culture of Healing**
 - Culturally specific training that applies the traditions of the American Indian culture to the healing and recovery from AOD issues.

- **Individualized AOD Services for Children**
 - Developmentally appropriate interventions to address individual needs, based on comprehensive assessment



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- **Father specific case planning**
 - Case planning should address the father's needs in the same way that it addresses the mother's.
 - Cross-system training on interacting with fathers who have chemical health issues

- **Improved Service Delivery to Fathers**
 - CP and AOD service providers can improve services to fathers by convening focus groups with fathers in recovery who have experience with the child protection system to identify barriers in their local system, and to elicit recommendations for constructively engaging fathers in the process.

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Sustainability Plans

■ Training Plan

- Cross Systems Training Plan
- October Kick off Conference
- Implement best practice strategies at the local level with state technical assistance

■ Evaluation Plan

- Framework for five focus areas related to following project and practice trends for the courts, child protection and chemical health

■ Sustainability Plan

- Improve communication and data sharing
- Support best practices
- Develop performance measurements and follow for trends

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Further Information

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<http://www.courts.state.mn.us/page/?pageID=197&subSite=childrensJustice>

Shared Values and Principals document
Summary of Parent Partner Focus Groups
Research Report on Parent Mentor/Leader Models

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