



Technical Assistance Products

NCSACW has developed a variety of products that advance knowledge and practice in the linkages among substance use disorders, child welfare, and family court systems. The following products are available at www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov.

Framework and Policy Tools

Framework and Policy Tools for Improving Linkages between Alcohol and Drug Services, Child Welfare Services and Dependency Courts

This paper describes the ten-element framework of system linkages that are necessary for effective collaboration between the substance abuse treatment, child welfare, and dependency court systems. This ten-element framework is a tool for assessing collaboration across systems, specifically the identification of benchmarks for improving system linkages, which are fundamental to improving outcomes and long-term well-being for families in the child welfare system with substance use disorders.

The Framework presents the opportunities and challenges that may be encountered by the systems in developing a collaborative approach to the issue of substance use disorders among parents in the child welfare and dependency court population. Reasons for the inclusion of the dependency court as a third partner in the collaborative are discussed, and the specific roles and responsibilities of each system are delineated. The paper describes seven program sites which are implementing the collaborative approach.

Matrix of Progress

The Matrix of Progress in Building Linkages Among Alcohol and Drug Agencies, Child Welfare Services, and the Dependency Court is a tool for evaluating collaboration across the three systems. It specifies characteristics in improved system linkages that lead to improved outcomes and long-term well-being for families. The Matrix of Progress identifies criteria for improved practice, good practice, and best practice for each of the ten elements

Collaborative Capacity Instrument

The Collaborative Capacity Instrument was developed by staff at Children and Family Futures to be used as a self-assessment by County (and/or State) alcohol and drug and child welfare service agencies who are preparing to work with each other or who may be seeking to move to a new level of cooperation after some initial efforts. The questions were designed to elicit discussion among and within both sets of agencies about their readiness for closer work with each other.

Collaborative Values Inventory

The Collaborative Values Inventory is a questionnaire to be completed by cross-disciplinary teams of professionals who are seeking a better understanding of the values that guide different disciplines and systems. After completing the questionnaire anonymously, it is helpful to have the items scored and then a formal meeting(s) to discuss the similarities and differences across systems. The intent of the questionnaire is to assist community members and professional staff in developing common principles for their work together

Screening and Assessment for Family Engagement, Retention and Recovery (SAFERR)

This guidebook provides a model that helps professionals respond to families affected by substance use disorders by strengthening partnerships between child welfare and substance abuse treatment agencies and the courts. The model includes screening and assessment tools and efficient communication strategies that support sound and timely decisions about the safety of children and about the treatment and recovery of parents. It includes guidance for developing collaborative relationships between the systems to help improve outcomes for these families.

Navigating the Pathways: Lessons and Promising Practices in Linking Alcohol and Drug Services with Child Welfare (TAP 27)

This Technical Assistance Publication (TAP) offers a unique perspective on the growing contacts across the divide that too often prevents child welfare and substance abuse agencies from working together as closely as they need to in order to help children and families affected by substance abuse. Using a ten-element framework to measure the capacity of agencies to work as partners on the substance abuse needs of child welfare services clients, this TAP describes seven sites from around the Nation that have implemented programs for families in the child welfare system with substance use disorders. This TAP is one in a series of publications by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). TAP 27 was authored by Children and Family Futures.

White Paper on Funding Comprehensive Services for Families with Substance Use Disorders in Child Welfare and Dependency Courts

Connecting separate agencies that serve children and families at the intersection of child welfare, substance abuse services and dependency courts involves connecting the multiple funding streams that flow into child welfare, substance abuse and other health and human service agencies serving families. This white paper outlines several fiscal issues that affect the ability of programs to provide the comprehensive services needed by children and families affected by substance abuse, outlines the concept of unified fiscal planning, and briefly describes the Federal sources of funding for child welfare and alcohol and drug services as well as several other sources of funds for services for children and adolescents.

Training and Staff Development Resources

Understanding Substance Abuse and Facilitating Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Workers

This publication is intended for front line child welfare staff. This brief discusses the relationship of alcohol and drugs to families in the child welfare system; provides information on the biological, psychological, and social processes of alcohol and drug addiction to help staff recognize when substance abuse is a risk factor in their cases; describes strategies to facilitate and support alcohol and drug treatment and recovery; and explains the benefits of partnering with substance abuse treatment and dependency court systems to improve outcomes for children of parents with substance use disorders.

Understanding Child Welfare and the Dependency Court: A Guide for Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals

This online course is designed to provide comprehensive information regarding child welfare issues for the substance abuse treatment professional. The course is interactive and, as individuals progress through the modules, there are links to worksheets, pop-up questions, case studies, and information boxes to support the learning experience. Individuals can customize the tutorial by selecting the Learn More links throughout the course, which provide further content on specific topics. The Resources section provides an array of Websites, publications, and other sources on child welfare and substance abuse issues.

Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Professionals

Child welfare workers are on the front line, making decisions about the best course of action for families in their caseloads. Without a solid understanding of alcohol and drug addiction, and how to identify families involved in the child welfare system as a result of parental addiction, child welfare workers will not be able to address a significant portion of the needs of the families in their caseloads. This online course provides a primer on alcohol and drug addiction, substance abuse treatment and recovery, enhancing treatment readiness and treatment effectiveness, discusses cross-system communication and collaboration, as well as provides contact information for other national resources.

Substance Use Disorders, Mental Disorders and Co-Occurring Disorders Training Package

This on-line training package is designed to educate child welfare professionals about substance use disorders, mental disorders and co-occurring disorders among families involved in the child welfare system. This training package is composed of six modules, where each module includes a training plan, fully developed trainer scripts and PowerPoint slides. The training plan, embedded within trainer scripts, gives guidance to a trainer presenting each module. The guidance describes how to conduct facilitated discussions, some of which are based on a printable vignette that follows the training plan. This training plan is currently being pilot tested.

Substance Exposed Births Initiative

The needs of infants prenatally exposed to substances and their families are critical issues that have been highlighted recently through changes to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the number of pregnant women and children affected by maternal use of methamphetamine, and research on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorders. NCSACW staff and consultants are developing a report on State policies, State practices, and State and local models for responding to infants prenatally exposed to substances and their families. The goal of this report is to provide support for multi-agency collaboration and services coordination in response to the needs of substance-exposed infants and to women that are identified at the hospital as having given birth to a substance-exposed infant.

The Child Welfare-Substance Abuse Connection: A Compendium of Training Curricula and Resources

This compendium provides information about currently available training curricula addressing the linkages between child welfare and substance abuse. The document was compiled by a former contractor of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT).

Materials Prepared for Specific Topics and Audiences

A Review of Alcohol and Drug Issues in the States' Child and Family Service Reviews and Program Improvement Plans

This document provides a summary and analysis of CFSTRs and PIPs highlighting the substance abuse issues included in the States' reports. A total of 50 state reports, in addition to reports from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, from the Children and Family Service Reviews (CFSTRs) and 52 Program Improvement Plans (PIPs) were reviewed to compile this review.

Annotated Bibliography on Cross-System Issues

This annotated bibliography includes the major literature on cross-system issues involving child welfare, substance use disorders, and dependency courts, published between January 1, 2000 and March, 2006. This document is updated quarterly with new literature.

Findings from the National Technical Assistance Needs Assessment on Improving Outcomes for Families with Substance Use Disorders in Child Welfare Services and Dependency Courts

NCSACW conducted a needs assessment in early 2003 to determine the technical assistance needs of its stakeholders. The report, published in May 2003, presents the findings of the needs assessment and outlines the major areas where technical assistance is needed related to cross-system issues.

Methamphetamine Addiction, Treatment, and Outcomes: Implications for Child Welfare Workers

Child welfare workers are seeing growing numbers of children and families affected by the parent's use of methamphetamine. In order to make sound decisions for the benefit of children and families, child welfare workers need accurate information about methamphetamine, its effects on parents and their children, and the effectiveness of treatment. This paper presents the most current research in these areas, and offers recommendations for child welfare workers to help them identify and assist children and families affected by a parent's use of methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine Resource List

This document is a compilation of resources from various agencies and organizations working to provide prevention and intervention related to methamphetamine use, abuse, and production. The resources provided include the following:

- National and State Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Materials and Protocols
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Publications
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Publications
- Federal Methamphetamine Conferences
- The Methamphetamine Clearinghouse
- Clandestine Labs and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
- Upcoming and Recently Completed Methamphetamine Trainings
- UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP)
- Videos from Washington State's Alcohol and Drug Clearinghouse