



Guess What - You're a Family Court, Too - Considerations When Working With Families in Drug Courts

Russ Bermejo, MSW, Senior Program Associate, Children and Family Futures

3rd Annual Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training

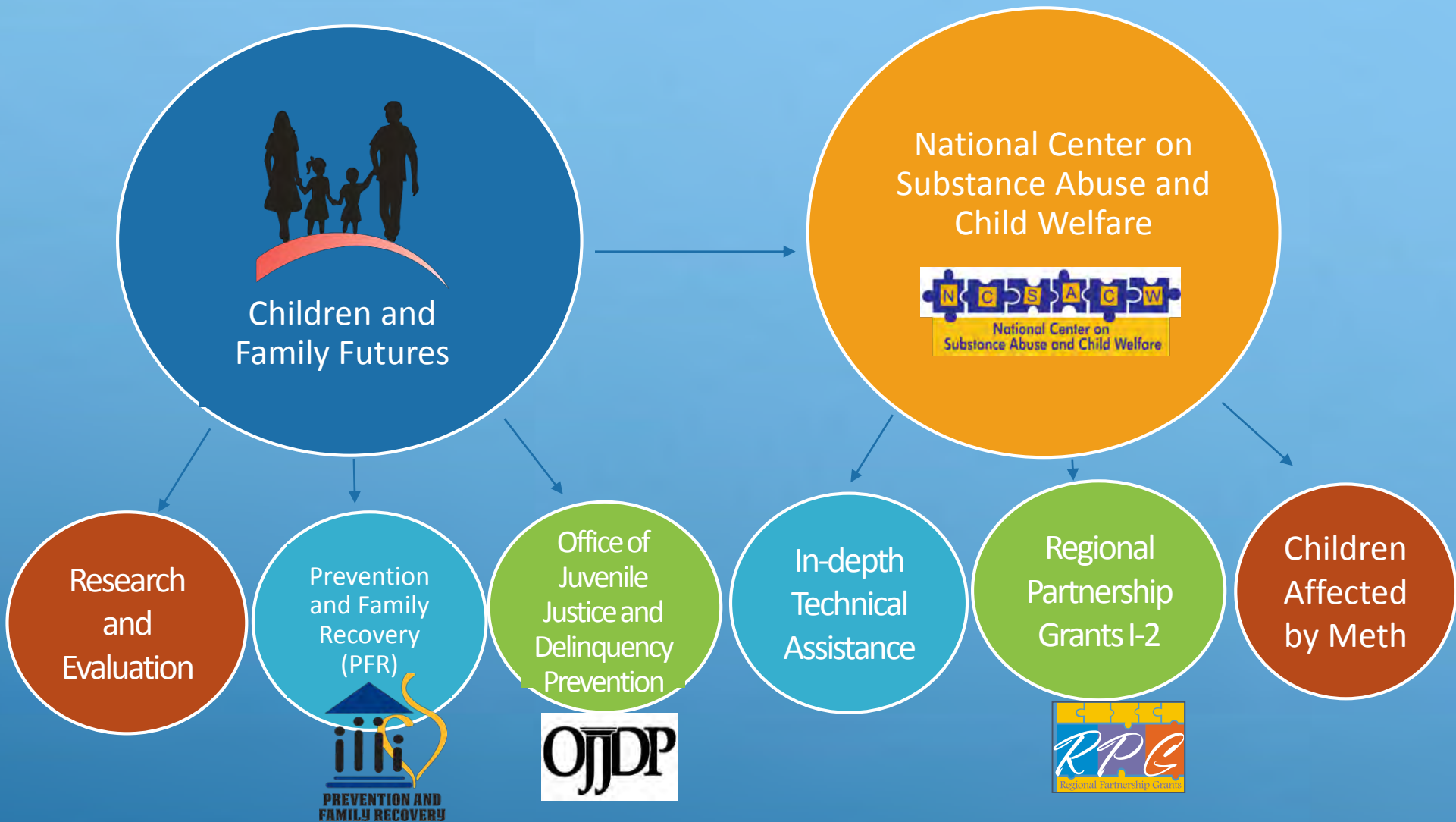
Children and Family Futures

The Mission:

To improve safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes for children, parents and families affected by trauma, substance use and mental health disorders



25371 Commercentre Drive, Suite 140, Lake Forest CA 92630 | www.cffutures.org





8.3 million children

* 2002 – 2007 SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)



60-75%
of participants in
adult drug courts
have at least
one minor child

Did You Know?

Parent Recovery

Focusing on parent's recovery and parenting are essential for reunification and stabilizing families

Child Well-Being

Focusing on safety and permanency are essential for child well-being





Core Messages

Don't forget the children -
treatment is about families

Recovery for both parent and child
occurs in the context of family



Addiction as a Family Disease

**Developmental
impact**

**Generational
impact**

**Psycho-
social impact**

**Impact on
parenting**



What is the impact?

- 
- A close-up photograph of a baby's face, looking directly at the camera. The baby has light skin, dark eyes, and a slightly open mouth. The background is a warm, out-of-focus orange-brown color.
- Prenatal exposure
 - Postnatal environment:
 - Living with a parent with a substance use disorder
 - Trauma
 - Separation and attachment

Impact on the Child

A pregnant woman in a white shirt is shown from the side, holding her belly with both hands. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery.

Prenatal Exposure

- Prenatal screening studies document **11-15%** of infants were prenatally exposed to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- The most severe consequence of exposure to alcohol during pregnancy is **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)**, the largest **preventable** cause of birth defects and mental retardation
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)** – full range of effects

Impact on the Child

- Executive functioning problems, inability to self-regulate and to generalize across situations
- Gross and fine motor delays
- Attention problems
- Memory difficulties
- Attachment disorders



Children of parents with substance use disorders are at an increased risk for developing their own substance use and mental health problems.

Postnatal Environment – Potential Impact of Living in Substance Abusing Family

The potential impact on the child can range from:

- Severe, inconsistent or inappropriate discipline
- Neglect of basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education and supervision
- Situations that jeopardize the child's safety and health (e.g. drug manufacturing and trafficking)
- Trauma as a result of all of the above as well as from removal
- Disruption of parent/child relationship, child's sense of trust and belonging
- Chronic trauma of childhood

Childhood Trauma

Trauma disrupts all aspects of normal development,

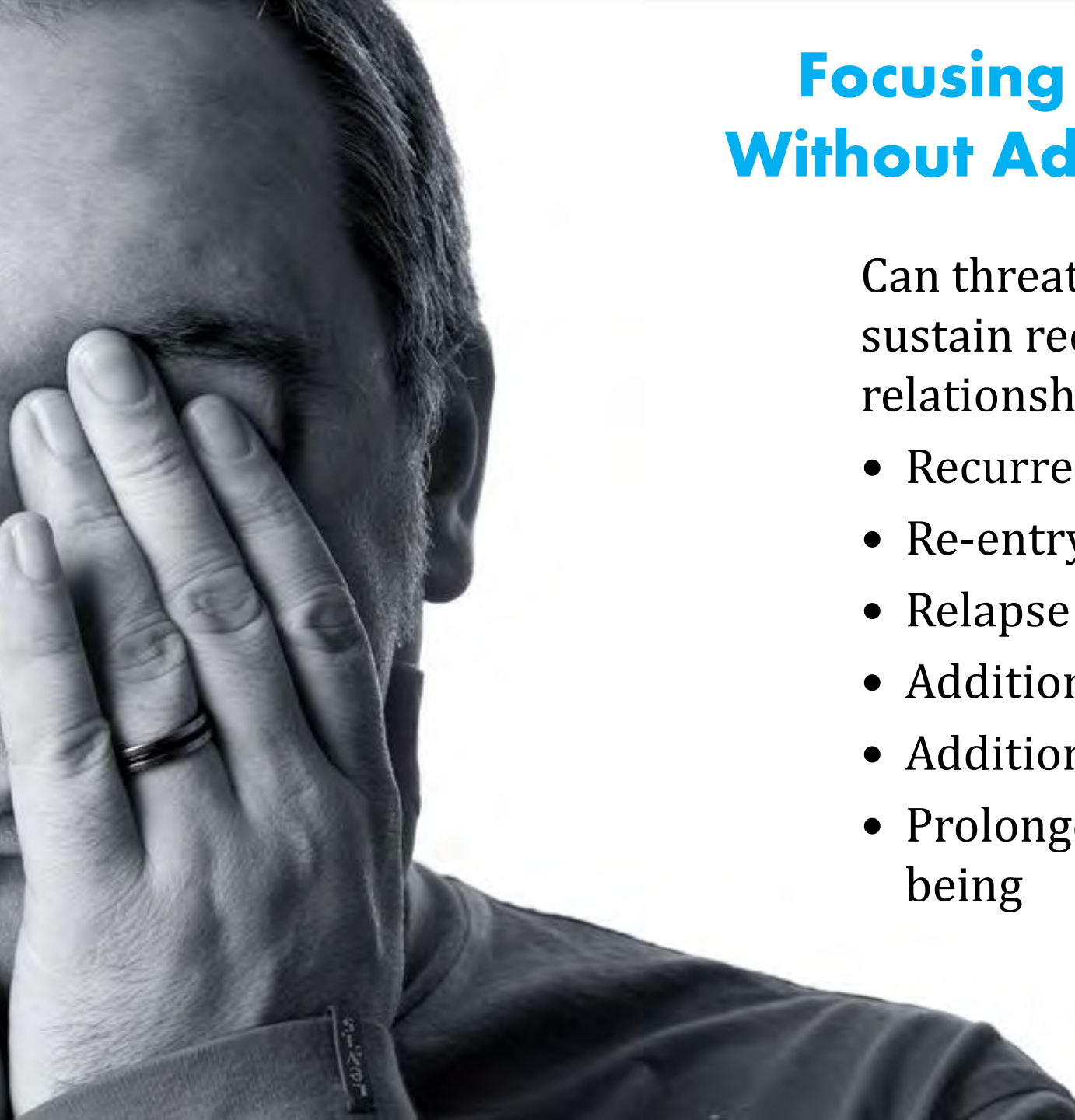
especially during infancy and early childhood, including:

- Brain development
- Cognitive growth and learning
- Emotional self-regulation
- Attachment to caregivers and social-emotional development
- Trauma predisposes children to subsequent psychiatric difficulties



A close-up photograph of a parent's hand holding a young child's hand. The parent is wearing a red t-shirt and blue jeans. The child is wearing a white t-shirt and red and white striped shorts. They are standing on a beach with the ocean and a cloudy sky in the background. The text "What is the relationship between children's issues and parent's recovery?" is overlaid in the center-right of the image.

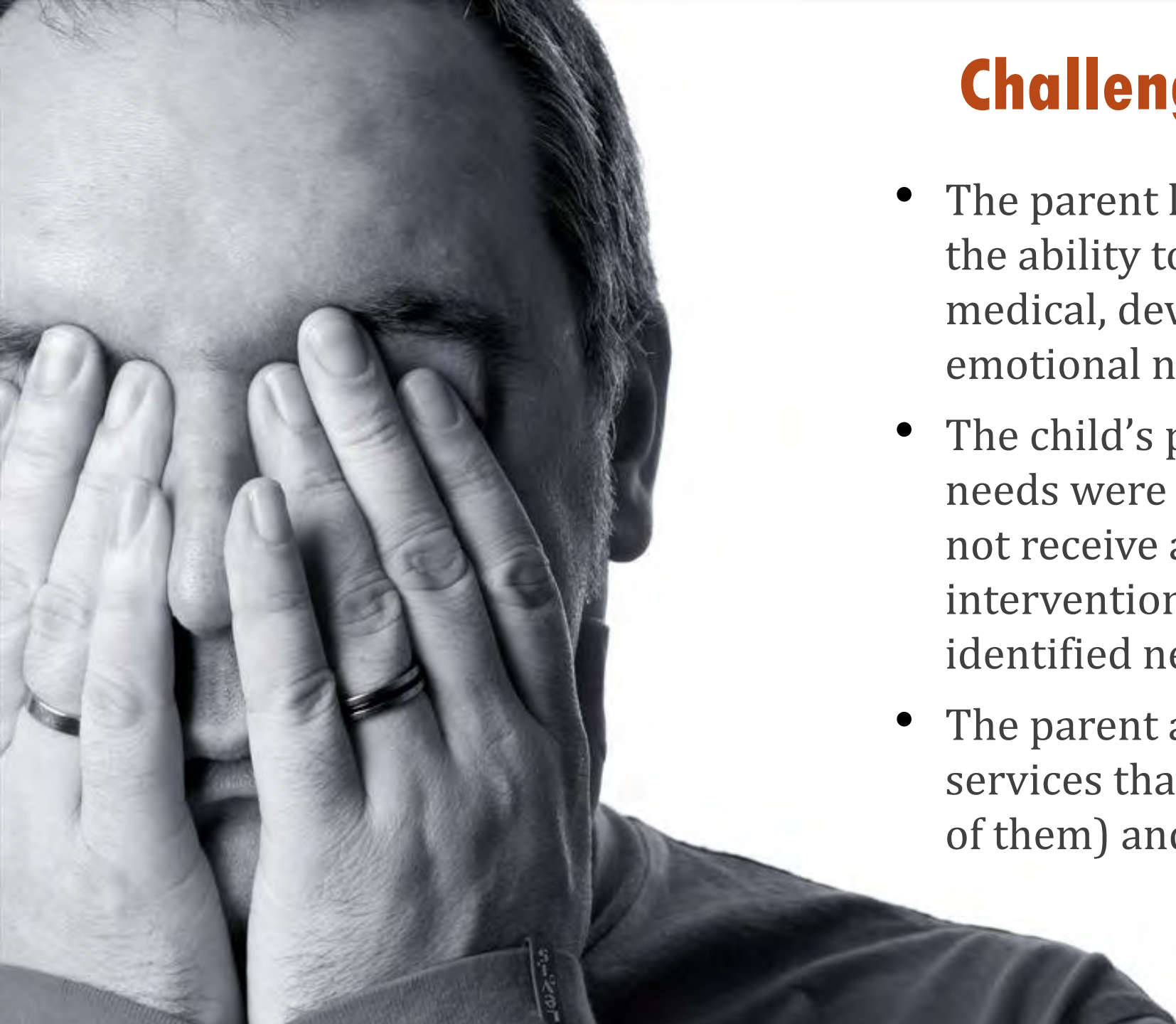
What is the relationship
between children's issues
and parent's recovery?



Focusing Only on Parent's Recovery Without Addressing Needs of Children

Can threaten parent's ability to achieve and sustain recovery, and establish a healthy relationship with their children, thus risking:

- Recurrence of maltreatment
- Re-entry into out-of-home care
- Relapse and sustained sobriety
- Additional substance exposed infants
- Additional exposure to trauma for child/family
- Prolonged and recurring impact on child well-being



Challenges for the Parents

- The parent lacks understanding of and the ability to cope with the child's medical, developmental, behavioral and emotional needs
- The child's physical, developmental needs were not assessed, or the child did not receive appropriate interventions/treatment services for the identified needs
- The parent and child did not receive services that addressed trauma (for both of them) and relationship issues

Treatment Retention and Completion

- Women who participated in programs that included a “high” level of family and children’s services and employment/education services were twice as likely to reunify with their children as those who participated in programs with a “low” level of these services. - Grella, Hser & Yang (2006)
- Retention and completion of treatment have been found to be the strongest predictors of reunification with children for substance-abusing parents. - Green, Rockhill, & Furrer, 2007; Marsh, Smith, & Bruni, 2010
- Substance abuse treatment services that include children in treatment can lead to improved outcomes for the parent, which can also improve outcomes for the child



Parenting in Adult Drug Courts

Adult Drug Courts that provided parenting classes had **65% greater reductions** in criminal recidivism and **52% greater cost savings** than Drug Courts that did not provide parenting classes.

Source: Carey, S.M., Mackin, J.R., & Finigan, M.W. (2012). What works? The 10 key components of Drug Court: Research-based best practices. Drug Court Review.

We Know the Costs: Children of Parents with a Substance Use Disorder



- They are children who arrive at kindergarten not ready for school
- They are in special education caseloads
- They are disproportionately in foster care and are less likely to return home
- They are in juvenile justice caseloads
- They are in residential treatment programs

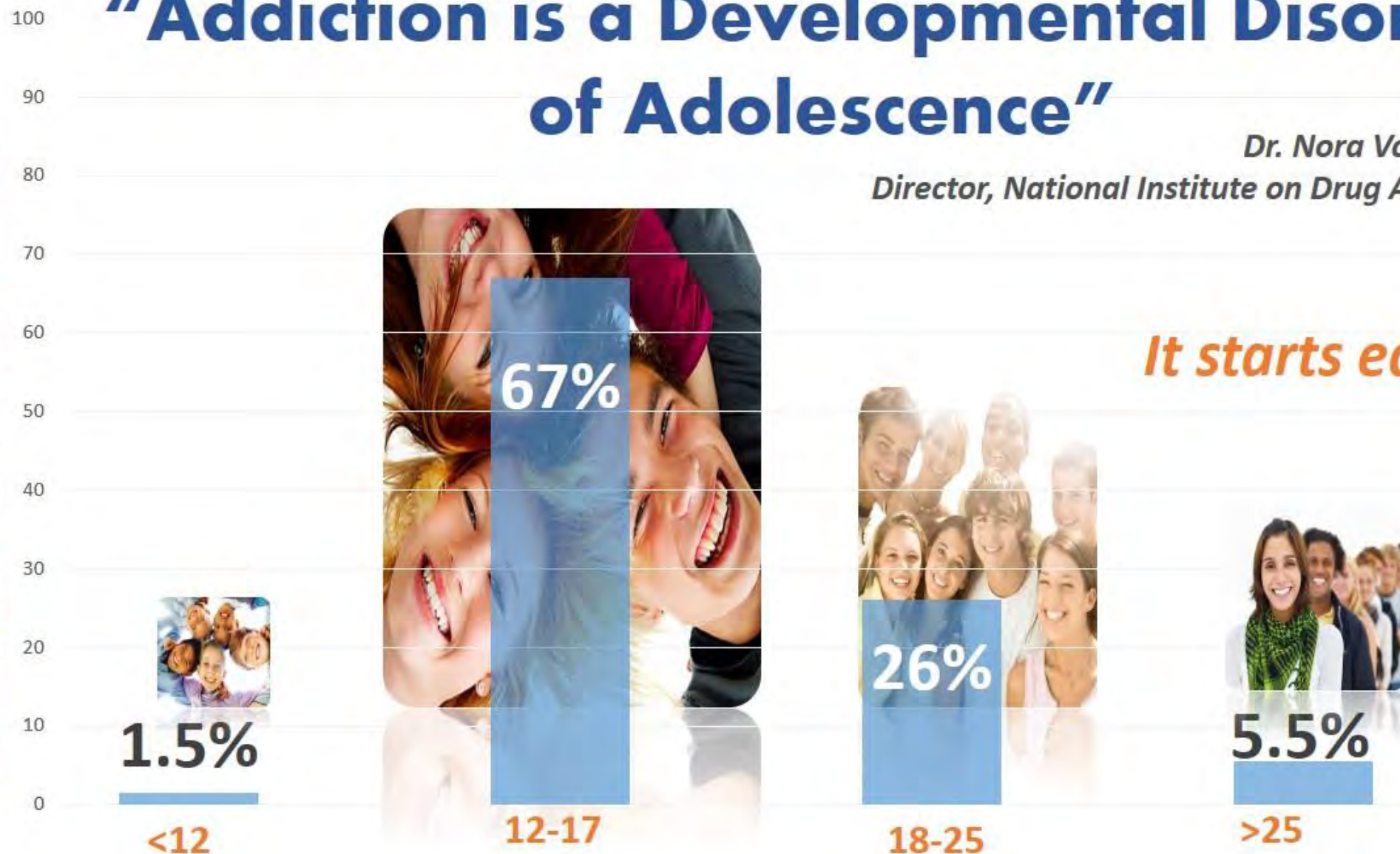
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"Addiction is a Developmental Disorder of Adolescence"

Dr. Nora Volkow
Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse

It starts early

First Marijuana Use (Percent of Initiates)



Family Recovery

Developmental
assessment
and services

Drug
treatment
and
prevention

Mental
health
services

Parenting
and parent-
child
relationship



Child Well-Being and Family Relationships

- Child well-being occurs in the context of family relationships
- 90% of children in substantiated abuse and neglect cases either stay home or go home
- Impact of substance use combined with added trauma of removal and separation = severe disruption of relationships
- Family stability can greatly contribute to recovery



Addiction as a Family Disease

- The impact on child development is well-known: addiction weakens relationships – which are critical to healthy development
- **Child-well-being** – is more than just development, safety and permanency – it's about relationships that ensure family well-being
- Impact of substance use combined with added trauma of separation due to out-home custody = severe family disruption



Cross-System Collaboration

Substance use and child maltreatment are often multi-generational problems that can only be addressed through a *coordinated approach across multiple systems* to address needs of both parents and children.



Why Involve Families in Drug Court? (The Literature)

- Family issues are one of most commonly identified criminogenic factors (Bonta et al., 2008)
- Family interventions are one of most effective methods to reduce offender recidivism (Lipsey et al., 2010)
- Inadequate family support, family problems and family disruption contribute to offending (Salisbury & Van Voorhis, 2009; Wareham, Dembo & Poythress, 2009)
- Attachment to children reduces violations (Visher, 2013)
- Meta-analyses show that family interventions reduce recidivism (Farrington & Welsh, 2003; Woodfenden, Williams & Peat, 2002)



The Literature also Suggests...

- Families are powerful informal agents of control
- Families often help the offender in addressing issues such as housing and employment (Young, Taxman & Byrne, 2002)
- Family involvement results in better employment and reduced drug use (Visher, La Vigne & Travis, 2002)
- Offenders with more family contact are less likely to be arrested again or re-incarcerated (LaVigne, Visher, & Castro, 2004; Martinez and Christian, 2009)



Family-Centered Approach



Recognizes that addiction is **a family disease** and that recovery and well-being occurs **in the context of families**

3Ns

NUMBERS
NEEDS
NETWORK



Drug Court Practice Improvements

Approaches to child well-being in Family Drug Courts have changed.





Facilitated by Russ Bernero

20TH ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA | MAY 28-31, 2014



NADCP
National Association of
Drug Court Professionals

Serving Children & Families— A Developmental Process

3Ns

Numbers

Needs

Network





**How can Drug Courts
determine the **number** of
children associated with
participant adults?**

You can't coordinate what you can't count.

Numbers

- How will your DC ask clients if they have children?
- How will your DC ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location and quality of relationship)?
- Ask questions about **family status** at intakes?
- Strategize on how to get **entire family into treatment** to assist in identification of parental drug use and facilitate treatment
- Ensure that **court information systems** including tracking of family members



**How can Drug Courts
determine the **needs** of
children and families
associated with
participant adults?**

What services and supports do these children and families need?

Needs – Guiding Questions

- Are child's medical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional needs assessed?
- How will your Court ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings and assessments
- Has the child and family been assessed for trauma? Relationship issues?
- Did the child receive appropriate interventions or services for the identified needs?
- Do the parents have an understanding of the child's identified needs? Are they able to cope with the child's needs?
- Does the family have access to long-term supportive services?
- Are you providing training and education to Court Team, including judicial leaders on the importance of serving children and families?



3Ns

NETWORKS

**How can Drug Courts
build lasting effective
networks or partnerships
to respond to the needs
of these children?**

You don't have to do it alone- that's what collaborative means

Network - Guiding Questions



- 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?
- Remember – you do not have to divert resources from treating parents to help their children

Comprehensive Treatment and Support

- Family-Centered Services
 - - Interventions with parents and children
 - - Attached focused interventions
 - - Successful visitation
- Evidence-Based Treatment and Services
 - - Peer/Parent Mentors
 - - Home Services
 - - Recovery Support Specialists
 - - Parenting Services
- Gender-Responsive
- Trauma-Informed and Focused
- Clinically sound, non-judgmental and nurturing relationships with staff
- Ongoing Support

Child and Family Services



- Maternal and child health
- Mental health
- Child development
- Youth services
- Special education
- Delinquency prevention

Are child and family-serving agencies on your collaborative team?

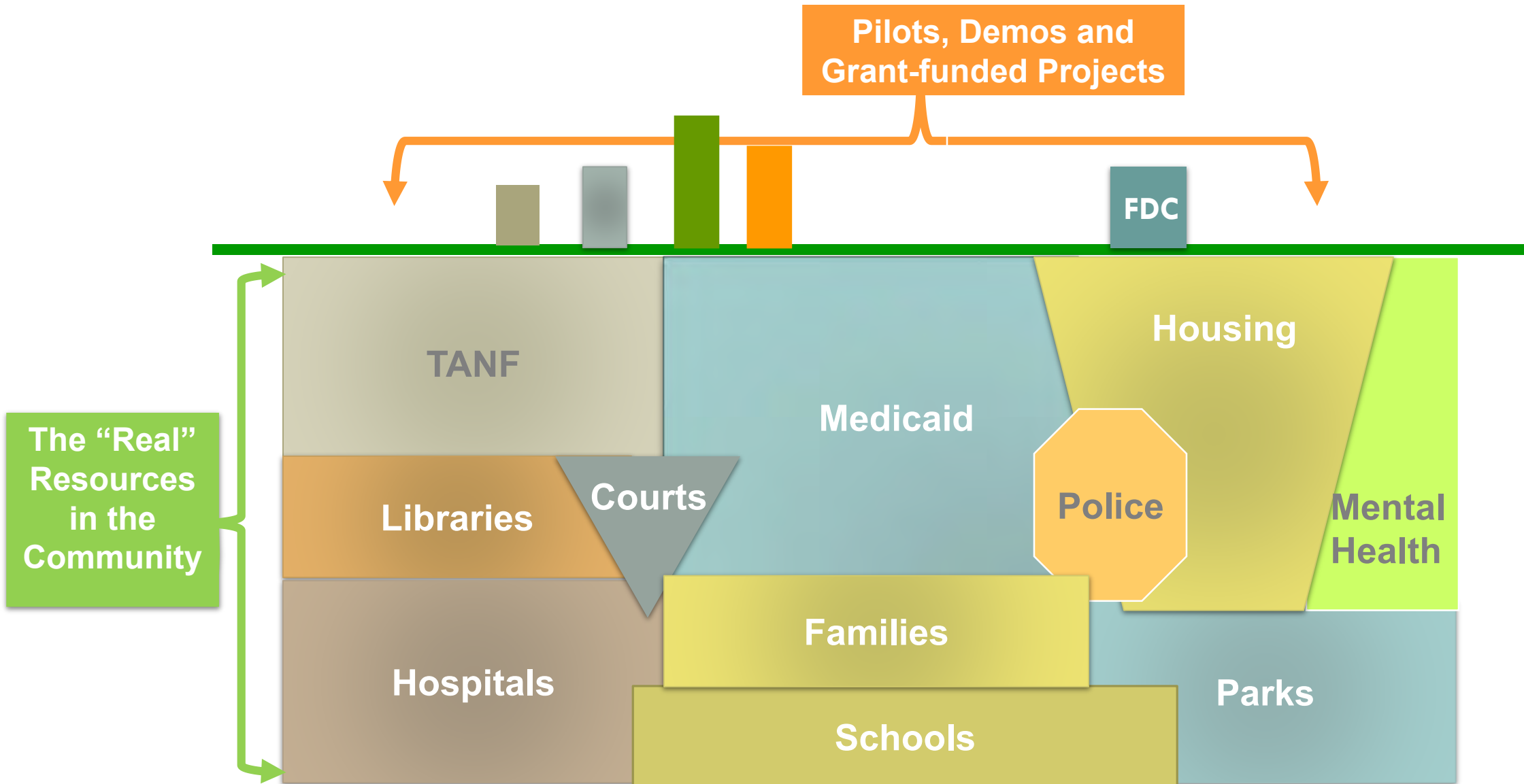
You Don't Have Do It Alone



- The task is not diverting funds from your Court; but to mobilize and link to existing services or accessing *funds already available for children's services*
- Securing their fair share of \$350 billion in existing children's programs
 - Maternal and child health
 - Mental health
 - Child development
 - Youth services
 - Special education
 - Delinquency prevention

Are child and family-serving agencies on your collaborative team?

Redirection of Resources Already Here



Importance of a Cross-Systems Response

- Effective family interventions require **collaboration** to facilitate meaningful and sustainable family involvement and successful individual and family outcomes.
- Interventions are most effective when implemented within the context of a **coordinated, cross-system approach**.
- Interventions should consider children's and family's ecology—extended family, peers, school and neighborhood.
- Parental substance use and child abuse are often **multi-generational problems** that can only be addressed through a **coordinated approach across multiple systems** to address needs of **both parents and youth**.

What Outcomes Do You Want to Monitor?

Do you have families involved in the Child Welfare System?

Family Reunification – are children being reunified with parents?

Do you have families involved in custody cases?

Visitation – are children seeing non-custodial parent?

Do the children need special intervention services (ie mental health services)?

Evidence-Based Programs – are they making progress by participating ?



Collaborative Courts and Accountability

- Courts **hold parents responsible** for their recovery and their parenting
- But to function effectively, Courts must **also hold the system accountable** for responding to the needs of children



Next Steps & Resources

Action Planning Ideas – Intake & Services

- How will your Court ask veterans if they have children?
- How will your Court ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location, and quality of relationship)?
- How will your Court ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings, assessments, intervention and treatment services?
- How will you ensure that children are screened for services?
- How will you ensure that questions about child and family status are asked at intake?
- *“How are your kids doing?”*

Building A Network of Services

- How will you refer and follow up to outside agencies with children's services?
 - You need an inventory of children's services
 - Ask your VJO
 - Ask local coordinating bodies
 - Ask local congregations
 - Ask your Family Drug Court
- How will you ensure availability of evidence-based, family-centered treatment services?
 - Which agencies just got new federal or state funding? Are veterans' children in their caseloads? Should they be?

Miami Child Well-Being Court Model

THE MIAMI CHILD WELL-BEING COURT™ MODEL Essential Elements and Implementation Guidance



Prepared by
Jenifer Goldman Fraser, PhD, MPH
Cecilia Casanueva, PhD

THE MIAMI CHILD WELL-BEING COURT™ MODEL A Handbook for Clinicians



Prepared by
Jenifer Goldman Fraser, PhD, MPH
Cecilia Casanueva, PhD

For more information, visit:

<http://www.lindaraycenter.miami.edu/Home.html>

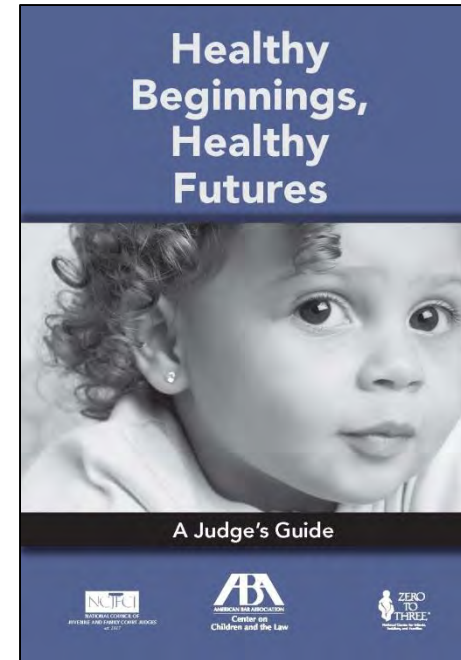
Child-Centered Resources



Questions Every Judge and Lawyer Should Ask About Infants and Toddlers in the Child Welfare System

To download a copy:

<http://www.ncjfcj.org/images/stories/dept/ppcd/pdf/spr%2004%20sofsky%20et%20al.pdf>



A Judges Guide -
addresses
the wide
array of
health needs
of very young
children in
the child
welfare
system

To download a copy:

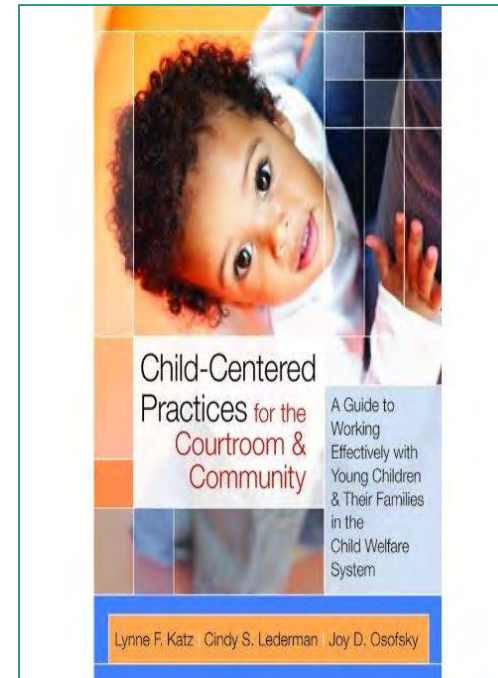
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/pages/healthybeginnings.html

Child-Centered Court Resources



Helping Babies
from the
Bench: Using
the Science of
Early
Childhood
Development
in Court -DVD

To request
a copy of this DVD, visit:
www.zerotothree.org



Child-Centered
Practices for
the Courtroom
& Community

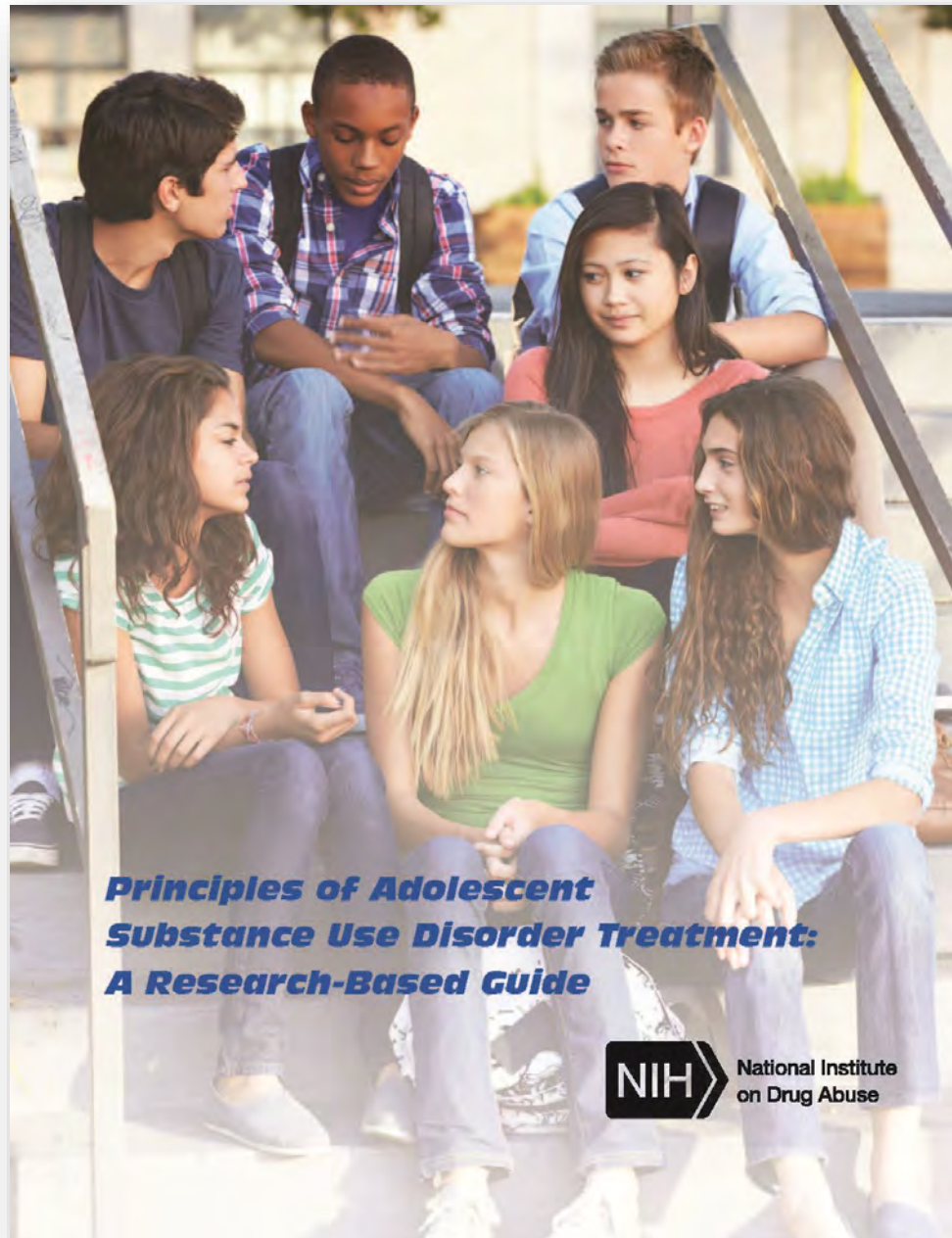
by Lynn F. Katz,
Cindy S.
Lederman, and
Joy D. Osofsky
(2011)

Available at:
www.Amazon.com

National Institute on Drug Abuse

To download, visit:

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-adolescent-substance-use-disorder-treatment-research-based-guide>



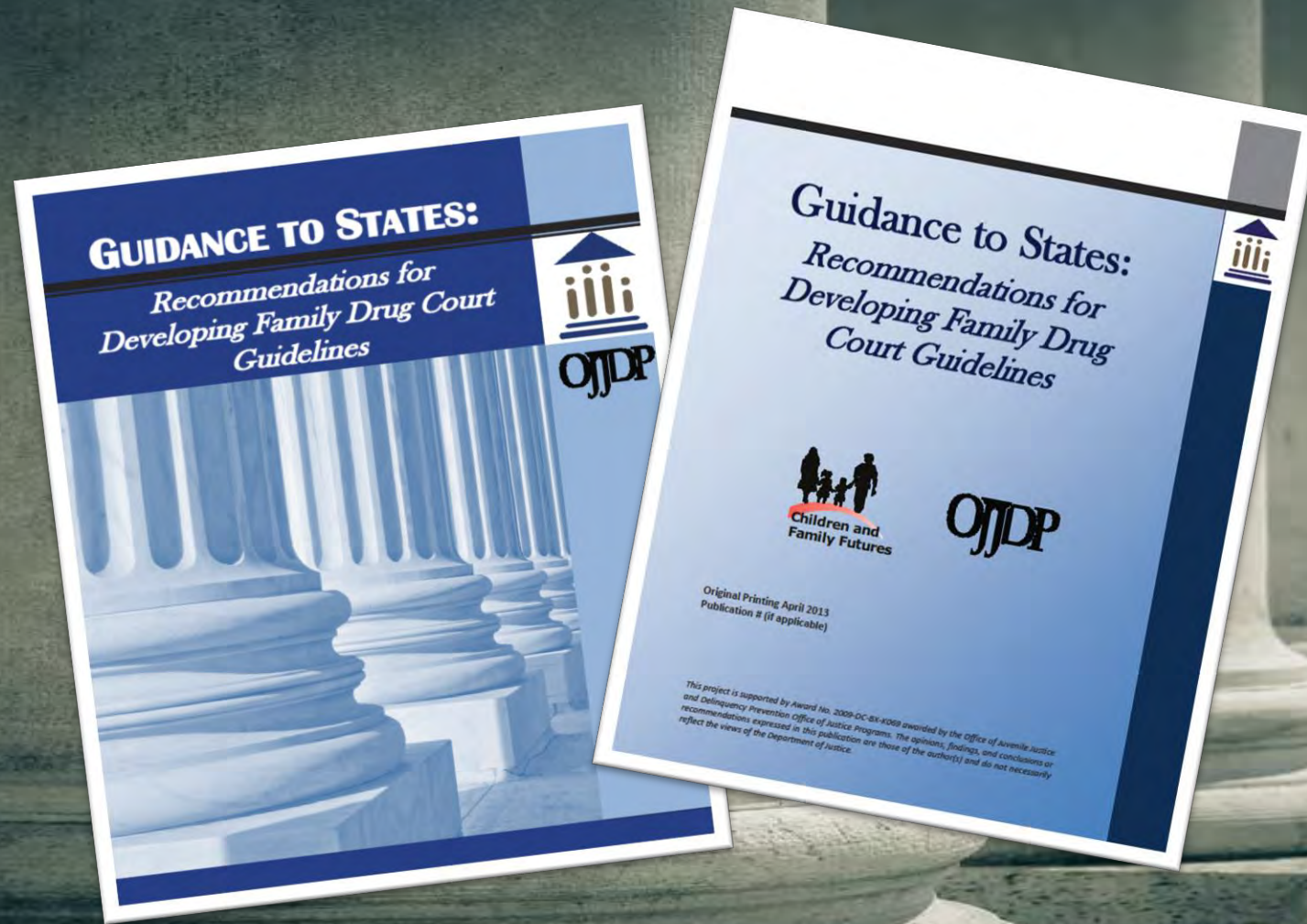


Free CEUs!

1. **Understanding Substance Abuse and Facilitating Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Workers**
2. **Understanding Child Welfare and the Dependency Court: A Guide for Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals**
3. **Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Legal Professionals**

Please visit: www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare
Online Tutorials



To download, please visit:

<http://www.cffutures.org/files/publications/FDC-Guidelines.pdf>



Family Drug Court Learning Academy Webinar Series

2014

This Changes Everything

For more information, please visit the FDC Learning Academy Webinar Library
www.cffutures.org or www.familydrugcourts.blogspot.com

This Changes Everything - 2014

March 6th	Tested and Proven – Utilization of Recovery Support Specialists as a Key Engagement and Retention Strategy in FDC (and Beyond)
April 10th	Our Grant is Over – Now What? Re-financing and Re-Directing as Real Sustainability Planning for Your FDC
June 19th	Closed Doors or Welcome Mat? Opening the Way for Medical Assisted Treatment in FDC
July 10th	So How Do You Know They Are Really Ready? Key Considerations for Assessing Families in Recovery for Reunification
Aug. 14th	Exploring Solutions Together – The Issue of Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality in FDCs
Sept. 18th	Matching Service to Need – Exploring What “High- Risk, High-Need” Means for FDCs

resources

Webinar recordings

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what's new

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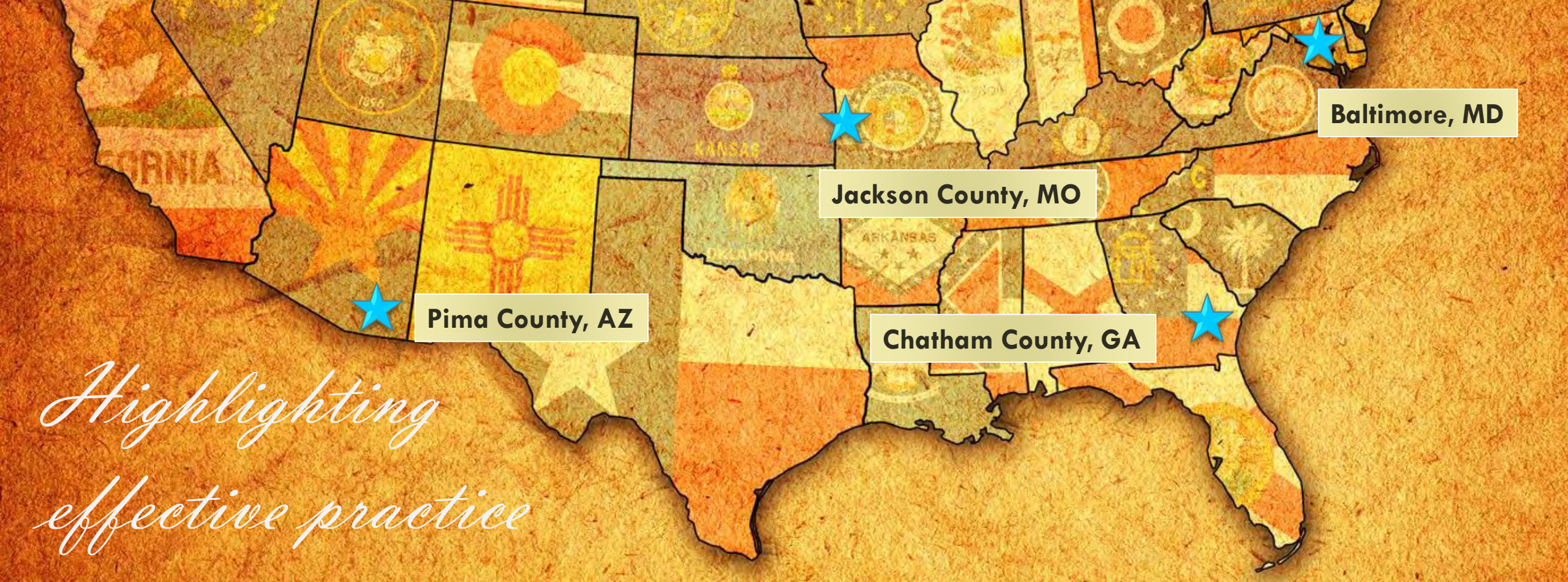
comments

Download the PPTs,
materials and resources

Visit

FDC Learning Academy Blog

www.familydrugcourts.blogspot.com



★ FAMILY DRUG COURT PEER LEARNING COURT PROGRAM

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION: PeerLearningCourts@cffutures.org

Recommended Reading

clean

Overcoming Addiction and
Ending America's Greatest Tragedy

DAVID SHEFF

author of *Beautiful Boy*



Russ Bermejo, MSW
Children and Family Futures
National Center on Substance Abuse and
Child Welfare

rbermejo@cffutures.org

www.cffutures.org

(714) 505-3525

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