



Accounting for the Role of Families in Drug Court Evaluations

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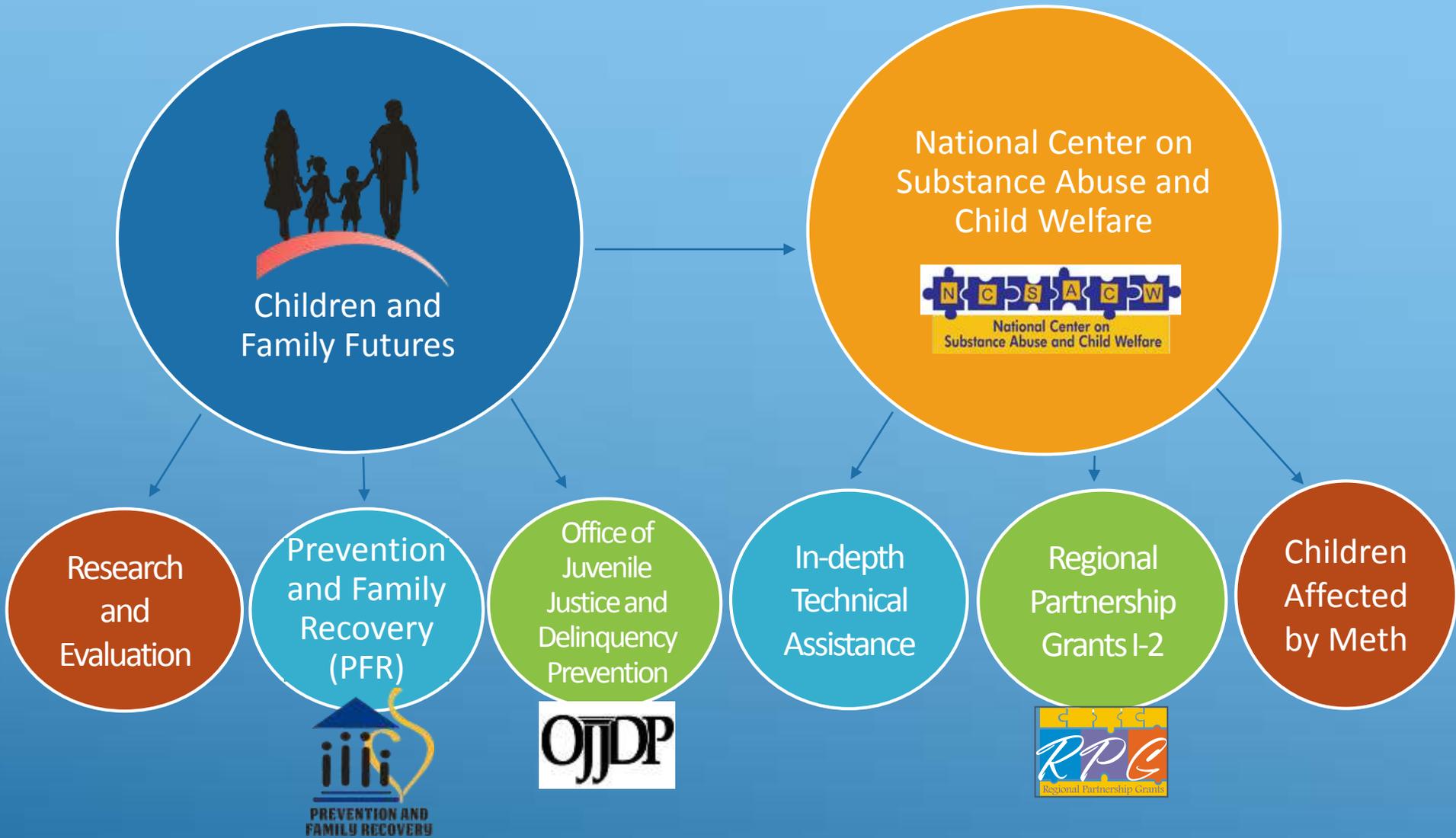
Children and Family Futures

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



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Children and Family Futures

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare



Research and Evaluation

Prevention and Family Recovery (PFR)



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



In-depth Technical Assistance

Regional Partnership Grants I-2



Children Affected by Meth

Session Learning Objectives

- Understand the rationale for identifying and addressing the needs of treatment court participants' children and family members.
- Realize that the transition from an adult, recovery-focused drug court to a family treatment-focused court is a developmental progression.
- Be able to articulate process and outcome evaluation questions concerning the role of participants' children and family members.
- Learn the components of basic, intermediate and intensive evaluation strategies to account for activities including children and families.

Courts are Family Courts – When Their Clients Include Parents and Children

- The challenge is *not* to divert resources from treating parents to help their children
- But to mobilize and link to new resources from other agencies that already serve children

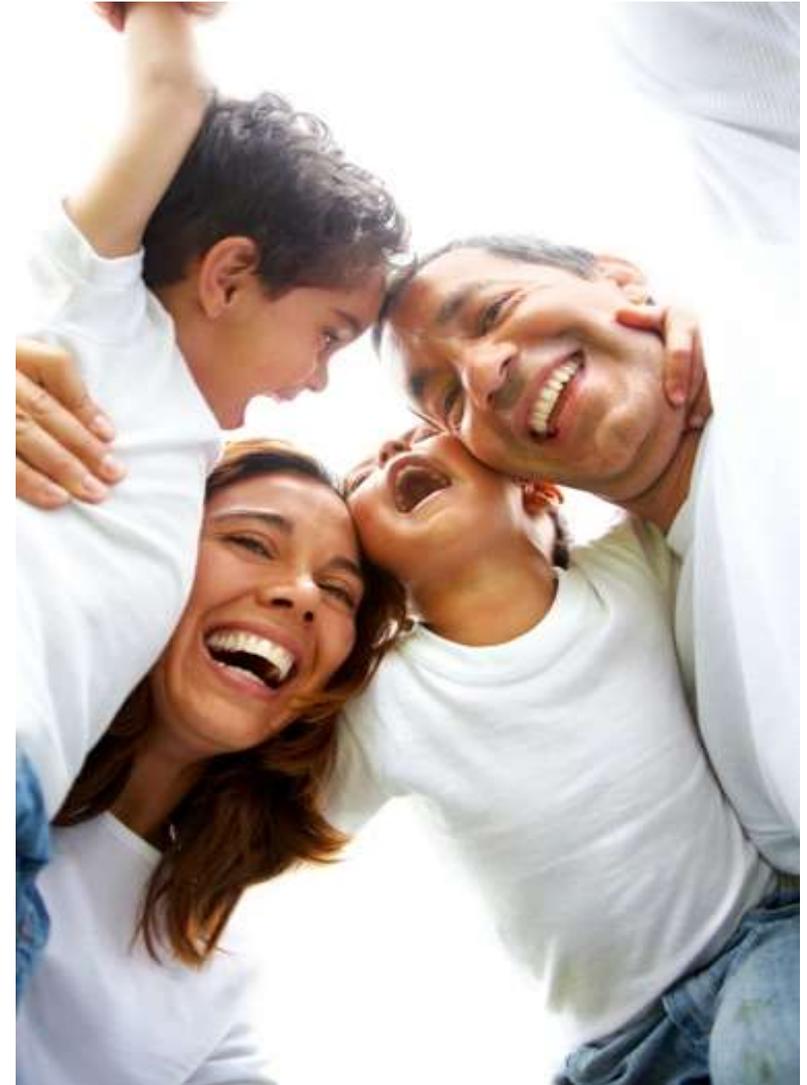
That's what collaborative means

The Core Rationale

- Adults with substance use disorders have children and are members of families
 - Significant proportions of Adult Drug Court participants are parents (60%-75%)
- Alcohol and drug dependence is a family disease—so children are affected
- Whether or not you ask the questions at intake, Children are often in the Caseload

Why Treatment Should Be About Families

- Family stress and trauma can contribute to relapse; family stability contributes to recovery
- The best *prevention* for children is effective *treatment* for their parents
- In seeking community PR and sustainability, benefits to children and family members help tell the story along with data describing adults' recovery and reduced recidivism



Why Involve Families in Drug Court? (The Literature)

- Family issues are one of the 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...

- Some addicts get sober to keep their kids
- 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)



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.

It's Not About Diverting Drug Court Resources



*It's accessing funds
already available for
children's services*

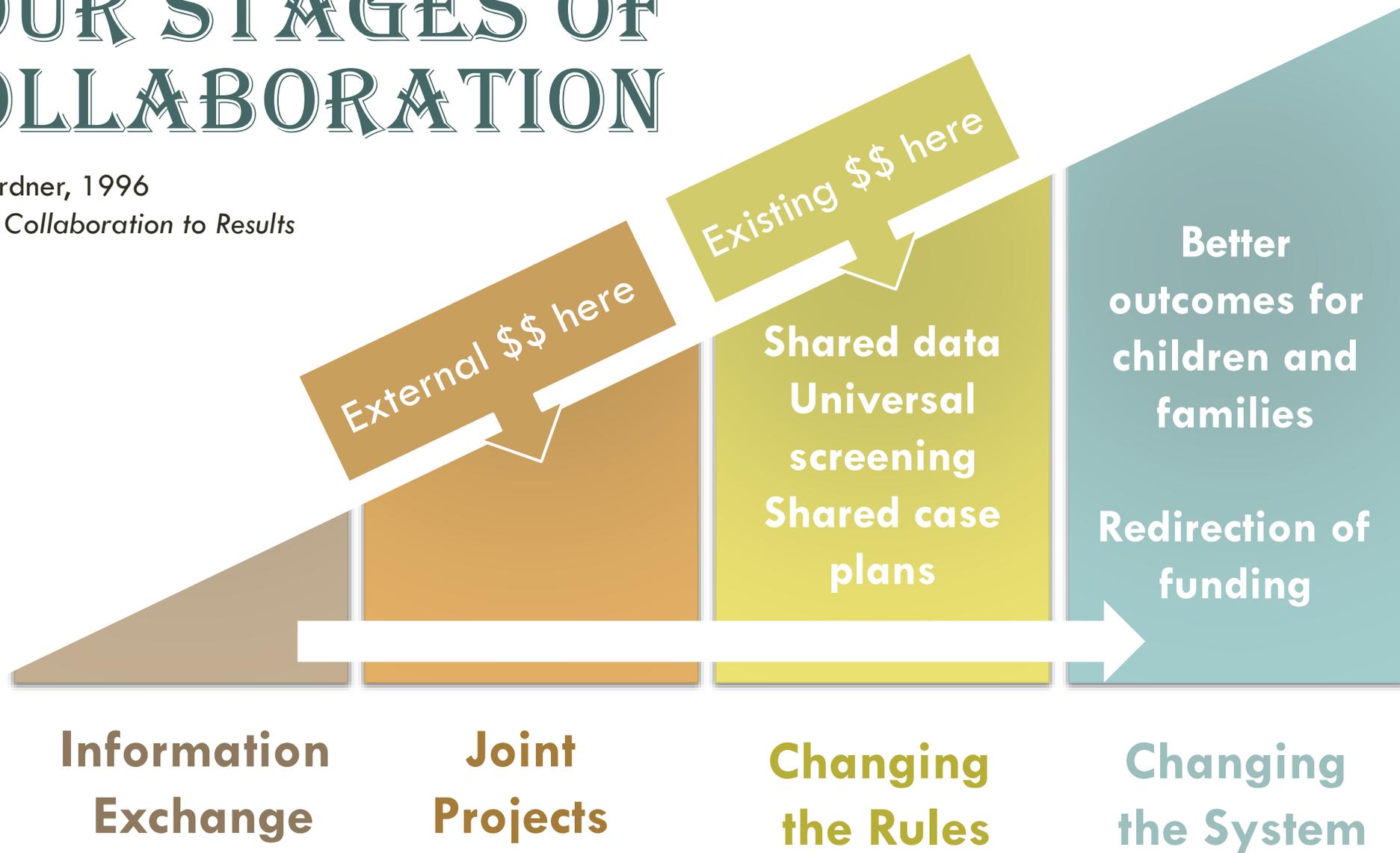
It's about identifying and linking to new resources from other agencies that already serve children and families:

- Maternal and child health
- Mental health
- Child development
- Youth services
- Delinquency prevention
- ...and others

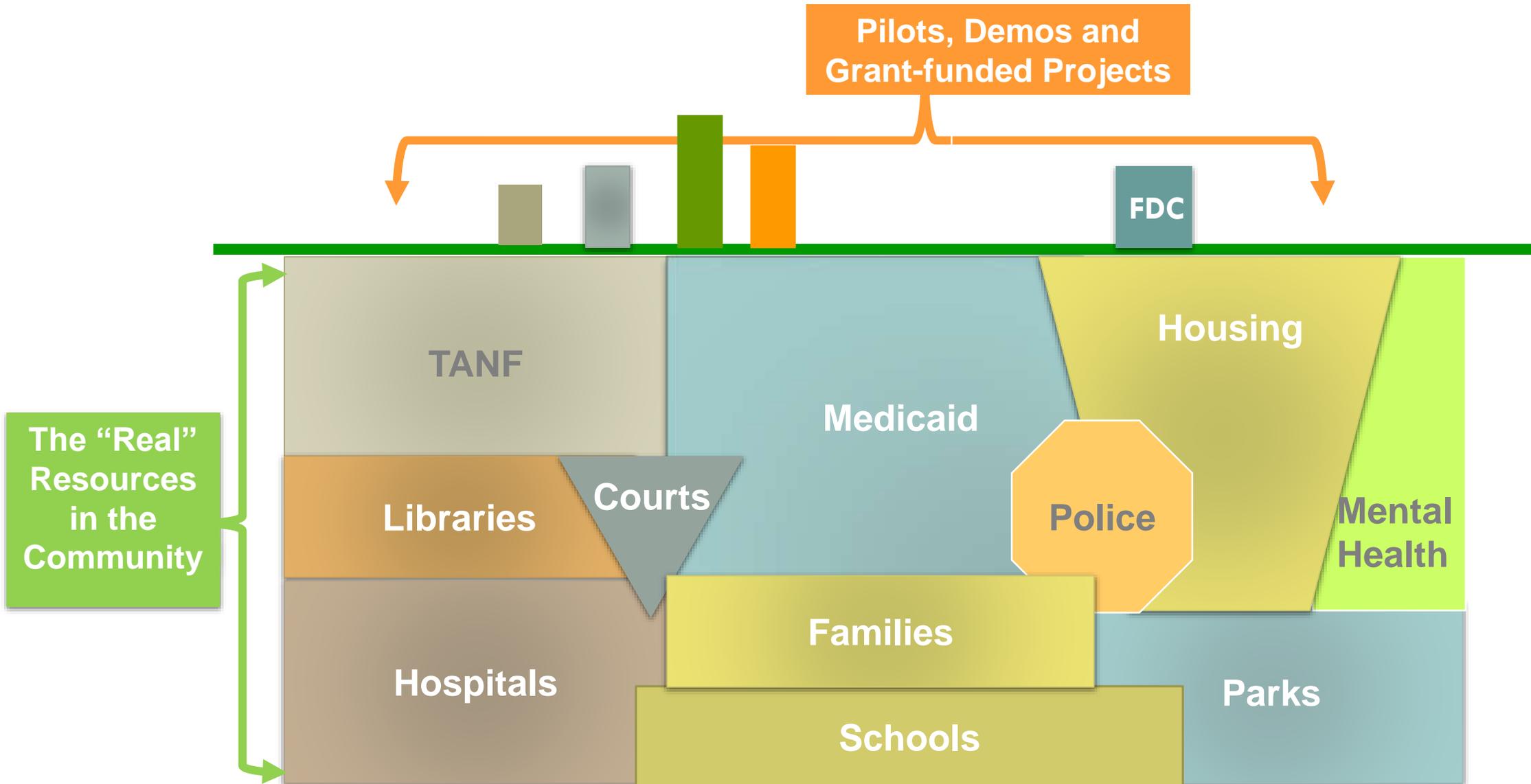
That's what collaboration means

FOUR STAGES OF COLLABORATION

Sid Gardner, 1996
Beyond Collaboration to Results

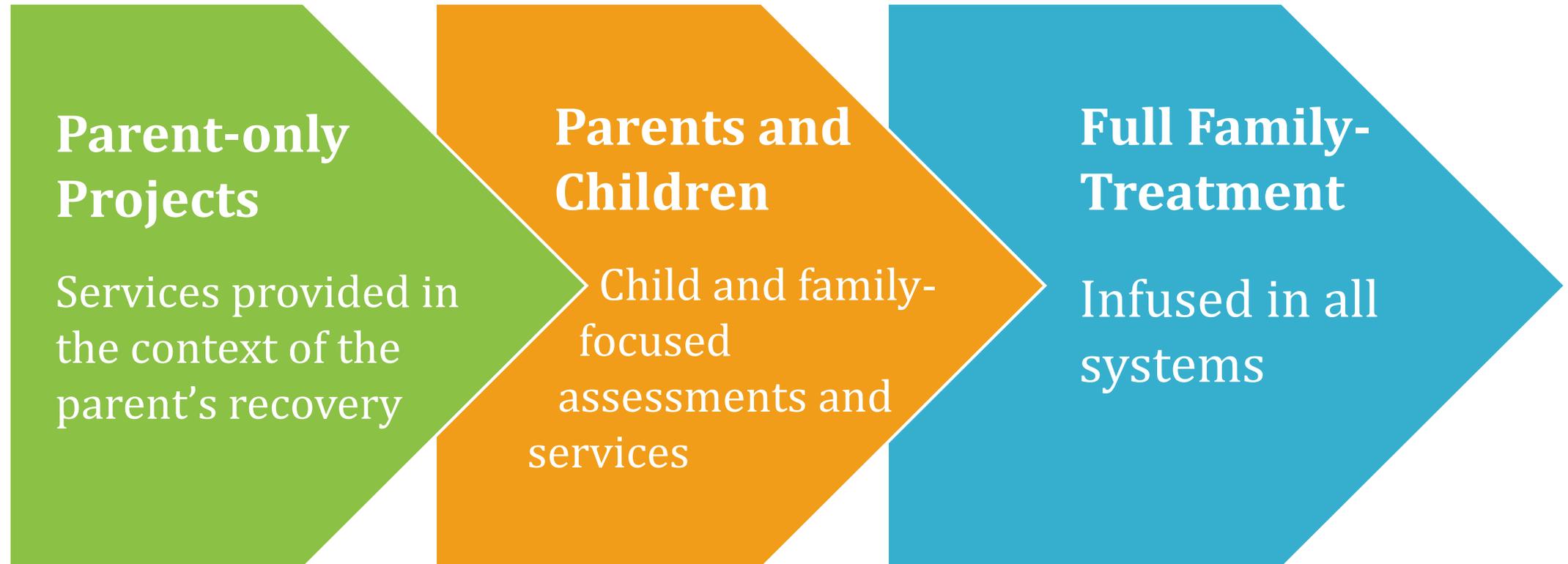


Redirection of Resources Already Here



It's a Developmental Process

1) Practice Improvements in the Field at Large (Macro)



2) Progression During Each Court's Life Cycle (Micro)

**A Framework for
Expanding Services to
Children in Drug Courts:**

3Ns

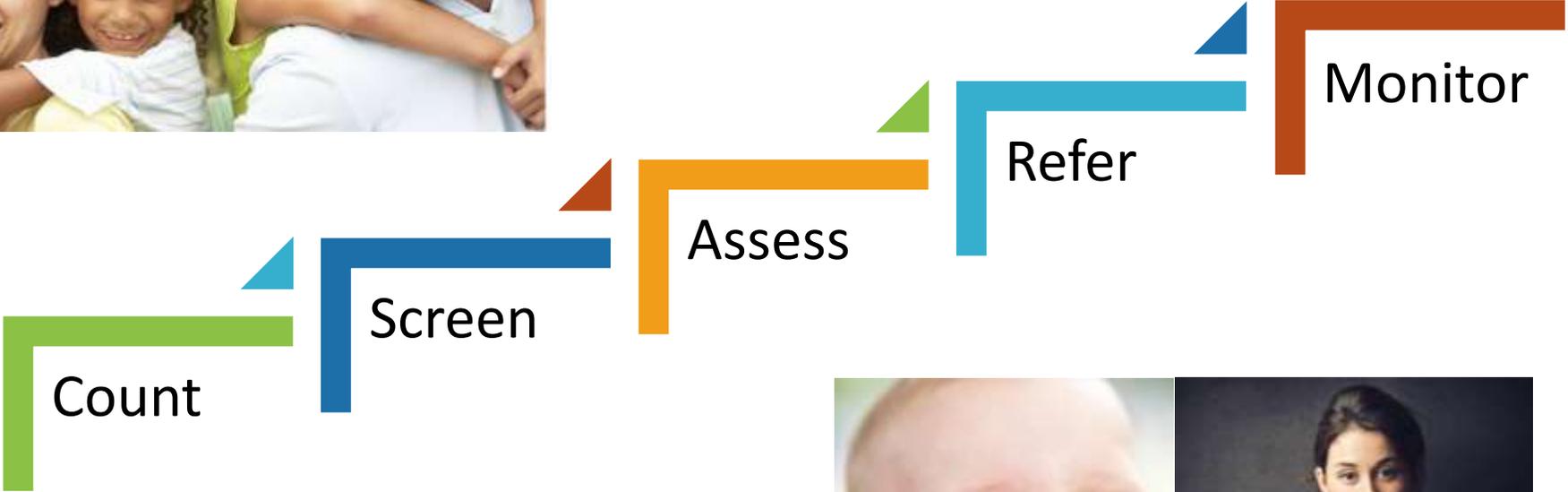
NUMBERS

NEEDS

NETWORK

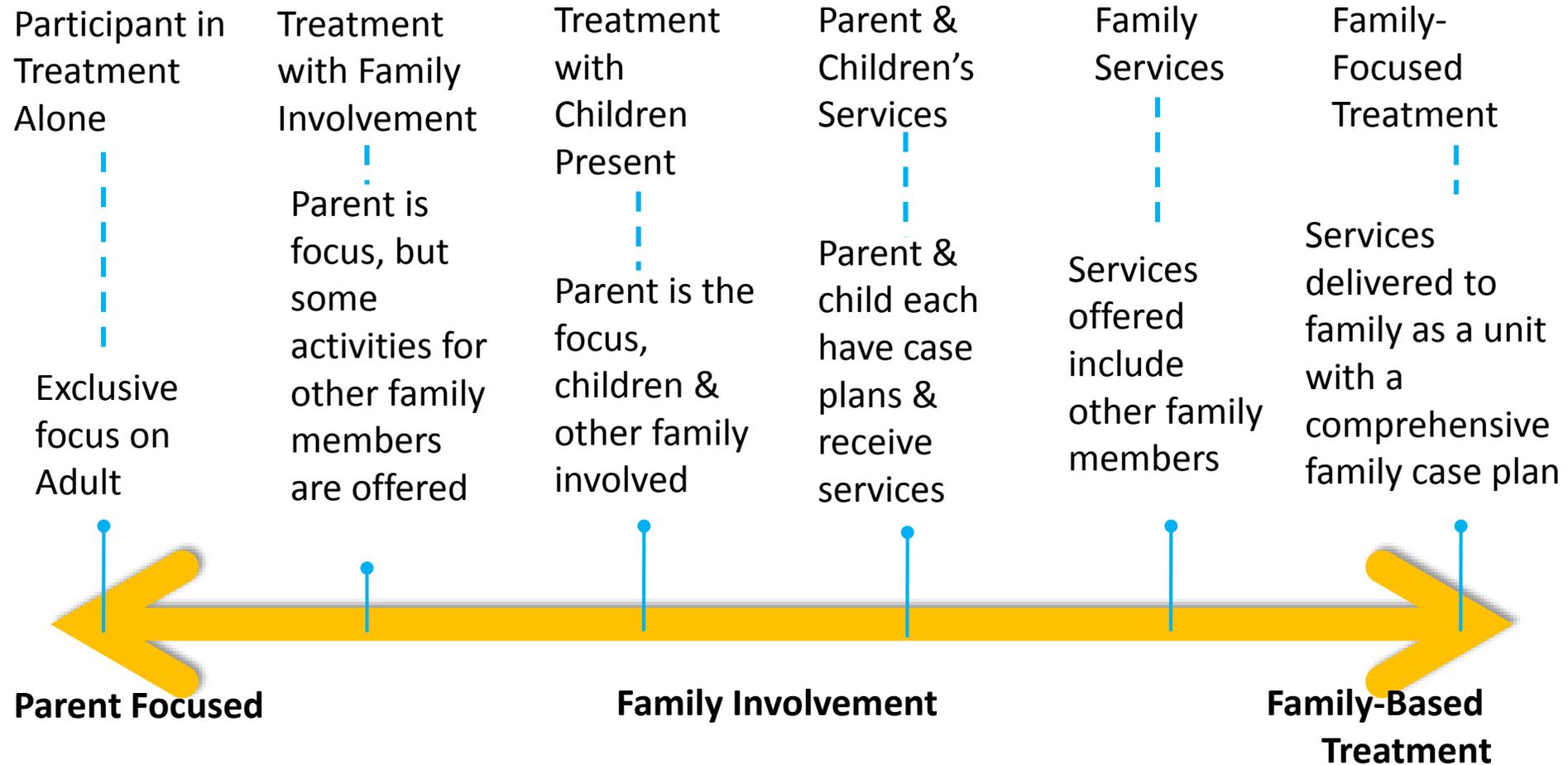


Addressing Children and Family Members in Drug Courts– Action Steps



Addressing Children and Family Members in Drug Courts: The Conceptual Shift

Family-Based Services Continuum for Parents with Substance Use Disorders



An Applied Example: The Montana Experience

- Process of enumerating family members and obtaining basic information about their strengths and needs fostered rapport and contributed to building a relationship between the survey administrator and participant
- The process expanded administrators' view of a participant to include her/his family issues and dynamics and enhanced understanding of the factors affecting parent recovery

A Case Study: Veteran Treatment Courts



The Numbers



- From 20-60% of VTC clients have children
- Approximately 1/3 to half are connected with those children in some way
- More than 1 million children are in families in which one parent deployed since 9/11 and then separated from active duty
- An estimated 30-35% of those veterans are affected by deployment-related trauma and/or substance abuse — both of which affect their entire families

The Need



- Approximately 30% of separated veterans exhibit symptoms of PTS and/or substance abuse
- These are conditions known to affect the entire family, with an impact on children's cognitive learning, emotional stability, behavior and the likelihood that these children will adopt risky behaviors
- These children need early identification and screening, substance abuse prevention services and mental health services aimed at social and emotional stability

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?



Families and Drug Court Evaluations

Evaluating Drug Courts as they Expand to Serve Children and Families

Why evaluate?

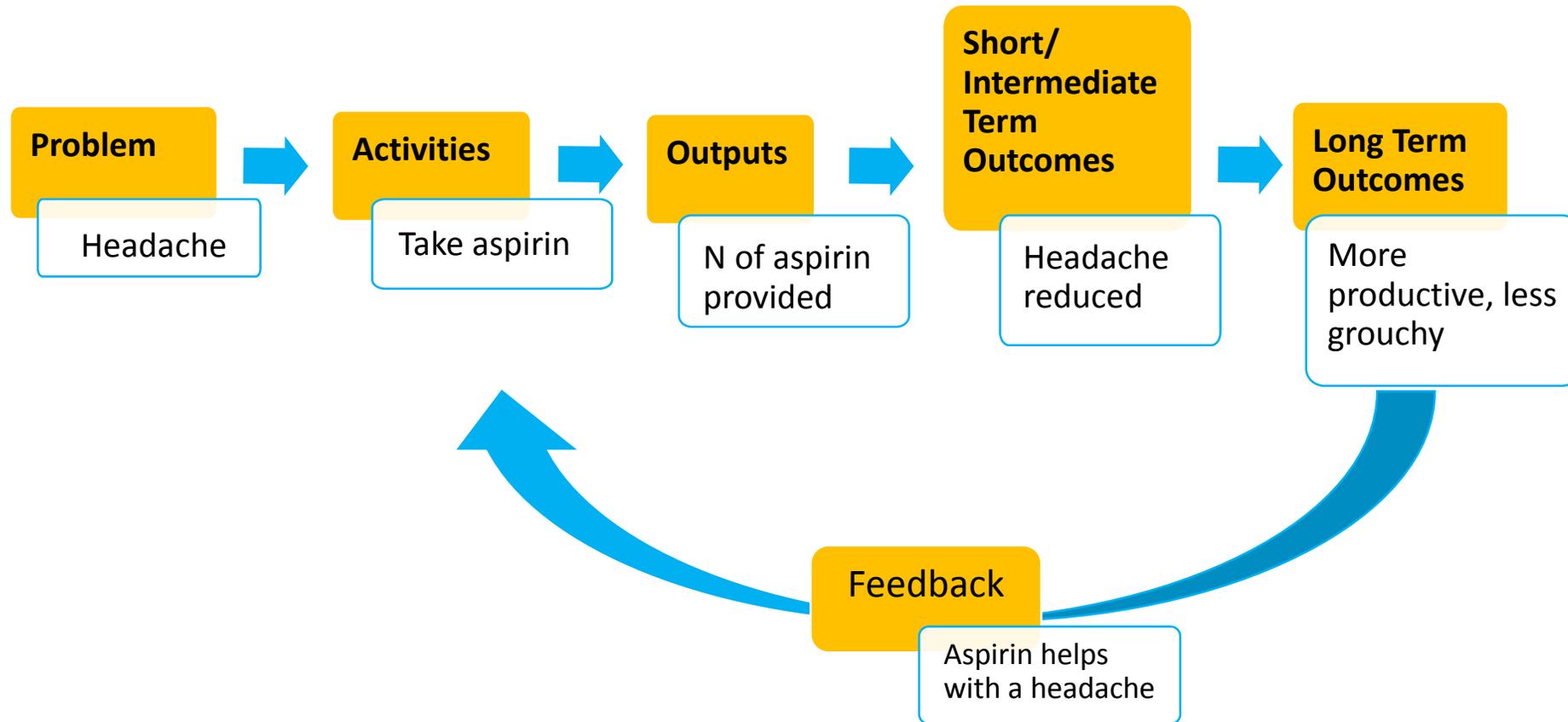
- Because the grant requires it
- Because you are collecting the data anyway and could easily analyze what it means
- Because if you are successful in achieving the outcomes you want, you need proof that it works so you can keep doing it—and eventually go to scale
- Because it helps you tell the story about improving outcomes for whole families, rather than serving adults and ignoring the reality that they are parents, too

Setting the Stage: Evaluation Prerequisites

Three prerequisites to evaluate any program:

- Goals that are ambitious but realistic must be clearly described, and measurable program objectives must be specified.
- A linkage must be specified between program activities and program objectives. This linkage is referred to as “program logic” or “theory of change.”
- Quantifiable performance measures must be developed at the outset of the program that will demonstrate the extent to which a program is meeting its objectives.

Logic Model: A Universal Example



Logic Model Component Definitions

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
New and/or existing conditions and resources available to conduct specific activities. Can refer to people, funds, physical plant, and less tangible commodities such as reputation or networking skills.	Actions, duties, or treatments performed to achieve outcomes.	Direct products of program activity: number of participants attending a training, sign-in sheets, MOUs, meeting agendas, etc..	Changes in the lives or circumstances of persons, or area served by a project or system. May be defined in terms of the child, parent, family, agency/organization, or system.

Early Intake, Step One: The Numbers

Understanding Participants' Family Composition and Structure

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Political will to recognize children and family members (Shared Mission and Vision)2. Staff resources3. Instrument(s)4. Data infrastructure	Participant interview to enumerate & obtain basic information about children and (participant-defined) family members	Basic family data record	Court personnel expand view of participant as isolated individual (How is this measured?)

Example Process Evaluation Questions:

Understanding Participants' Family Composition and Structure

1. Does the length of time between drug court enrollment and family data capture affect the completion and quality of responses?
2. Are participants' families traditional? Extended? Elected?
3. What is the range in the number of persons considered by participants to be family members?
4. How many adult participants live with children? How many minor children do they have?
5. How many participants have lost parental rights?
6. How many are involved in child welfare cases?

Example Outcome Evaluation Questions:

Understanding Participants' Family Composition and Structure

1. To what extent are attributes of family composition and structure (Single parent, co-occurring, lower income, health problems?) associated with participant outcomes during drug court? At follow-up intervals?
2. Do attributes of family composition and structure moderate the relationship between participant treatment and drug court outcomes?

Example Process Evaluation Questions: System Level

Basic Screening

1. What services are participants' family members currently receiving?
2. What are the service gaps in terms of Providers? In terms of resources for in-depth assessment?
3. Does documentation of families' needs drive the development of collaborative relationships with external service providers?

Example Process Evaluation Questions: Participant and Family

Basic Screening

1. What is the range of family need among drug court participants?
2. Can a composite indicator of “family need” be computed?
3. Association between family need and perceptions of family support during recovery?

Example Outcome Evaluation Question:

Basic Screening

1. To what extent do family needs at intake predict participant engagement and court performance (e.g. attendance, UA results, compliance with SATx, phase advancement, graduation)?

Evaluation Support: What's Used Now to Count and Assess?

1. Addiction Severity Index or ASI Drug Evaluation Network System (DENS)

Domains: Demographics, medical, employment, alcohol/drug, legal, family/social and psychiatric issues

1. E18-How many people depend on you for the majority of their food, shelter, etc.?
2. F4-Usual living arrangements (past 3 years)? Response options include: With sexual partner and children; With children.
3. F16-Would you say you've had a close reciprocal relationship with...Children (among other response options)?
4. F22-Have you had significant periods in which you have experienced serious problems getting along with...Children (among other response options)?

What's Used Now to Count and Assess?

2. CSAT GPRA Client Outcome Measures

Domains: Planned services, demographics, military family and deployment, drug and alcohol use, family and living conditions; education, employment and income; crime and criminal justice status; mental and physical health problems and treatment/ recovery; social connectedness

1. Do you have children?
2. How many children do you have?
3. Are any of your children living with someone else due to a child protection court order?
4. How many of your children are living with someone else due to a child protection court order?
5. For how many of your children have you lost parental rights?

What's Used Now to Count and Assess?

3. BJA Adult Discretionary Drug Court Program Performance Measures

Participant-Level Domains: Screening and Program Intake, Individual Demographics (Race) by eligibility and enrollment, Risk Assessment, Number Receiving Services, Program Completion and Judicial Interaction, Alcohol and Substance Involvement, Court and Criminal Involvement (recidivism), Narrative Responses

(Narrative sections excluded, all of these data are reported as counts)

An Alternative Approach

- Family Strengths and Needs Survey (FSNS) Family Data Capture Sheet
- Variety of Family Case Management Assessment Instruments
 - Short Form FSNS



Additional Example Outcome Evaluation Questions:

Referral to In-depth Assessment or Directly to Services

1. How does treating their children and family members affect participants' long-term recovery and recidivism?
2. What long term cost savings are associated with treating drug court participants' children and family members?

In Program: Child Welfare Involvement

Adult Drug Court Links to Family Drug Court

- Rural—Same Team may staff the adult drug court and the FDC
 - Parent stays in the adult drug court track but has access to the resources of the FDC
- Mid-level jurisdiction--Discovery by the adult drug court team of an open child welfare case leads to a transfer to FDC
 - Completion of FDC is equivalent to graduation from adult drug court
- Large Jurisdictions—Adult drug court team routinely meets with their family drug court colleagues to coordinate cases and to share service resources
 - Parent may stay in the adult drug court but receives FDC services, e.g. parenting training

Evaluation Support: Child Welfare Involvement

Outcome Measures

- Recurrence of child maltreatment
- Length of stay in out-of-home care
- Timeliness of reunification
- Increased visitation
- Prevention of substance-exposed newborns (In program)

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 (i.e. mental health services)?

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

Putting it All Together

Considerations for **Basic Evaluation** Designs:

- Develop measurable process and outcome objectives
- Set up database to meet funder's reporting requirements AND count participant's children and family members
- Basic process evaluation
 - Compare program in operation to program plan
 - Document challenges and successes
 - Determine whether program is reaching intended participants
 - Conduct drop analysis (identify points of participant attrition)
- Timely and accurate reporting

Putting it All Together

Considerations for **Intermediate Evaluation (Additive)** Designs:

- Implement a comprehensive process evaluation
- Add family attributes and screening and assessment results for participants' children and family members to performance measurement database
- Compare participants' and family members' needs to court partnerships with service providers to identify gaps
 - Begin expansion from project to system orientation
- Analyze relationship between family size, structure and needs to participant performance outcomes
- Disseminate information to engage diverse stakeholders and promote sustainability

Putting it All Together

Considerations for **Intensive Evaluation (Additive)** Designs:

- Strategic and sustainability planning
- Implementing complex, multi-method experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation designs
- Family well-being is a focus
- Outcome measurement extends to follow-up (participants and family members)
- Conducting cost and other econometric studies

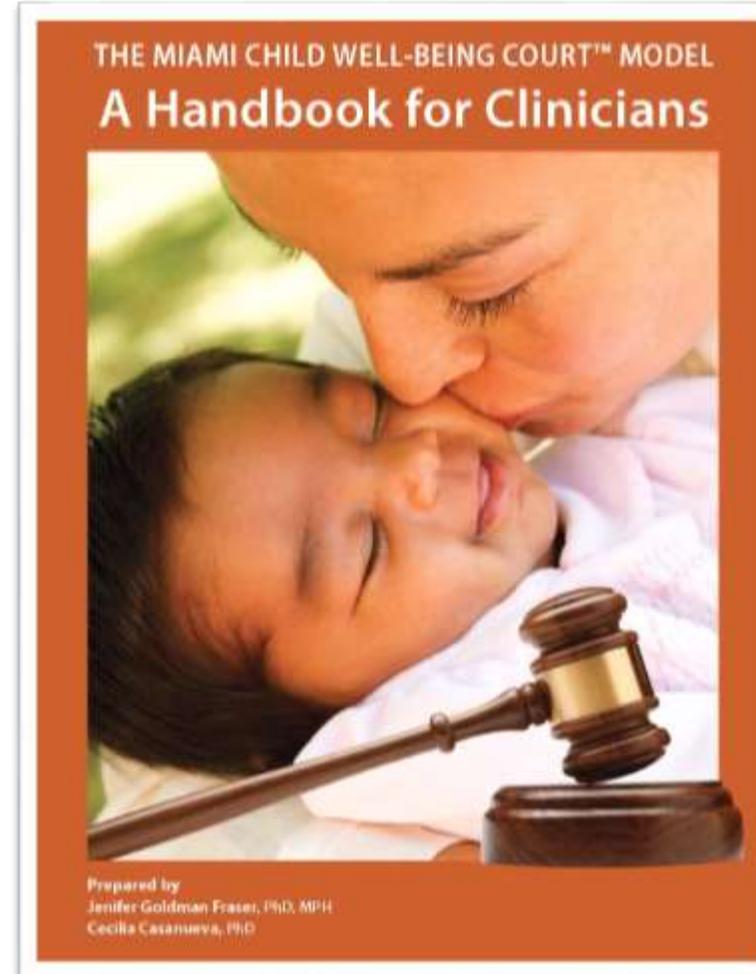
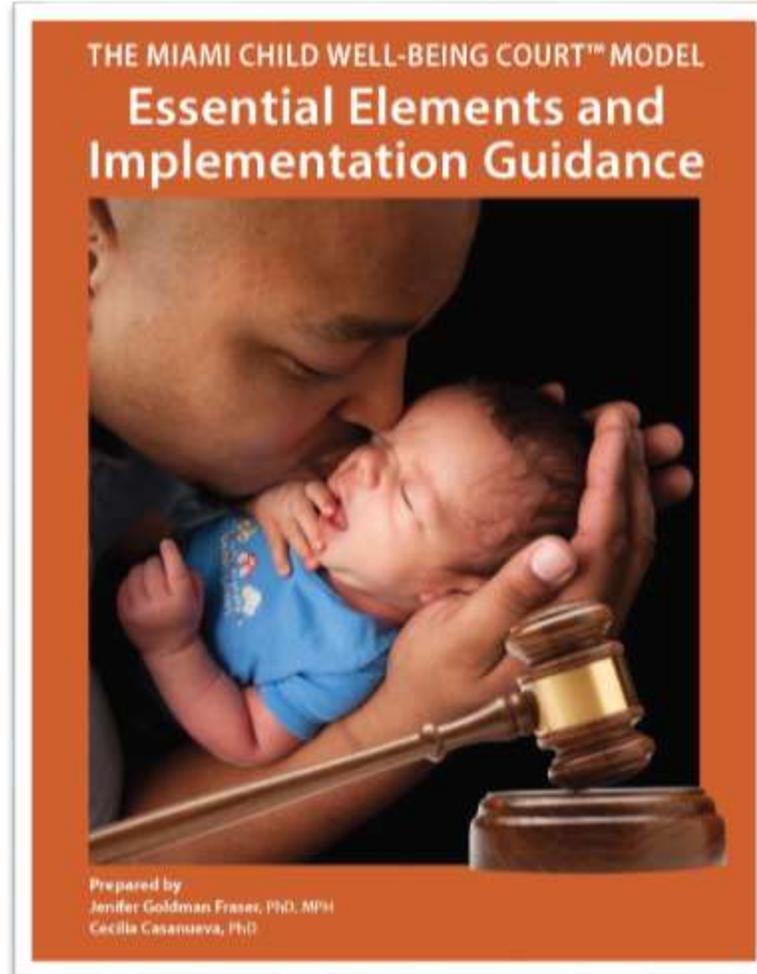


Q&A and Discussion



Resources

Miami Child Well-Being Court Model

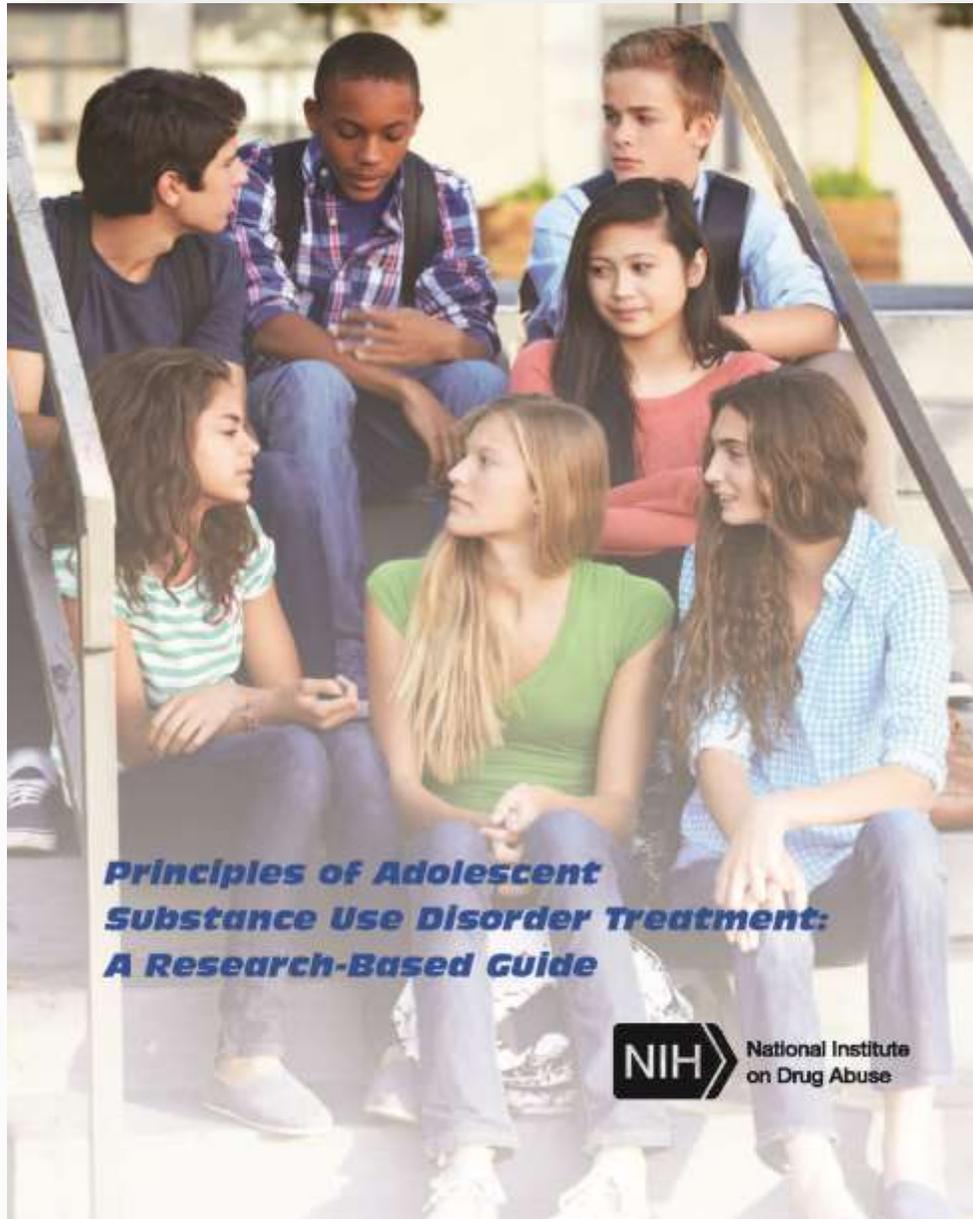


For more information, visit:
<http://www.lindaraycenter.miami.edu/Home.html>

National Institute on Drug Abuse

To download, visit:

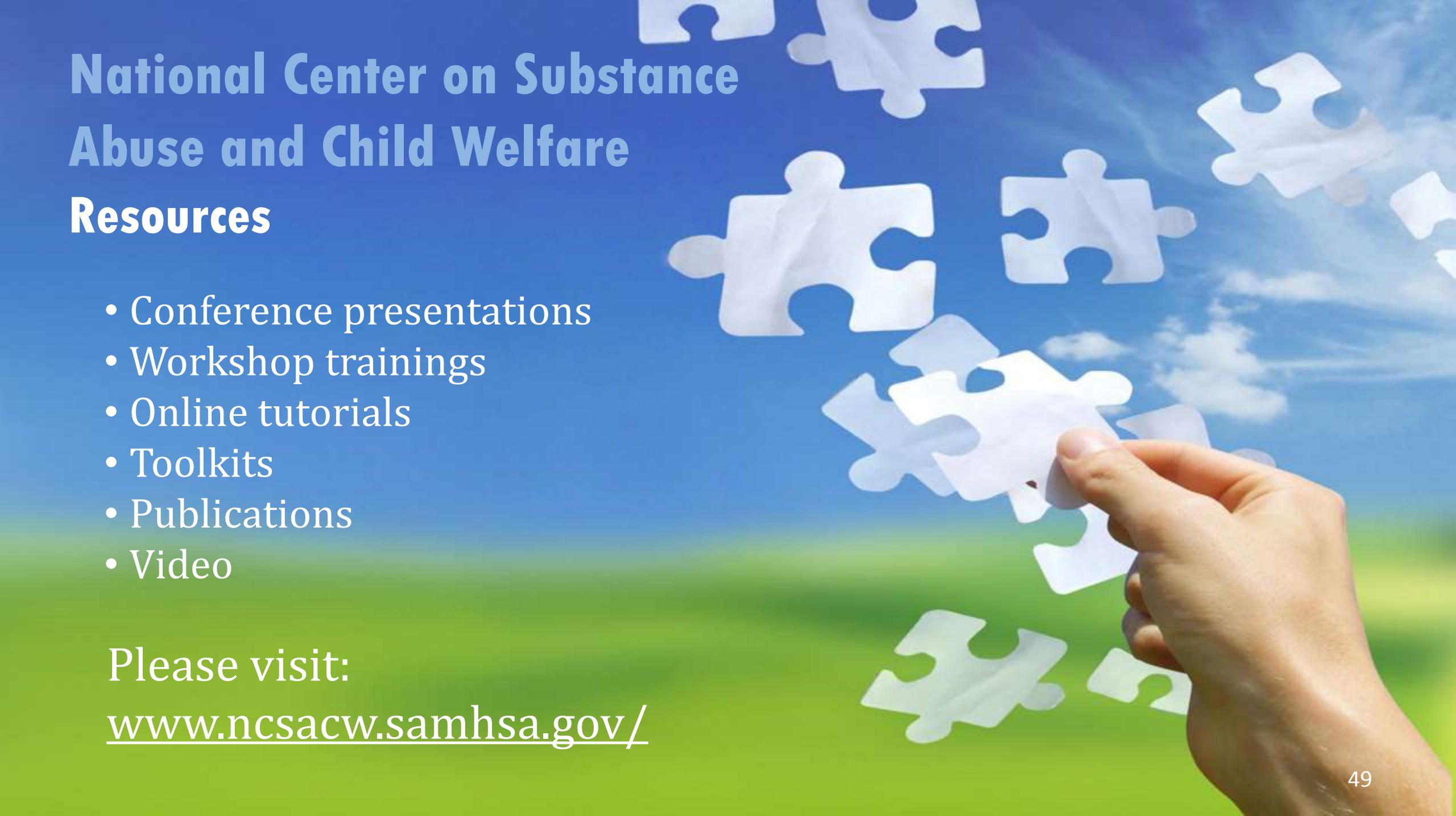
[http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/
principles-adolescent-substance-use-
disorder-treatment-research-based-
guide](http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-adolescent-substance-use-disorder-treatment-research-based-guide)



**Principles of Adolescent
Substance Use Disorder Treatment:
A Research-Based Guide**

NIH National Institute
on Drug Abuse

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare Resources



- Conference presentations
- Workshop trainings
- Online tutorials
- Toolkits
- Publications
- Video

Please visit:

www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/



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Resources on VTCs & Evaluation

www.cffutures.org



Veteran Family – Resources



www.samhsa.gov/MilitaryFamilies/tacenter

www.zerotothree.org/about-us/funded-projects/military-families

www.justiceforvets.org

www.oefoif.va.gov

www.iava.org



Veteran Family – Resources

After the War Zone: A Practical Guide for Returning Troops and Their Families by Matthew Friedman and Laurie Slone, (2008)

When Someone You Love Suffers from Posttraumatic Stress: What to Expect and What You Can Do by Claudia Zayfert and Jason Deviva (2011)

Finding My Way: A Teen's Guide to Living with a Parent Who Has Experienced Trauma by Michelle Sherman and DeAnne Sherman (2005)



Resources – Parenting in Military Families

Age-based parenting tool kits for OEF/OIF veterans and their partners:

www.ouhsc.edu/VetParenting

<http://stayingstrong.org>

Free online parenting course for veterans:

www.veteranparenting.org

Operation Enduring Families – www.ouhsc.edu/OEF/

A 5-session family education and support program for veterans who recently returned from combat and their family members.

www.startmovingforward.org



Children in Military Families – Resources



www.va.gov/kids

www.militarykidsconnect.org/

www.facebook.com/SesameStreetForMilitaryFamilies

archive.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/

www.militarychild.org

www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/home.aspx



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2014

This Changes Everything

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www.cffutures.org/presentations/webinars/category/fdc-series

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



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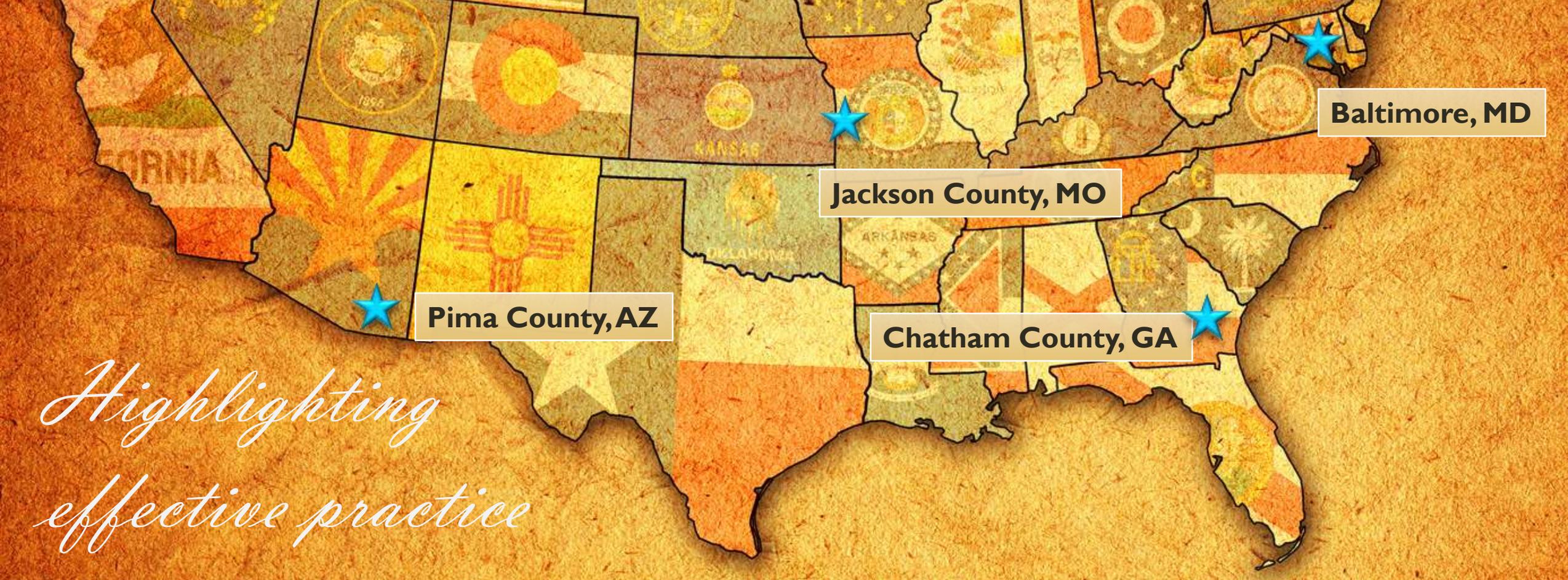
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Online Tutorial: *Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Family Recovery: A Guide for Legal Professionals*

- Roles of Child Welfare and Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals
- Engaging and Retaining Families
- Impact of alcohol and drug addiction on children and families
- Principles of addiction and recovery
- Child Welfare Timetables – AFSA Guidelines
- Cross-system communication and collaboration

Visit: www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/training/default.aspx





NCSACW Online Tutorials

Please visit: www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/

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

Visit our tables in the Exhibit Hall!

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