Drug Endangered Children: A Collaborative Response
2014 Indian Nations Conference
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Our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children
100%

CHILDREN AT RISK
www.nationaldec.org
In 2011, 3.4 million calls came into child welfare regarding 6.2 million children. 3.2 million children were screened out, 2.4 million children were identified as non-victims, 681,000 children were identified as unique victims, and 366,000 children received services.

**A REPORT OF CHILD MALTREATMENT IS MADE EVERY 10 SECONDS**

AND how many of these children can we help get services?

**AN ILLEGAL DRUG ARREST IS MADE EVERY 21 SECONDS**

In 2011, there were an estimated 12.4 million arrests nationwide. 1.5 million were arrested for illegal drug violation, 4.1 million reported drug use at time of arrest.

**DATA COLLECTED: JANUARY 4, 2005 – DECEMBER 29, 2005**

**88 ARRESTS / DEC FORMS**

- 137 kids identified
- 50% had DSS history
- 12% had open DSS case

North Metro Drug Task Force, Adams County, Colorado
The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.

They may also be children whose caretaker’s substance misuse interferes with the caretaker’s ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

Risk (n.): The chance of something going wrong; the danger that injury, damage or loss will occur.

-Encarta Dictionary of North America
Children at Risk

- All drug endangered children are at risk
- How much risk and risk for what varies

Children of parents with substance use disorders have a higher likelihood of developing substance use problems themselves.


• Children whose parents abuse alcohol or drugs are:
  – 3 times more likely to be verbally, physically or sexually abused
  – 4 times more likely than other children to be neglected

SOURCE: A Guide for Caring Adults Working with Young People Experiencing Addiction in the Family, CSAT, SAMHSA
“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men”

Frederick Douglass
Understanding Risk

• Risk of Physical Abuse
  - Erratic discipline
    - Severe, inconsistent & inappropriate discipline
  - Increased irritability
  - Irrational rage

Understanding Risk

• Risk of Neglect
  - Lack of supervision
  - Lack of necessities
  - Lack of safe and nurturing environment
    - Neglect of basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, supervision
Understanding Risk

• Risk of Exposure to Illegal Activities
  • Property Crimes
  • Drug dealing
  • Drug transporting
  • Kidnapping
  • Home invasions

Understanding Risk

• Other Risks
  • Exposure to violence
    - Domestic
    - Crime-related
  • Overlay deaths
  • Exposure and ingestion
  • Sexual abuse
  • Emotional Abuse
    – Disruption of parent/child relationship, child’s sense of trust, belonging

Understanding Risk

• Other Risks
  • Loss
    - Parents
    - Death
    - School
    - Sibling Separation
    - Pets (loss or death)
    - Home
Drug Use

Drug Recognition Experts:

7 Drug Categories

Drug Use

Seven Drug Categories

(1) Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants
(2) Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants
(3) Hallucinogens
(4) Dissociative Anesthetics
(5) Narcotic Analgesics
(6) Inhalants
(7) Cannabis
Evidence of Harm

• When do we take action to protect children?
• Do we consider illicit drug activity alone justification to intervene?
• Do we wait until additional maltreatment circumstances arise?
• What if we wait too long?

Neglect caused more child fatalities than Physical Abuse
Our Goal: Healthy, Happy & Safe Children

100%

How do we get to 100%?
• Understand the long-term needs of drug endangered children
• Implement appropriate and efficient intervention strategies

Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC
• Children growing up in drug environments:
  – Emotional problems
  – Behavioral problems
  – Cognitive problems
Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

• Some Examples of Emotional Problems
  — Attachment Disorders
  — Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
  — Anxiety
  — Depression
  — Complex Emotions

Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

• Some Examples of Behavioral Problems
  — Interpersonal Problems
  — Inappropriate Sexual Behaviors
  — Low Threshold for Stimulation
  — Eating Disorders

Understanding the Long-Term Needs of DEC

• Some Examples of Cognitive Problems
  — Difficulty talking and listening
  — Difficulty paying attention
  — Difficulty remembering
  — Trouble reading, especially learning to move from left to right
  — Often do not learn from mistakes or experiences
  — Trouble picking up on social cues
Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime.

SOURCE: childhelp.org

Children at Risk

- On daughter’s 10th birthday, daughter told teacher and school resource officer about drugs in her house.
- SRO advised taskforce of the information
- Task force executed search warrant and discovered meth lab
- Father’s first phone call from jail

Courtesy of Eric Nation, Jasper Sheriff’s Office, IA.
Dad: Are you there?  Daughter: Ya
Dad: How does it feel to know you just sent your dad to prison for a long time?  Daughter: Sorry
Dad: No you’re not f@%-%** sorry! You had no business saying this f*#@ to anybody! All you had to do is say something to me or grandma! What f@%-%** business did you have going running your f@%-%** mouth at school?
Daughter: Sorry
Dad: No! No sorry my a**! This is no sorry to it! Answer my question! Why did you go run your f@%-%** mouth at school?
Daughter: I had no business
Dad: No! You didn’t have no business! But, thanks to you, I will be spending a lot of time in prison! I’m done talking to you! Bye!

Children at Risk

• Daughter arrested years later for felony theft
• Daughter has been in and out of the criminal justice system on numerous occasions

Collaborative Mindset
**Collaborative Mindset**

**COLLABORATION:**

[E]xchange of information, altering of activities, sharing of resources, and enhancement of the capacity of another for the mutual benefit of all and to achieve a common purpose.

Chris Huxham, Creating Collaborative Advantage

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**Collaborative Mindset**

"I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself."

- Lone Man (Isna-la-wica), Teton Sioux

Traditionally, Native people collaborated to perform most tasks.

Collaboration is an essential Native value.

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**Collaborative Mindset**

Law Enforcement
Child Protective Services
Judicial
Medical
Drug Treatment
Education

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Collaborative Mindset

Law Enforcement  Child Protective Services  Judicial  Medical  Drug Treatment  Education

Collaborative Mindset

By collaborating, we increase the likelihood of success for the good of children & families

Collaborative Mindset

Break the cycle of abuse & neglect for the next generation
October 11, 2002: Meet Kayla, 4 year old girl who greets SWAT officers at the door of her home as it is raided.

- The girl is completely calm as the SWAT team secures the house.
Kayla stated she slept with her grandmother.

Investigators found methamphetamine in the headboard of the bed.

Kayla stated she got her own breakfast that morning which included ice cream from the freezer.

Investigators found unknown liquids stored in the freezer.

October 23, 2002: Meet Romeo…
The Meth Lab Picture

HEAT SOURCE

INITIAL REACTION

CONDENSER TUBE

VENT BAG

BRAIDED TUBING

HEAT SOURCE

INITIAL REACTION

CONDENSER TUBE

VENT BAG

BRAIDED TUBING
Jasmine

The Importance of Intervention

Moving children from RISK to RESILIENCY
The Importance of Intervention

The earlier the intervention, the more efficient and effective the outcome

BUT ... research and clinical trends also support the potential for change throughout life.

The Importance of Intervention

In other words...

It is never too early to intervene...

AND

It is never too late to intervene!

We ALL have an intervention & prevention role to play.
Changing the Status Quo

• Common elements for change:
  – Recognition of an unacceptable situation
  – Shared vision for a desired outcome
  – Strong leadership
  – Guided activities of many
  – Never give up!

• Candice Lightner, MADD Founder
  – Sept 1980: MADD incorporates
  – End of 1980: MADD grows to 11 chapters
  – 1982: MADD grows to 100 chapters; participates in drunk driving commission at President Reagan’s request
  – 1983: 129 new anti-drunk driving laws passed
  – 1984: Uniform drinking age raised to 21; MADD grows to 330 chapters in 47 states
  – 2000: Congress makes .08 BAC the national illegal limit for impaired driving
  – TODAY: More than 300,000 lives saved and more than 50,000 victims served

• John Walsh, Missing Children Advocate
  – 1981: Adam Walsh Child Resource Center founded
  – 1982: Missing Children Act passed
  – 1984: Missing Children’s Assistance Act passed
  – 1984: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children founded
  – 2006: Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act passed
  – TODAY: The recovery rate for missing children has gone from 62% to 96%
Do we let children accept this reality?

Or do we change the status quo?

Our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children
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Brothers

Believe in the future and create the reality
Our Goal: Healthy, Happy & Safe Children

100%

Thank You

www.nationaldec.org