



County of Santa Cruz:

Serving Families
Involved with Family
and Children's Services
and Alcohol and Drug
Programs

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Agenda

- What is the impact of parental substance abuse on children?
- What works?
- How do we collaborate?
- What have we learned?
- Where do we go from here?

What Is The Impact?



- **Nationwide in the past 24 hours:**
 - 1,640 babies born with prenatal substance exposure.
 - 1200 children victims of substantiated abuse/neglect associated with substance abuse, of these, three died.
 - 205 child maltreatment victims removed from their homes associated with parental substance abuse.
 - 75 parents with a substance use disorder had their parental rights terminated.

What Is The Impact?

- Typically between 2000-3000 children have an allegation of child abuse in Santa Cruz County each year.
- Child abuse is substantiated for approximately 400 to 500 of these children each year.
- Parental substance abuse is a factor in the majority of child welfare cases. In Santa Cruz County, it is estimated that 75% to 80% of children involved with child welfare services have been impacted by parental substance abuse.

What Is The Impact?

- How are children directly exposed to parental use of substances?
 - Prenatally
 - Environmental toxins
- How are children indirectly exposed?
 - Chronic trauma



What Is The Impact?

Parental relationships

- Neglect of basic needs
- Severe or inconsistent discipline
- Disruption of parent and child relationships
 - Attachment Issues

Developmental

- Cognitive growth
- Emotional self regulation
- Social and emotional development

What Works?

- A coordinated approach across multiple systems supporting both parents and children.
- Evidence based practices of collaboration and intervention.
- Early detection and intervention.
- Substance abuse treatment.
- Programs supporting both parents and children.



How Do We Collaborate?

- Invest in joint projects providing case management and treatment for families served by both programs.
- Participate in mutual education on best practices
- Station Alcohol and Drug staff with FCS
- Share data to determine mutual outcomes
- Joint meetings
- Prioritize consistent and clear communication

How Do We Collaborate?

Joint Projects

- Options for Recovery
- Primeros Pasos
- Dependency Drug Court (“Family Preservation Court”)
- Leaps & Bounds



How Do We Collaborate?

- Family Preservation Court
 - Dedicated court for shared families
 - Treatment (Matrix Model)
- Leaps and Bounds
 - Structured, Educational Home Visiting
 - Parent Child Interaction Therapy
 - Stanford Neuro-developmental Foster Care Clinic

What Have We Learned?

Improved interagency services have impacted families by reducing the:

- Reoccurrence of child maltreatment
- Re-entry of children into foster care

What Have We Learned?

Interagency collaboration has demonstrated an increase in the percentage of child welfare involved parents who are:

- Referred for an alcohol and drug assessments
- Receiving early assessment for substance abuse
- Entering treatment

Where Do We Go from Here?

- Community involvement in strategic planning
- Collaboration to ensure treatment is available to parents involved in Family and Children's Services (FCS).
- Sustain funding for intensive services for children of parents in FCS due to substance abuse.
- Increase support for father involvement.
- Enhance trauma informed service delivery.
- Broaden service provider and agency collaboration.



County of Santa Cruz – Alcohol & Drug Program

A Community Conversation – March 6, 2014

To request a copy of this presentation, contact:

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