



**Engaging Families Affected by Parental  
Substance Use Disorders into a  
Voluntary Pre-Dependency Drug Court  
and Parenting-Focused Enhancements**

**Sacramento County, California**

**Sharon DiPirro-Beard**, Sacramento County Alcohol and Drug Services

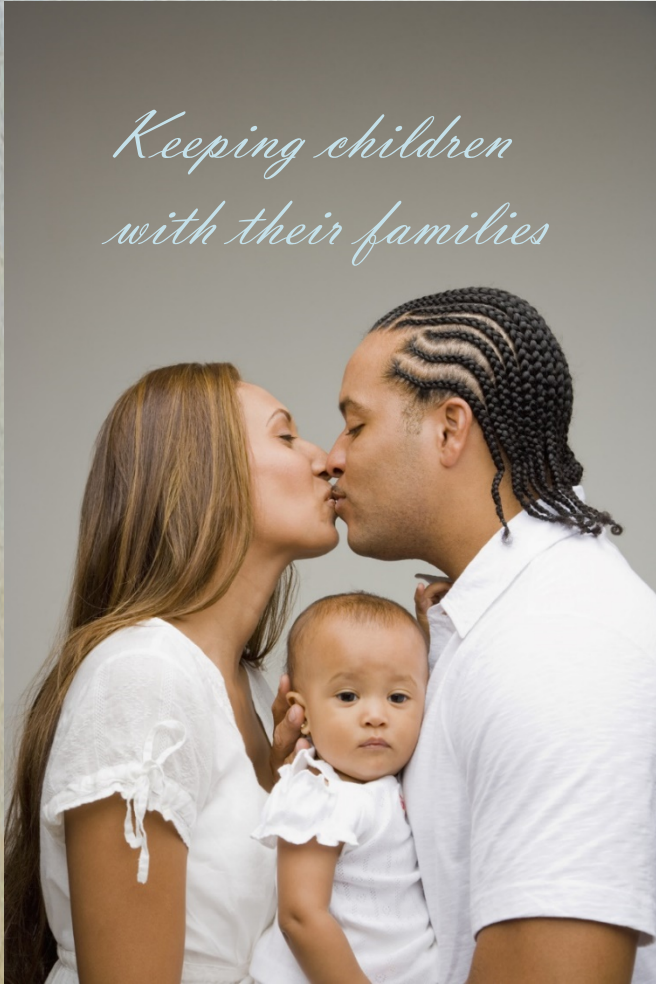
**Barbara Oleachea**, Sacramento County Child Protective Services

**Nikki Nelson**, Bridges Inc., STARS Program

**Dara Nix**, Children and Family Futures

# Early Intervention Family Drug Court

*Keeping children  
with their families*



- Collaboration between Child Welfare and Alcohol and Drug Services
- Increase well-being and improve permanency outcomes for children affected by parental drug use
- Enhances Child Welfare Service interventions with families before removal of children is necessary



# EIFDC Goals



Remain in home without court dependency

Treatment and service compliance

Support for families through linkages to  
community resources



Re-occurrence of maltreatment

Child welfare and court costs for reports,  
attorneys and proceedings



# EIFDC Criteria

- Mother and/or baby tests positive for drugs at time of delivery
- Parents with children ages 0-5, affected by drug use (primarily methamphetamine)
- Emergency Response Social Worker, using appropriate assessment tools and guidelines (SDM), assesses that parent meets criteria for Informal Supervision (IS) services with children under age of six
- Parent agrees to participate in EIFDC IS services
- Parent signs an IS case plan, EIFDC consent form and a viable petition is drafted but held in abeyance



# EIFDC Components

Judicial Oversight



Engagement & Intensive Case Management



**Administrative Hearings with EIFDC  
Administrative Officer**



**Informal Supervision  
Social Worker**



**Specialized Treatment and  
Recovery Services (STARS)**

# CAM Project: Children in Focus (CIF)

## Key Service Components



- Implementation of Celebrating Families
  - 16-week curriculum for families affected by parental substance use and child maltreatment and/or neglect



- Linkage to local Family Resource Center
- Warm-hand offs and case management support provided by Recovery Resource Specialists



# Sacramento County Family Drug Court Programming



- **Dependency Drug Court (DDC)**
  - Post-File
- **Early Intervention Family Drug Court (EIFDC)**
  - Pre-File



**Parent-child  
parenting  
intervention**



**Connections  
to community  
supports**



**Improved  
outcomes**

**DDC has served over 4,200 parents & 6,300 children  
EIFDC has served over 1,140 parents & 2,042 children  
CIF has served over 540 parents and 860 children**

# Engaging the System

- Engaged Social Workers prior to implementation
- Ongoing collaboration with the CPS Social Worker, Foster Parent, or Family Service worker
- Clear eligibility criteria and referral process
- Training for CPS and Judicial Officers
- Marketing (posters) on program outcomes
- Social Workers attend graduation



# Engaging Families

- Encourage word-of-mouth
- Incentives in beginning of program implementation
- Recovery support specialist
- Use of “real life” examples they draw from their own experiences
- Allow children and parents to interact and engage

# Family Drug Court Outcomes

**Recovery** Access to, length, and completion of treatment for substance use disorder

**Remain at Home** Child removals

**Reunification** Length of removals, and child reunification.

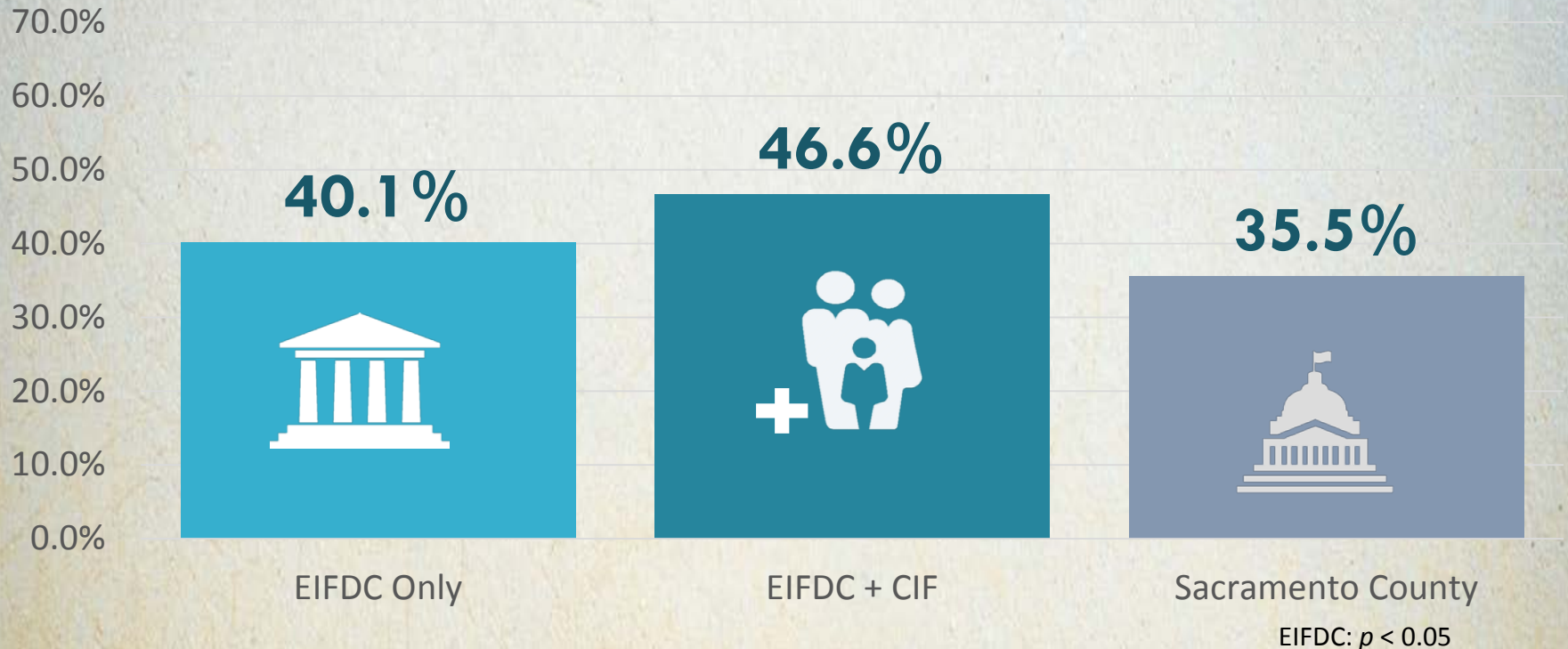
**Re-occurrence** Re-occurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

**Re-Entry** Removals following child reunification



# Recovery

## Treatment Completion Rates

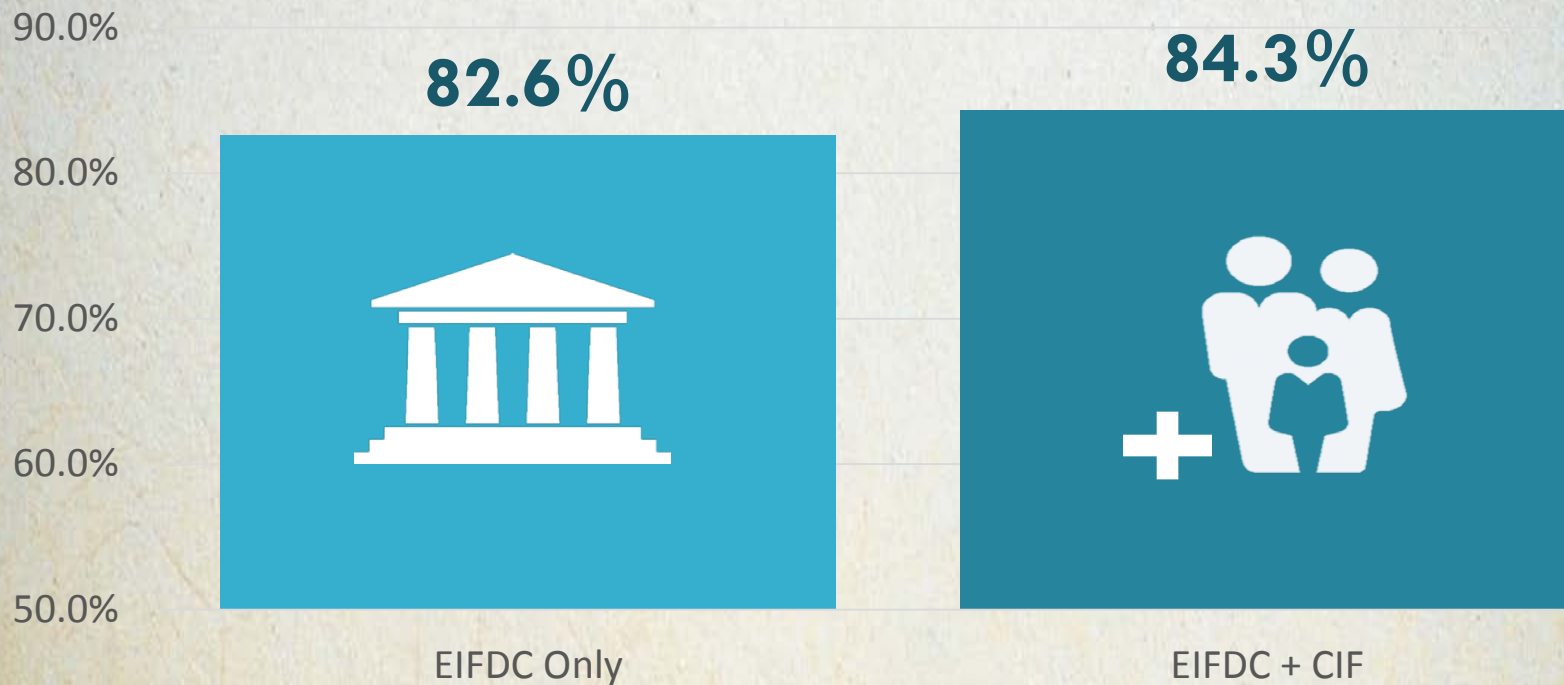


*Treatment completion rates were higher for parents in DDC and EIFDC than the overall County rate. Parents provided CIF Enhancement were significantly more likely to successfully completed treatment.*

*Note: All treatment episodes represented here*

# Remain at Home

## Percent of Children Remaining at Home



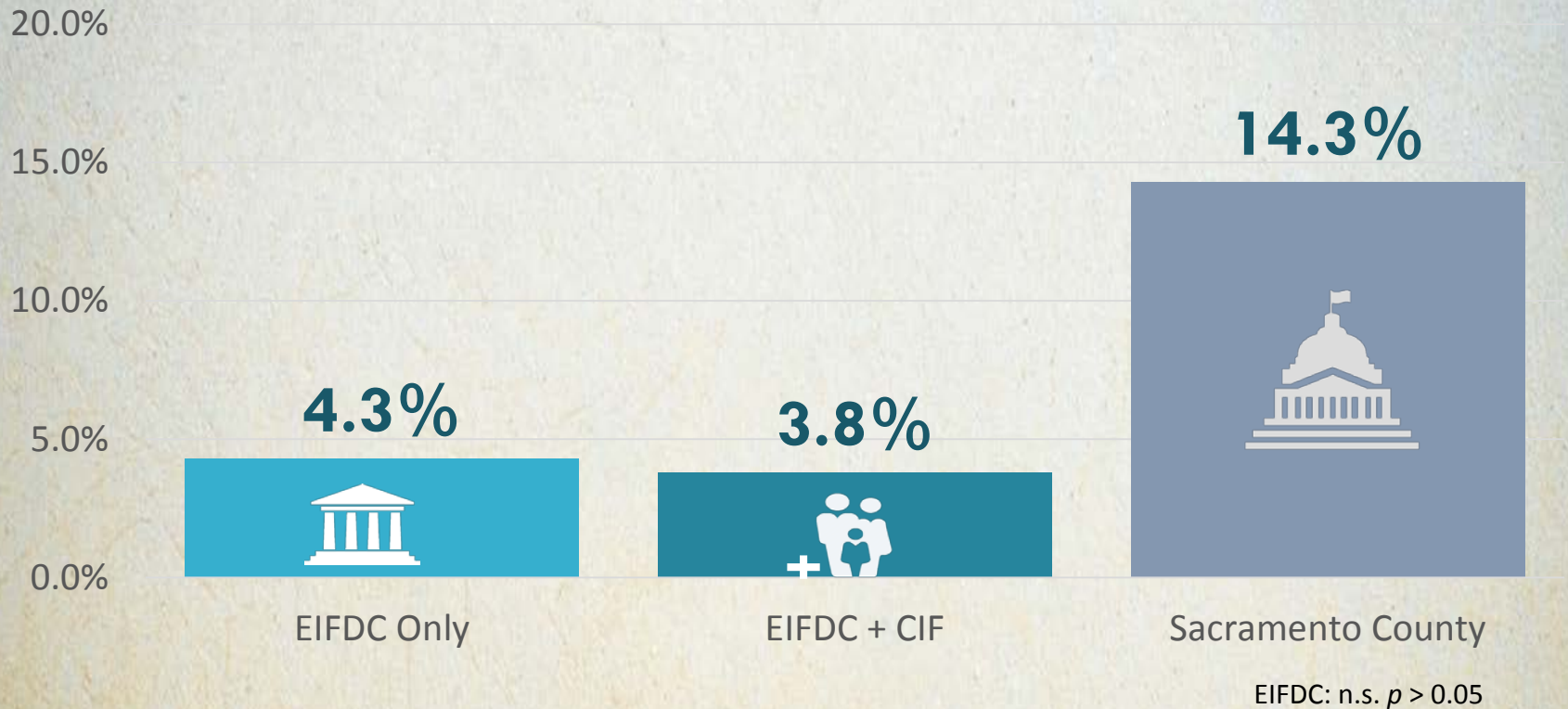
EIFDC: n.s.  $p > 0.05$

*Almost all children in EIFDC were able to stay in their parents care. Families provided the CIF Enhancement were on average more likely to have children stay home.*



# Re-occurrence

## Re-occurrence of Maltreatment at 12 Months



*Families in EIFDC were less likely than the larger Sacramento County population to experience reoccurrence of child abuse and/or neglect.*

## *Contact Information*



### **Sharon Di Pirro-Beard LMFT. RD**

Mental Health Program Coordinator

Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Behavioral Health- Alcohol and Drug Services

(916) 875-2038

### **Barbara Oleachea**

Program Planner/AOD & MH Liaison

Sacramento County CPS

(916) 876-9989

### **Nikki Nelson, CADC-CAS**

Supervisor, Informal Supervision

Program Manager, Celebrating Families

Bridges Inc., STARS Program

(916) 453-2704

### **Dara Nix**

Project Manager, Research and Evaluation

Children and Family Futures

(714) 505-3525