Children’s Services and Parenting Interventions for Families Affected by Substance Use and Child Welfare

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Children and Family Futures
Federal Initiatives: Progress Since the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

- Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare
- Regional Partnership Grants
- Fostering Connections Grants
- Children Affected by Methamphetamine Grants
- Prevention and Family Recovery

Source: Children and Family Futures
Parental substance use affects the whole family

- Developmental impact
- Generational impact
- Impact on parenting
- Psycho-social impact
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
Postnatal Environment — 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, supervision
- Situations that jeopardize the child’s safety and health
- Trauma as a result of all of the above as well as from removal
- Disruption of parent/child relationship, child’s sense of trust, belonging
- Chronic trauma of childhood
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
• They develop their own substance use disorders
Stay home
Go home
Find home

“the remarkable ability to find their way home, even across huge and disorienting distances”

“I wish my parents received drug treatment”
Understand Challenges for Parents

• The parent may lack understanding of and ability to cope with child’s medical, developmental, behavioral and emotional needs
• The child’s physical and/or developmental needs were not assessed, or the child did not receive appropriate interventions/treatment services for identified needs
• The parent and child did not receive services that addressed trauma (for both of them) and relationship issues
• They no longer have access to supportive services
• Mother is experiencing tremendous guilt
Family Recovery

Needs

PARENTS
- Parenting skills and competencies
- Family connections and resources
- Parental mental health; co-occurring
- Medication management
- Parental substance use
- Domestic violence

FAMILY
- Basic necessities
- Employment
- Housing
- Child care
- Transportation
- Family counseling

CHILD
- Well-being/behavior
- Developmental/health
- School readiness
- Trauma
- Mental health
- Adolescent substance use
- At-risk youth prevention
Child well-being occurs in the context of relationships.

Adult recovery should have a parent-child component.
An effective cross-system response should provide the scope of services needed to address the effects of parental substance use on family relationships – family-based and family-strengthening approaches towards recovery.
Parent-Child: Key Service Components

- Developmental & Behavioral Screenings and Assessments
- Quality and frequent visitation
- Early and ongoing peer recovery support
- Parent-Child Relationship-Based Interventions
- Evidenced-Based parenting
- Trauma
- Community and auxiliary support
Q&A and Discussion
Resources
Contact Information

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