

FAMILY MATTERS - TRANSITIONING TO A FAMILY-CENTERED APPROACH IN ALL COURTS

Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Three Adult Drug Courts



Center for Children and Family Futures
Strengthening Partnerships. Improving Family Outcomes

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Acknowledgement

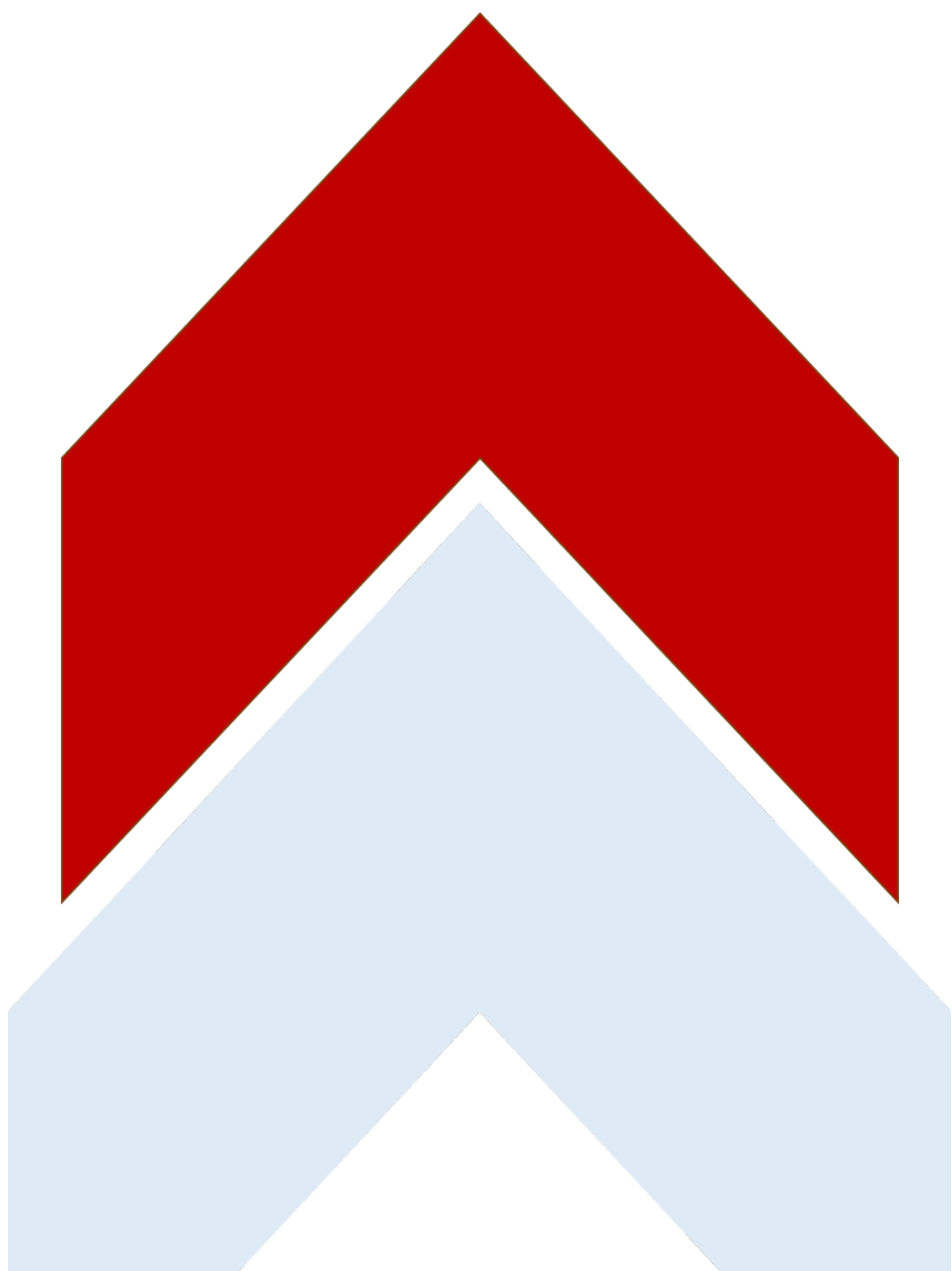
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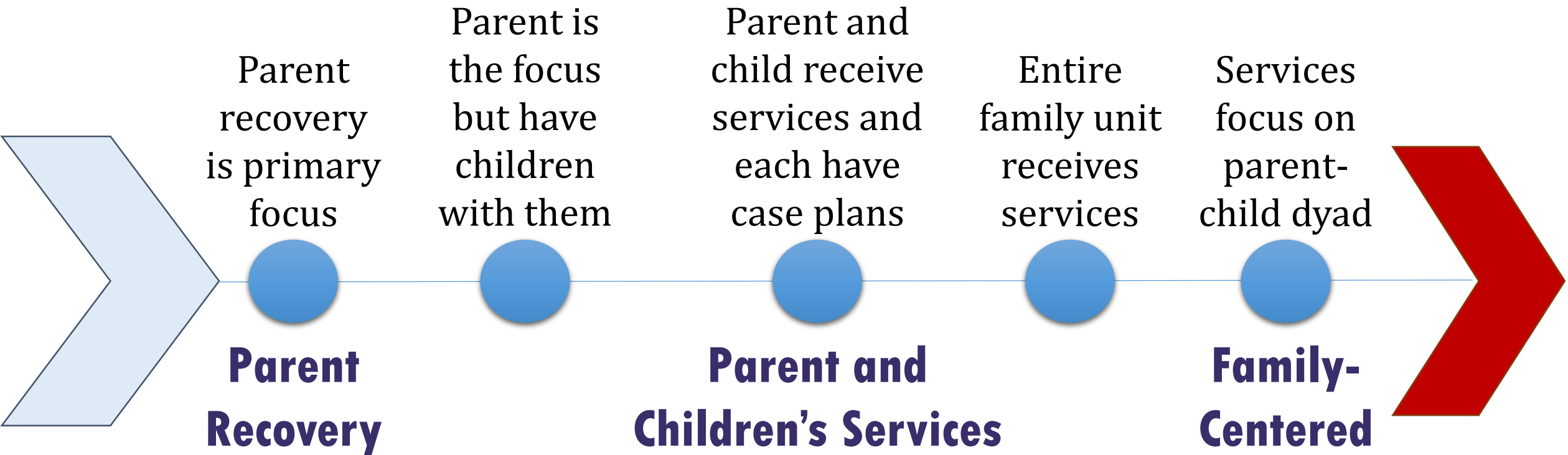
Session Objectives

- Gain a greater understanding of the effect of substance use on the family, and the importance of addressing their needs as a critical part of recovery
- Learn how cross-systems collaboration, communication, and community partnerships are critical in serving the complex needs of children and families in your drug court
- Highlight key lessons, take-aways, and challenges from case studies conducted with three adult drug court programs at different points in transition to a family centered approach



**RAISING THE
PRACTICE BAR**

How Family-Centered Is Your ADC?



What steps can you take to move practice?

TRANSITIONING TO A FAMILY CENTERED APPROACH:

Best Practices and Lessons Learned
from Three Adult Drug Courts



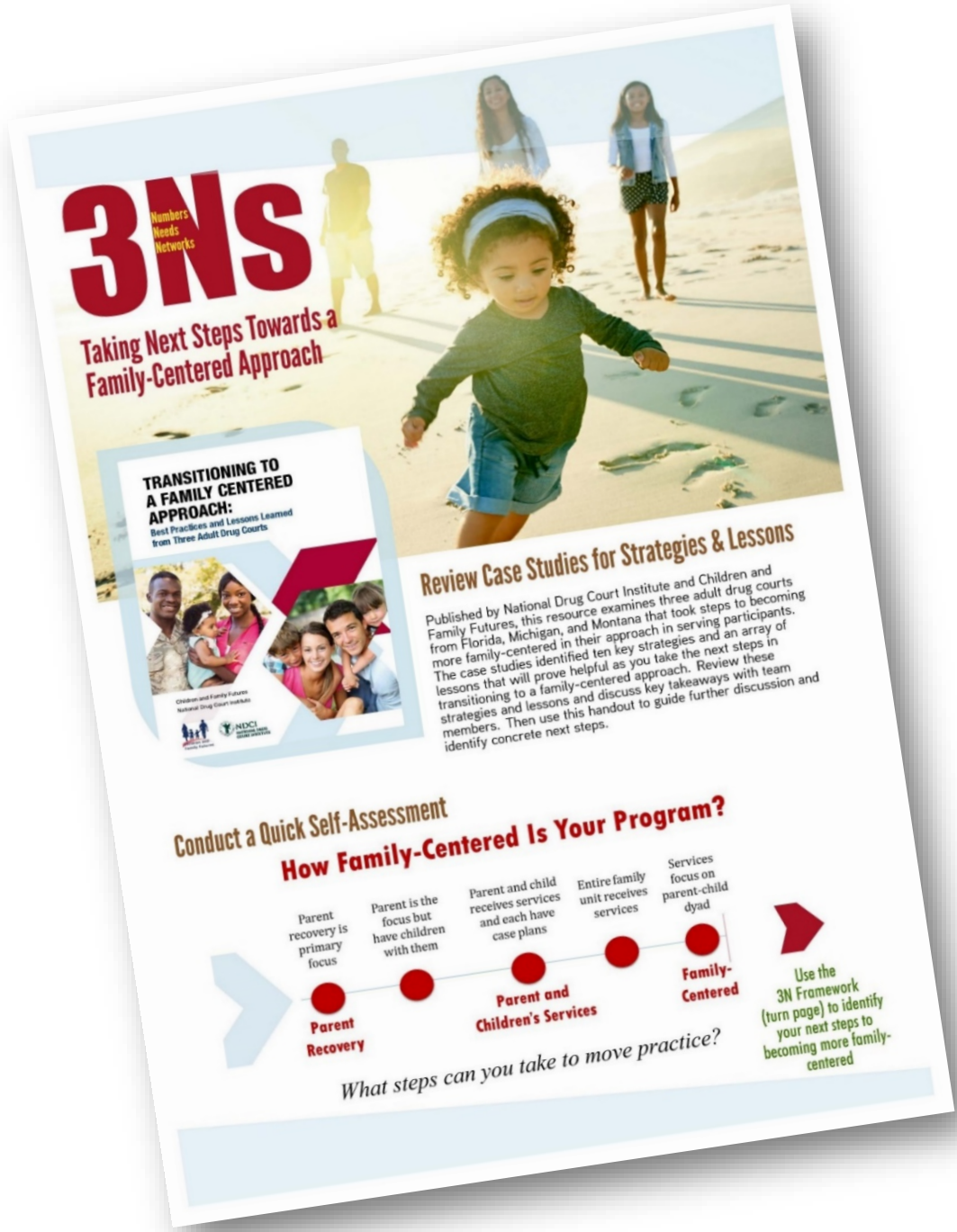
Children and Family Futures
National Drug Court Institute



Transitioning to a Family Centered Approach: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Three Adult Drugs Courts

To download a copy:

<https://www.ndci.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Transitioning-to-a-Family-Centered-Approach.pdf>



Additional Resource

3Ns Handout – Taking the Next Steps Towards and Family-Centered Approach

Numbers
Needs
Networks

Explore further with your Team about possible next steps you can take to move practice.

Case Studies – Three Adult Drug Courts in Transition

**11th Judicial
Circuit, Miami-
Dade Adult Drug
Court**
Miami, Florida

**13th Judicial
District Drug
Court**
Billings, Montana

**Van Buren County
Circuit Court**
Paw Paw, Michigan

For more background information, see **Appendix A**



8.7 million children live with one or more parents who are in need of substance use treatment for illicit drug use.

50-70% of participants in three adult drug courts recently studied have at least one minor child.

Lipari, R.N. and Van Horn, S.L. Children living with parents who have a substance use disorder. The CBHSQ Report: August 24, 2017. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, MD.

Transitioning to a Family Centered Approach: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Three Adult Drug Courts, 2017)

Why Focus on Children? The Numbers



- Between 12-60% of VTC clients have children; more than 1/3 have custody
- Over a million children have parents who served since 9/11
- 30-35% of deployed parents have trauma and substance use disorder issues —both of which affect their entire families



Rethinking

RECOVERY

The Costs of Focusing Only on Parent Recovery

A man in a striped shirt is seen from behind, carrying a young child in a red plaid shirt on his shoulders. They are standing in a field at sunset, holding a kite string. The child is reaching up towards the kite. The background shows rolling hills under a warm, golden sky.

- Threaten parent's ability to achieve and sustain recovery; increase risk of relapse
- Threaten parent's ability to establish a healthy relationship with their children
- Additional exposure to trauma for child/family
- The parent will continue to struggle with unresolved guilt
- Prolonged and recurring impact on child safety and well-being

The Costs of Focusing on Parent Recovery Only - What Happens to Children?

- **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**

Outcomes for Foster Youth

- More likely to commit a crime (Male 4X, Female 10X)
- 25% experience homelessness within 4 years
- 48% male foster youth unemployed
- 5x more likely to develop PTSD
- 7x rate of drug dependence
- 2x rate of alcohol dependence
- 25% graduate are in college (vs 41% general population)
- 33% male rely on government services to meet basic needs
- 75% female rely on government services to meet basic needs



They become our clients in 5-10-15 years

What Research and Practice Tell Us:



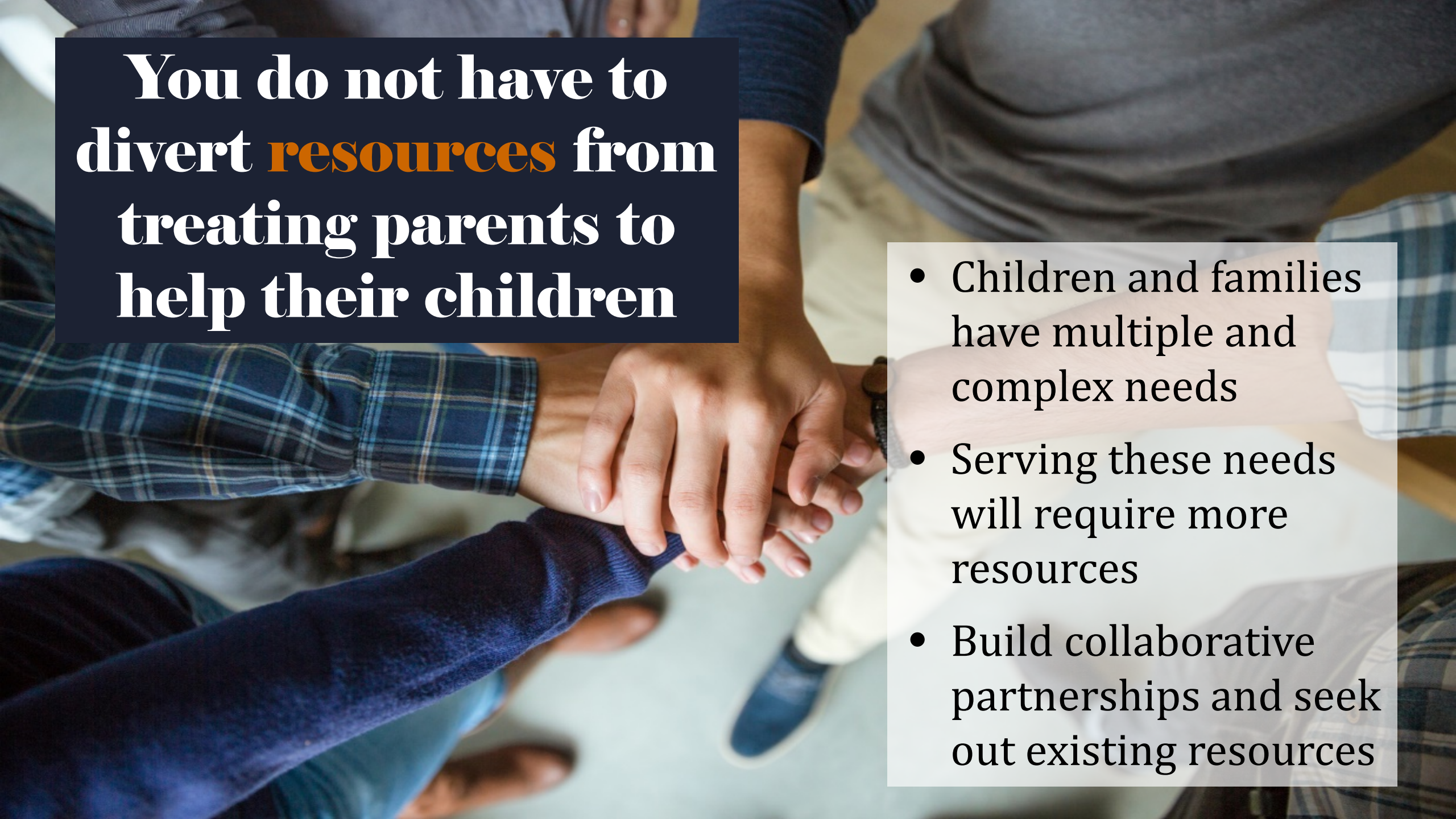
- Attachment-based treatment practices have produced **positive outcomes for women and children** in both residential and outpatient settings
- Family-focused treatment has produced **improvements in treatment retention, parenting attitudes, and psychosocial functioning**
- Postpartum women who had their infants living with them in treatment had **highest treatment completion rates and longer stays in treatment**

Serving Families Saves Money

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.*





You do not have to divert **resources from treating parents to help their children**

- Children and families have multiple and complex needs
- Serving these needs will require more resources
- Build collaborative partnerships and seek out existing resources

Federal Legislative Actions Promoting a Family Centered Approach

- 1. CARA's Primary Changes to CAPTA**
- 2. Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**
- 3. Funding for Plans of Safe Care**
 1. Omnibus Budget Act of 2018
 2. Opioid Bill - SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act
- 4. Childrens Bureau Priorities – Prevention of Maltreatment and Unnecessary Removals**
 1. Redefining the relationship between child welfare and the courts

FFPSA Four Components Related to Child Welfare and Persons with Substance Use Disorders

1. Family Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- Beginning October 1, 2018, states can receive IV-E reimbursement for up to 12 months for a child who has been placed with a parent in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance use disorder treatment:
 - This reimbursement is available without regard to income *eligibility*
 - This reimbursement is available without regard to the state opting into the prevention services
 - This is a placement agreement between the local child welfare entity and the local residential substance use disorder treatment agency, it is reimbursement claimed by the local agency just as any other foster care maintenance claim would be made by the child welfare agency



FFPSA Title I: Prevention Services

2. Beginning in FY 2020, Title IV-E will be available for up to 12 months for services (per family/per episode) for families of children who, without these services, would likely enter foster care, and pregnant and parenting foster youth

- No income test – states define “candidates for foster care” as eligibility
- These services include:
 - Mental health services
 - Substance use disorder services
 - In-home parent “skill-based” programs (parent training, home visiting, individual and family therapy)

CARA's Primary Changes to CAPTA in 2016

1. Further clarified population to infants “born with and affected by substance use disorder or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder,” specifically removing “illegal”
2. Specified data to be reported by States
3. Required Plan of Safe Care to include needs of **both infant and family/caregiver**
4. Specified increased monitoring and oversight by States to ensure that Plans of Safe Care are implemented and that families have access to appropriate services

Funding for Plans of Safe Care

1. Omnibus Budget Act of 2018

- Appropriated an additional \$60 Million to CAPTA State Grants and directs States to prioritize Plans of Safe Care
- Funds distributed to States using the usual allocation formula by September 30, 2018

2. Opioid Bill - SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act

- Adds a new paragraph to State Grants authorizing a grant program through 2024 directed to implementing Plans of Safe Care at \$500,000 per state and per capita based on births

Numbers

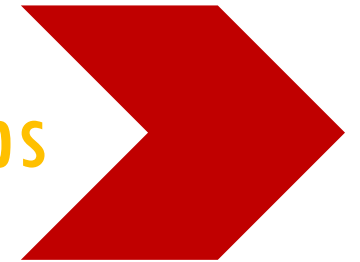
Needs

Networks

3Ns

What You Can Do
to Be More
Family-Centered?

Take the Next Steps



Take the Next Steps

Numbers

The Judge can:

- Ask clients if they have children
- Ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location and quality of relationship)
- Ask questions about family status at intakes

The Coordinator and Team can:

- Ensure you are asking questions about family structure
- Strategize on how to get entire family into treatment
- Ensure that court information systems including tracking of family members
- Know how many of your clients have a child welfare case

Re-Thinking Your Caseload

- How are you counting your caseload?
- Shift from case managing adults to case managing families
- Does your database allow for family linking?

A woman with long hair is shown in profile, holding the hand of a child. They are silhouetted against a bright, warm sunset or sunrise sky. The overall mood is intimate and supportive.

Family
Focus

KEY STRATEGY



**Funding, Sustainability,
Evaluation, and
Outcomes**

**Conduct program
evaluations to
identify parent,
child, and family
outcomes**

How do you know.....

How will you.....

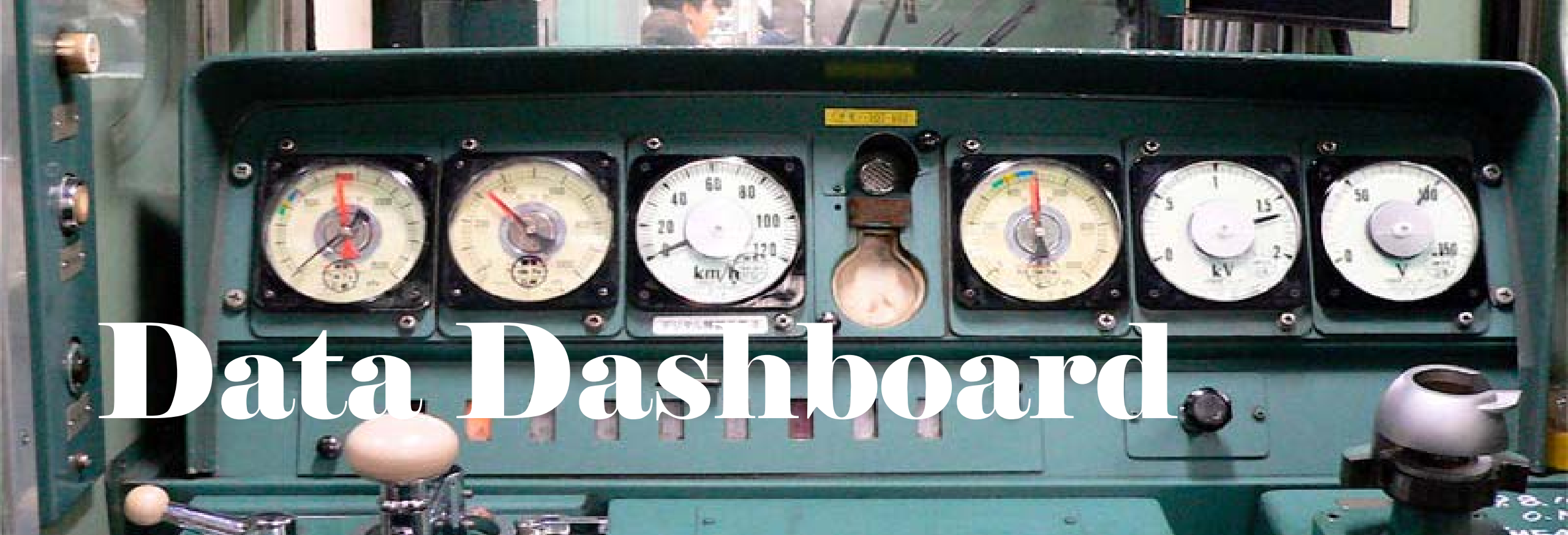


- How are families doing?
- Doing good vs. harm?
- What's needed for families?
- Monitor and improve performance?
- Demonstrate effectiveness?
- Secure needed resources?



Drug Courts as

“Feel Good” Programs



Data Dashboard

- What needles are you trying move?
- What outcomes are the most important?
- Is there shared accountability for “moving the needle” in a measurable way, in the Drug Court and larger systems?
- Who are you comparing to?

Domain

Performance Measure

Child Welfare

- Occurrence/Recurrence of Maltreatment
- Children Remain at Home
- Length of Stay in Out-of-Home Care
- Timeliness of Reunification and Permanency
- Re-entry to Out-of-Home Care
- Prevention of Substance Exposed Infants

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

- Access to Treatment
- Retention in Treatment
- Length of Stay in Treatment

Evidence-Based Parenting

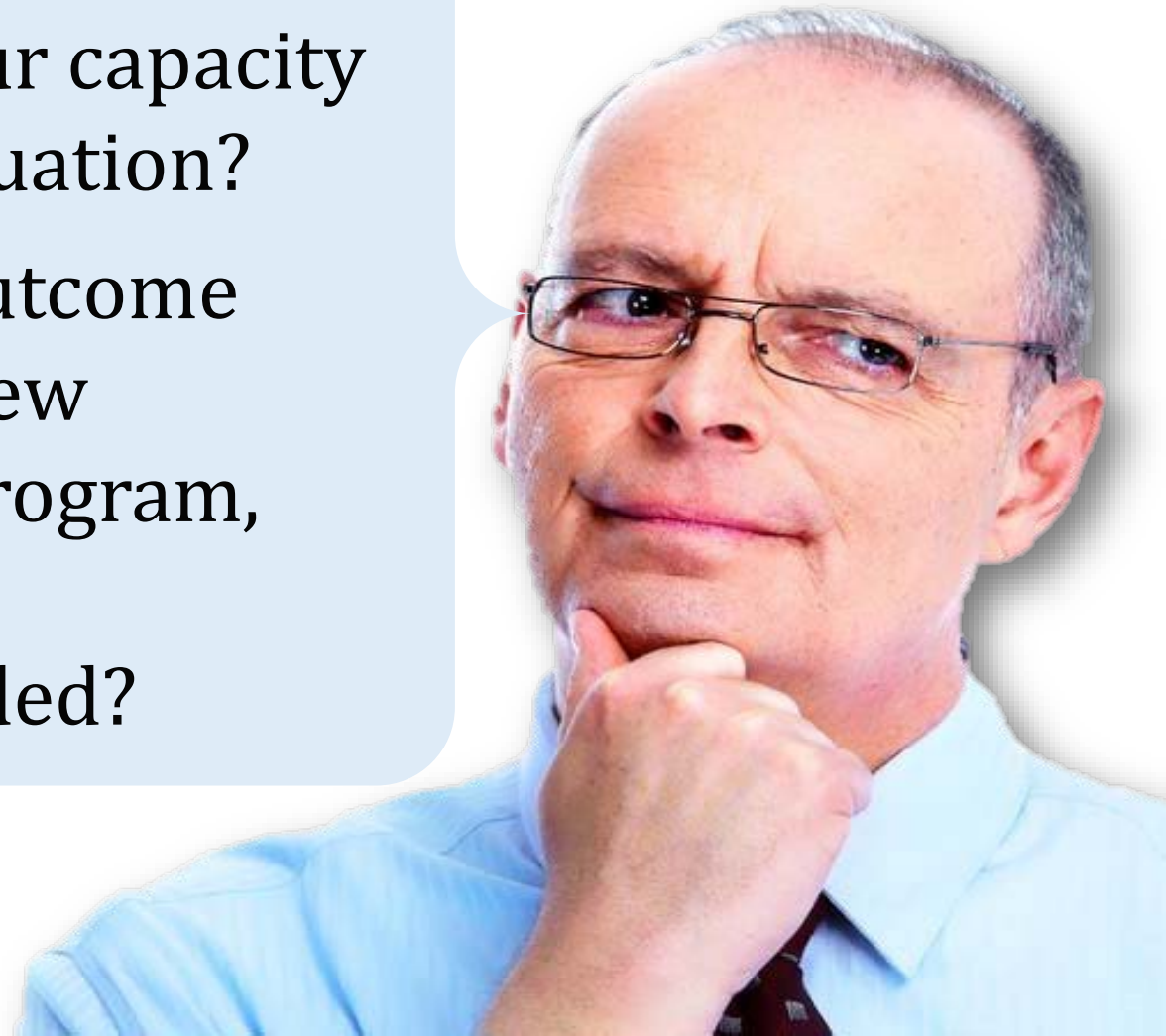
- Connection to EB Parenting
- Completion of EB Parenting

Evidence-Based Children's Intervention

- Connection to EB Children's Service
- Completion of EB Children's Service

Things to Consider

- What are the barriers that negatively impact your capacity for collaborative evaluation?
- How could you use outcome data to regularly review progress and make program, practice, and policy modifications as needed?



Numbers

Take the Next Steps

Needs

The Coordinator and Team strategize:

- Are child's medical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional needs assessed?
- How will your DC ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings and assessments?
- Has child and family been assessed for trauma? Relationship issues? Family Functioning?
- Did child receive appropriate interventions or services for the identified needs?

KEY STRATEGY



**Screening, Assessment,
and Needs of Parents,
Children, and Families**

**Conduct screening and
assessment to identify
the needs of parents,
children, and families,
and refer them to
appropriate services**

Screening and Assessment Tools

- Addiction Severity Index
- Adverse Childhood Experience
- PTSD Checklist for DSM-V
- Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions
- Risk and Needs Triage
- Texas Christian University – Client Evaluation of Self and Treatment
- Behavioral Substance Use Disorder Assessment

Tool vs. the Team

Moving the conversation and attention from

*What tool
should we use?*

*What information
do we need? What
is the purpose?*

*What are we
going to do with
the information?*

*How are we going
to share it?*



Case Study
Example:
13th Judicial
District
Drug Court
Billings, Montana

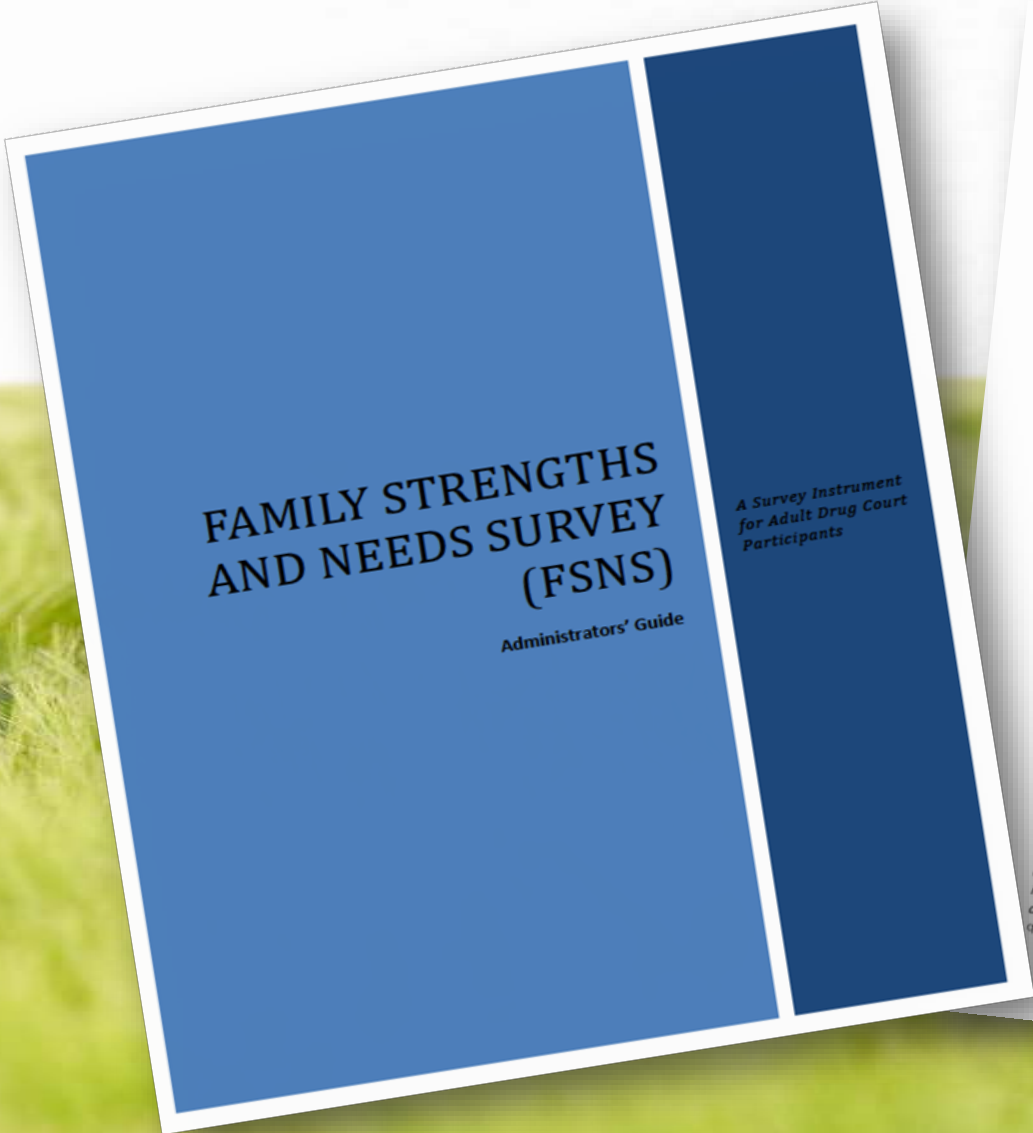
The Need for a Tool

- Brief screening tool that can be administered by a drug court coordinator (with little or no training)
- Simple and efficient - screening should be completed in a short time frame
- Identify an array of family-related issues regarding the family of an adult drug court client
- So appropriate referrals can be made within the immediate community
- Applicable to complex family structures common to drug court participants

The Approach

- Preferred administrator approach is utilizing Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques. MI is a collaborative conversation to strengthen a person's own motivation for and commitment to change
- The spirit of MI is based on three key elements:
 - (1) Collaboration between administrator and client
 - (2) Evoking or drawing out client's ideas about change
 - (3) Emphasizing autonomy of client

Family Strengths and Needs Survey



Family Strengths and Needs Survey

Case or Client ID: _____ Survey Administrator ID: _____

Jurisdiction: _____ Interview Start Time: _____

Missoula County Family Drug Court Missoula County Veteran's Court
 Missoula County Co-Occurring Court Cascade County Adult Treatment Court
 Mineral County Adult Treatment Court/DUI Court Billings Municipal Treatment Court
 Custer County Adult Treatment Court Fort Peck DUI Court (Nat. Am.)
 First Judicial District Adult Treatment Court

Program: _____

Today's Date _____ Enrollment/ Intake Date _____

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS:

Gender? Male Female Other
Please specify "Other" _____

Age in years?
First number: 1 2 3 4 5
Second number: 0 1 2 3 4 7
 5 6 7 8 9

What is your race/ ethnicity?
 American Indian or Alaskan native Hispanic/Latino
 Asian or Pacific Islander Caucasian
 African American Other (please specify) _____

Read to Client: As you know, substance abuse impacts the entire family. We want to make sure that you and your family have as much support as possible during your recovery process. May I ask you a few questions about your family's strengths? This will help identify the ways we can support you to meet your family's needs. The information you provide will remain confidential. However, I need to make you aware of some limits to confidentiality. It is my legal responsibility to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child, elderly person or a disabled person or if I believe you are in danger of harming yourself or another person. If you report that you intend to physically injure someone the law requires me to inform that person as well as the legal authorities. However, I am not directly seeking this type of information in this interview. May I answer any questions? Is it OK to begin now?

1

Family Strengths and Needs Survey

Domains:

- Participant demographics
- Family demographics
- History and current dynamic
- Emotional support system
- Substance use impact
- Family medical and mental health history
- Child care
- Parenting
- Education
- Employment and financial status
- Trauma

Feedback From Montana Court Coordinators

Process of completing the FSNS 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 other factors affecting recovery.

Drug Court Coordinator Experience Administering FSNS

“This experience opened up a world of needs that have gone unaddressed and also provided motivation for finding these services and linking with other community organizations.”

“The process of administering the FSNS helps coordinators to get to know the participant at a deeper level, much less superficial than with the standard intake/screening tool.”

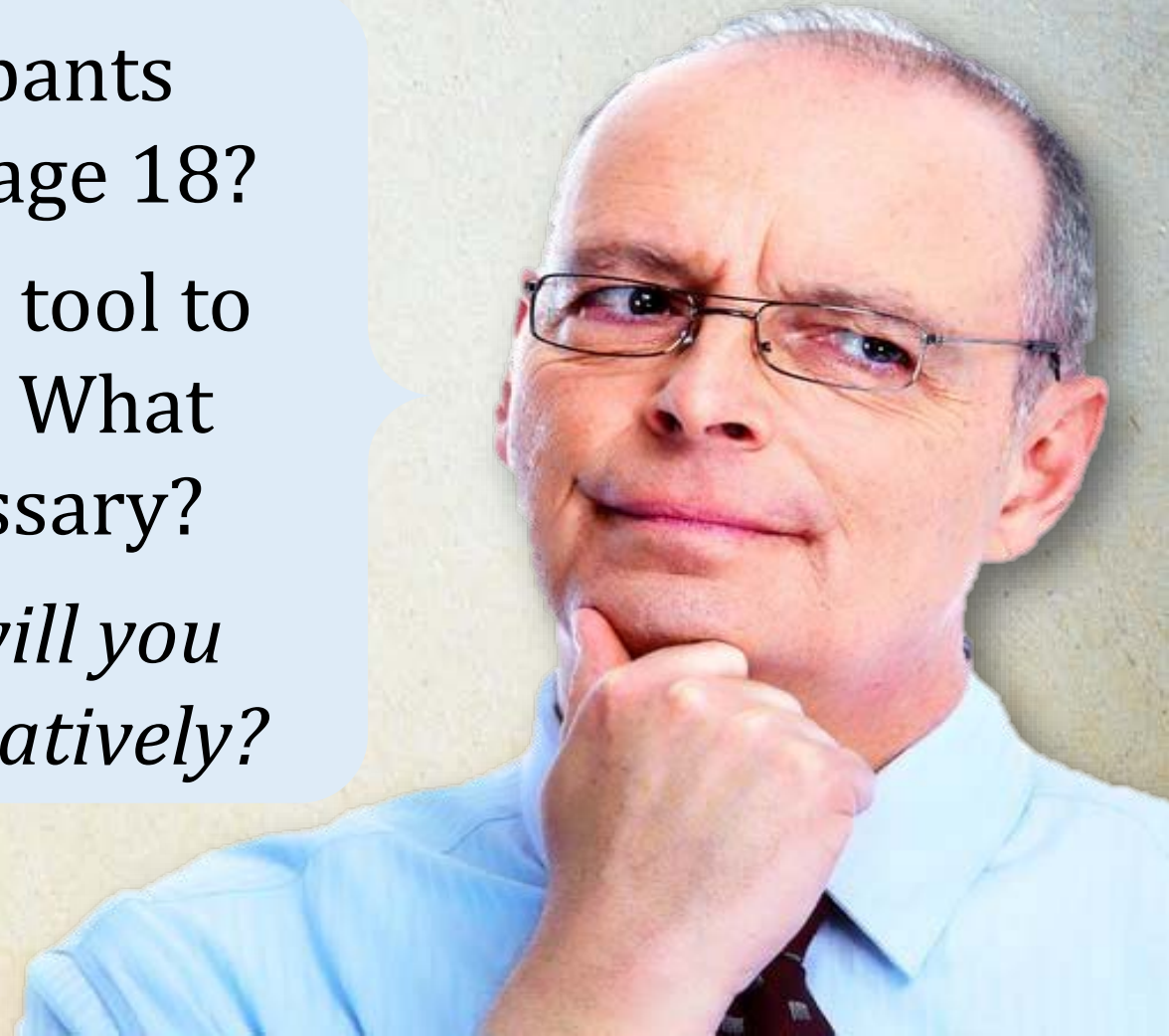
Family Issues that May Affect Recovery



- 52.7% had concerns regarding one or more of their **children's social and emotional well-being**
- 47.2% of participants had concerns regarding **medical problems or issues** with one or more of their children
- 40.0% had concerns about one or more of their **children's behavior**
- 17.8% had significant concerns about their spouse's or significant other's **mental health**

Things to Consider

- How many of participants have children under age 18?
- Have you identified a tool to assess family needs? What training will be necessary?
- Tools + Team - *how will you share results collaboratively?*



KEY STRATEGY



**Screening, Assessment,
and Needs of Parents,
Children, and Families**

**Implement
responses to
behaviors that are
sensitive to the
needs of parents
and families**

Incentives and Sanctions to Promote Engagement

Drug Courts develop a range of responses (incentives and sanctions) of varying magnitudes that it employs throughout each participant's time in the program. **The team uses these responses to enhance participant engagement and encourage behaviors that support sustained recovery, healthy family relationships, and long-term reunification.**

Responses to Behavior for Parents

Safety

- A protective response if a client's behavior puts themselves or a family member at risk

Therapeutic

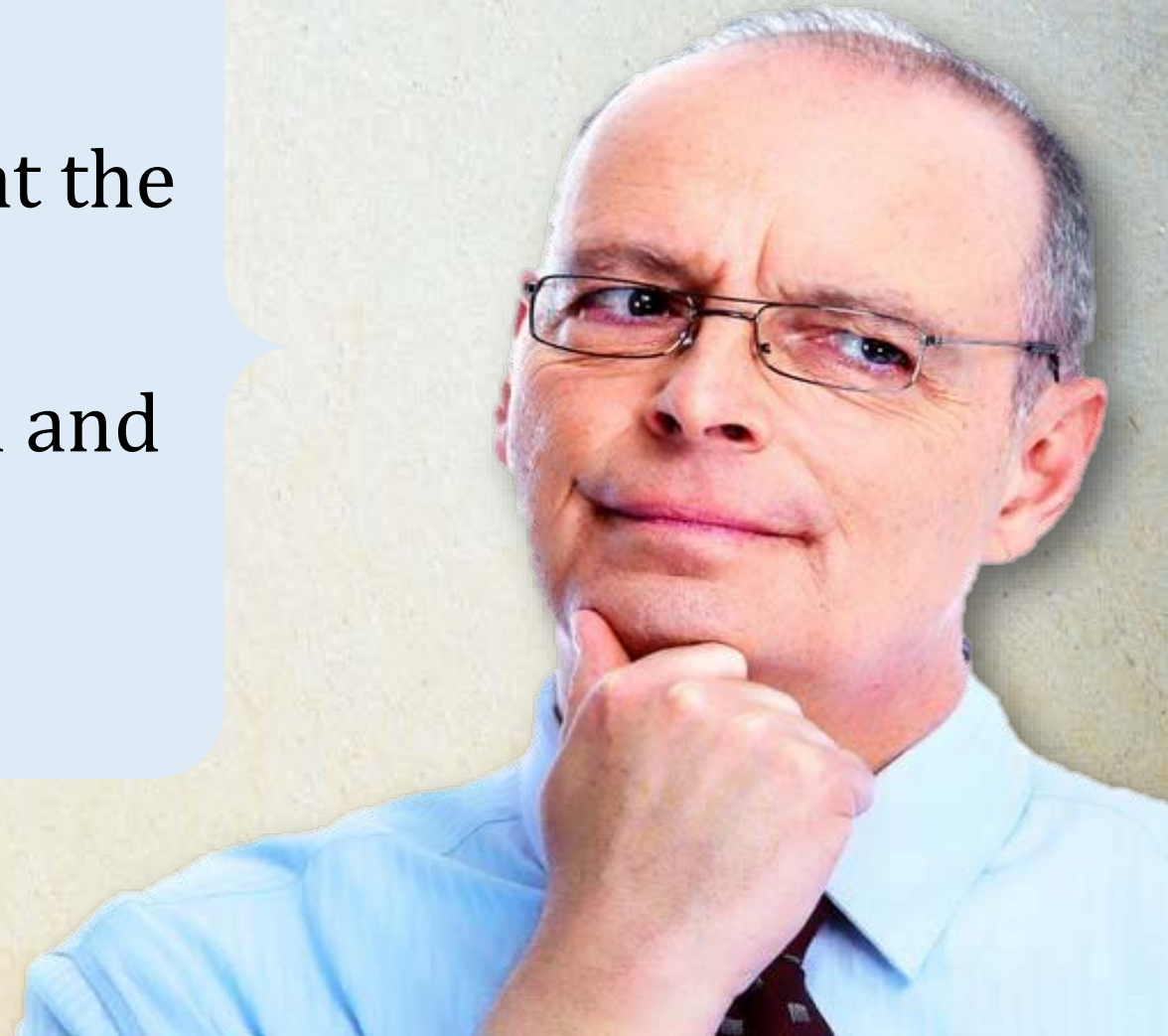
- A response designed to achieve a specific clinical result for your client in treatment

Motivational

- Designed to teach the client how to engage in desirable behavior and achieve a stable lifestyle

Things to Consider

When deciding on a response, consider what the impact of that sanction would have on children and the parent-child relationship (ie. jail).



Numbers

Needs

Take the Next Steps

Networks

The Coordinator and Team strategize:

- Do parents have an understanding of the child's identified needs? Are they able to cope with the child's needs?
- Does the family have access to long-term supportive services?
- Are you providing training and education to DC Team, including judicial leaders on the importance of serving children and families?
- What family services are in the community? Do you have a FDC? What is your relationship with the FDC?

Numbers

Needs

Take the Next Steps

Networks

The Coordinator and Team strategize:

- Do you refer and follow-up to outside agencies with children's services?
- Are child and family-serving agencies on your collaborative team?
- Are you mobilizing and linking to new resources from other agencies that already serve children and families?
- Have you developed formal relationships and information sharing protocols?
- How strong is your relationship with Child Welfare?

Multiple Needs Require Multiple Partners

Family Recovery



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



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**

**Evidence-based
parenting**

Trauma

**Community
and auxiliary
support**

Continuum of Family-Based Services

Parent's Treatment with Family Involvement

- Services for parent(s) with substance use disorders
- Treatment plan includes family issues and family involvement

Goal: Improved outcomes for parent(s)

Parent's Treatment with Children Present

- Children accompany parent(s) to treatment
- Children participate in child care but receive no therapeutic services
- Only parent(s) have treatment plans

Goal: Improved outcomes for parent(s)

Parent's and Children's Services

- Children accompany parent(s) to treatment
- Parent(s) and attending children have treatment plans and receive appropriate services

Goals: Improved outcomes for parent(s) and children, better parenting

Family Services

- Children accompany parent(s) to treatment
- Parent(s) and children have treatment plans
- Some services provided to other family members

Goals: Improved outcomes for parent(s) and children, better parenting

Family-Centered Treatment

- Each family member has a treatment plan and receives individual and family services

Goals: Improved outcomes for parent(s), children, and other family members; better parenting and family functioning

KEY STRATEGY



**Screening, Assessment,
and Needs of Parents,
Children, and Families**

**Provide evidence-
based services to
children and parents
including services
that address the
parent-child dyad**

Connecting Families to Evidence-Based Parenting Program

- Knowledge of parenting skills and basic understanding of child development has been identified as **a key protective factor** against abuse and neglect (Geeraert, 2004; Lundahl, 2006; & Macleod and Nelson, 2000)
- The underlying theory of parent training is that (a) **parenting skills can improve** with training, (b) child outcomes can be improved, and (c) the risk of child abuse and neglect can be reduced (Johnson, Stone, Lou, Ling, Claassen, & Austin, 2008)



Parenting Programs Specific to Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders

- **Celebrating Families** - <http://www.celebratingfamilies.net/>
- **Strengthening Families** - <http://www.strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org/>
- **Nurturing Program for Families in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery** - <http://www.healthrecovery.org/publications/detail.php?p=28>

Please visit:

- **California Evidence-Based Clearing House** - www.cebc4cw.org

Grantee	EBPs Identified and/or Selected
Grantee A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby Smarts (existing) • Positive Indian Parenting (new)
Grantee B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child-Parent Psychotherapy (existing) • Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (existing) • Alternatives for Families: A Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (existing) • SafeCare (existing) • Celebrating Families! (new)
Grantee C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurturing Families (existing) • Strengthening Families Program (existing) • Incredible Years (existing) • Triple P (existing)
Grantee D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating Families! (existing) • Early Pathways (existing) • Parents Interacting with Infants (existing) • Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (new) • Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma (new)

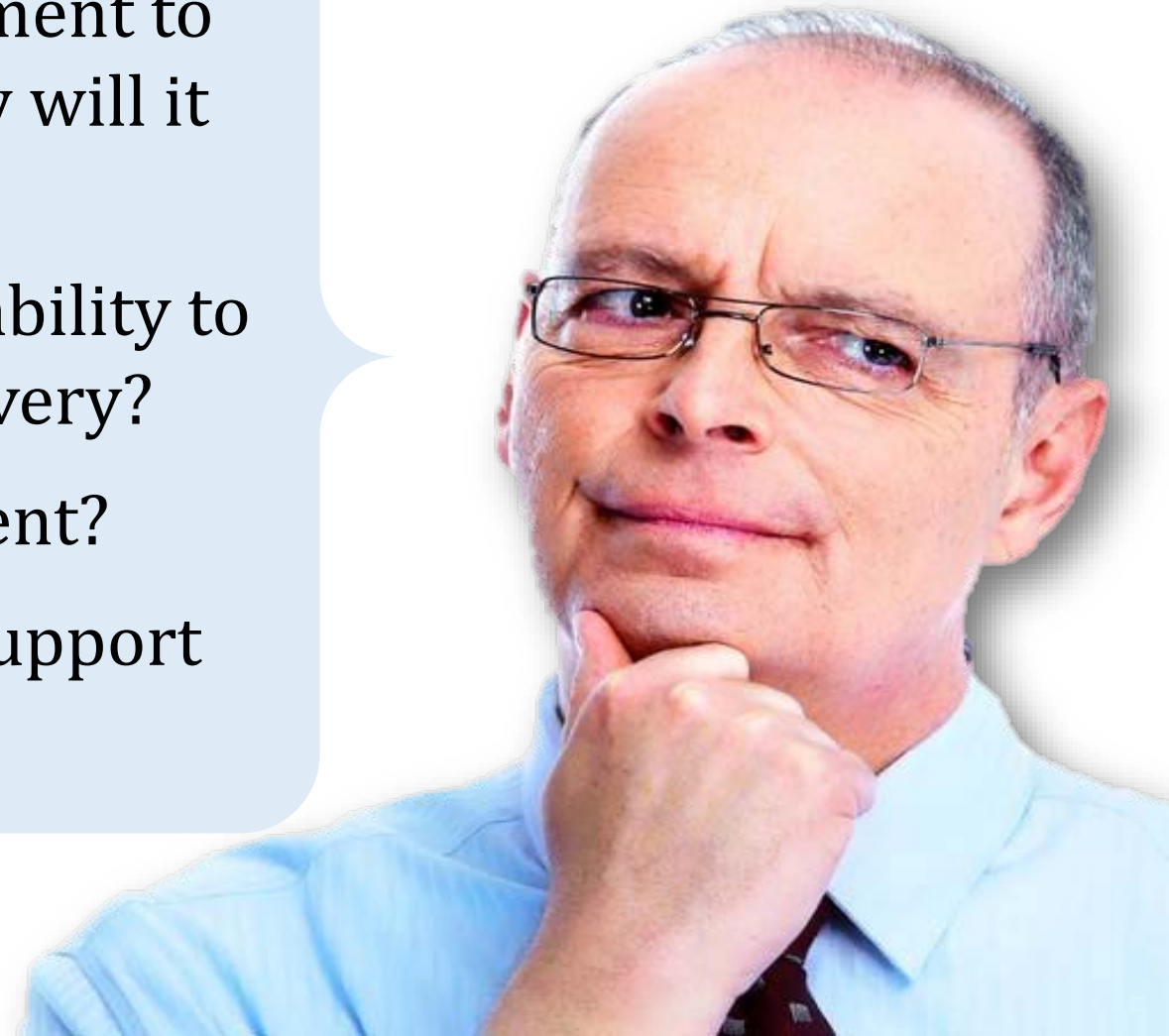
“Existing” – leveraging existing EBP community resource; “New” – implementing new EBP

Miami Example - Turning to Community Partners to Serve Families

- Partnered with Linda Ray Center to provide comprehensive family and children services
- Advocated for its treatment partner to provide family therapy
- ADC and treatment provider tracking family outcomes

Things to Consider

- Have you conducted a needs assessment to determine what families need? How will it help achieve desired outcomes?
- Have realistic expectations of their ability to participate - especially in early recovery?
- Does it have a parent-child component?
- Do you have staffing and logistical support for successful implementation?



Children Need to Spend Time with Their Parents



How can the Treatment Court team..
Remove barriers to parenting time?
Support quality parenting time?
Facilitate additional parenting time?

Impact of Parenting Time on Reunification

Outcomes

- Children and youth who have **regular, frequent contact** with their families are **more likely to reunify and less likely to reenter foster care** after reunification (Mallon, 2011)
- Parenting time provides an important **opportunity to gather information** about a parent's capacity to appropriately address and provide for their child's needs, as well as the family's overall readiness for reunification
- Parent-Child Contact (Visitation): Research shows **frequent parent-child time increases the likelihood** of reunification, **reduces time** in out-of-home care (Hess, 2003), and **promotes healthy attachment** and **reduces negative effects** of separation (Dougherty, 2004)

Assessing for Quality Parenting Time

- Rethink language - *parenting time or family time* (vs. visitation)
- Recognize parenting time as a right and need (vs. privilege, reward, incentive)
- Ensure frequency and duration is guided by needs of child and family (vs. capacity of CWS, logistics)
- Provide concrete feedback on parent-child interaction (vs. observation, surveillance)
- Affirm permanency as the goal – (vs. good visits) – Is the parenting plan moving family closer to achieving reunification? Are real-life parenting and reasons for removal being addressed?
- Maintain collaboration and communication with family, treatment providers, service providers, and foster parents

Strategies to Ensure Quality and Frequent Parenting Time



- Involve parents in planning
- Elicit foster parents or kinship caregiver support
- Invite parents to join child's appointments
- Enlist natural community settings (e.g. bowling alley)
- Focus on strengths and positive interactions
- Provide parenting support and coaching
- Prepare parents for the separation, this behavior is normal and expected
- BE INNOVATIVE!

Interventions that Include Parent–Child Component

- Do the services of partner providers have parent-child components?
- Can you expand your service array?
- How do providers document progress in strengthening the parent-child relationship?
- What will the parenting reports look like to include the parent-child piece?





Support for Parents in Court to Advocate for Improvements or Strengthening of the Relationship with Their Child

Questions every judge should ask?*

- Reaching out to the parent in court for their perspective on how visitation or co-parenting activities are going
- How are improvements in the parent-child relationship linked to the levels of visitation along with recommendations from substance use and mental health treatment providers?

* Recommended Resource: *Visitation with Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care: What Judges and Attorneys Need to Know.*

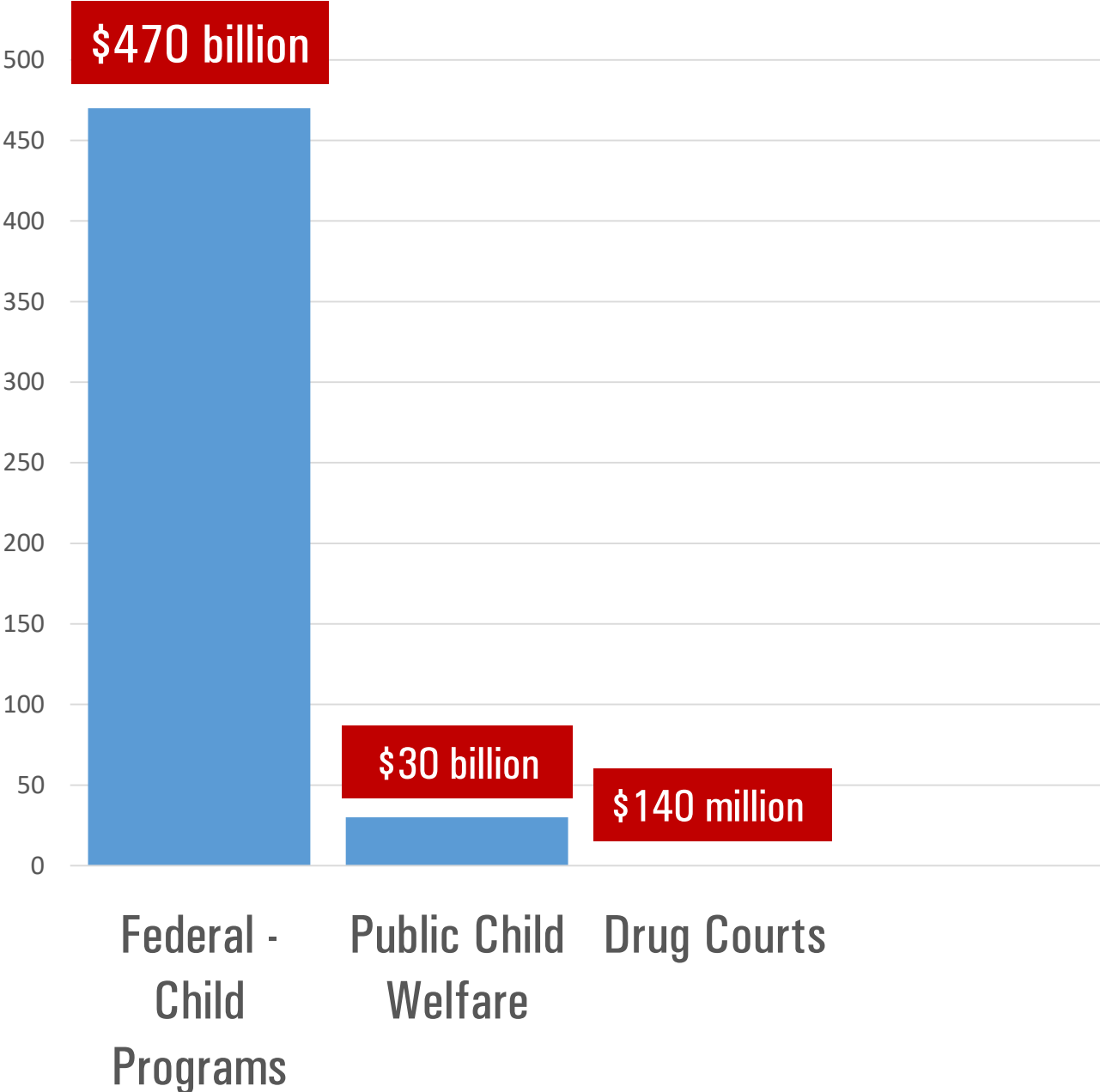
KEY STRATEGY



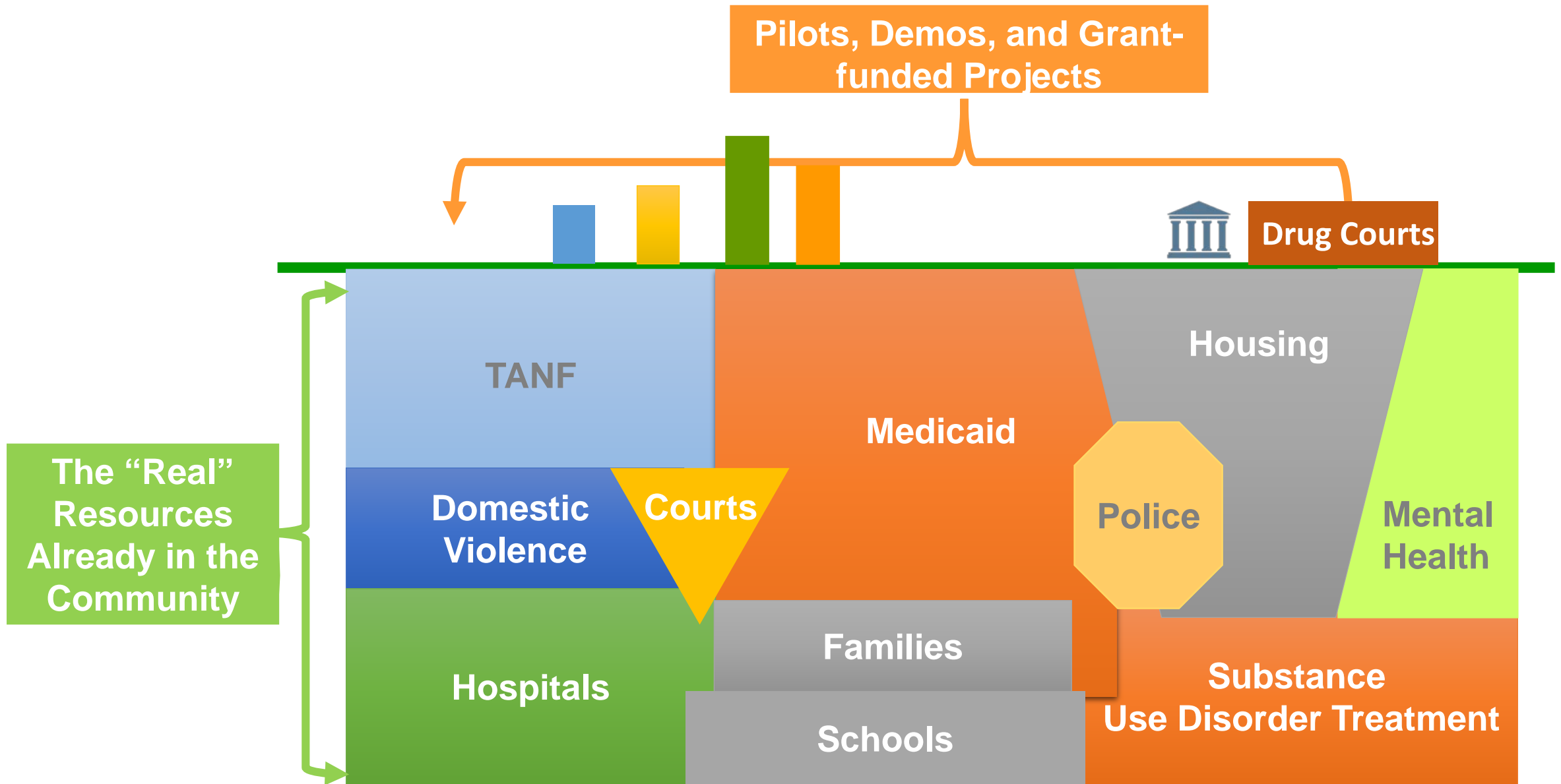
**Funding, Sustainability,
Evaluation, and
Outcomes**

**Develop
sustainability plans
that account for
funding services to
children and
families**

Getting a Piece of the Pie



Redirection of Resources Already Here



Drug Courts Don't Have Do It Alone



- Maternal and child health
- Mental health
- Child development
- Youth services
- Special education
- Delinquency prevention

- The task is not diverting funds from DCs; it is *accessing funds already available for children's services*
- Securing their fair share of \$470 billion in existing federally funded children's programs

That's what collaborative means

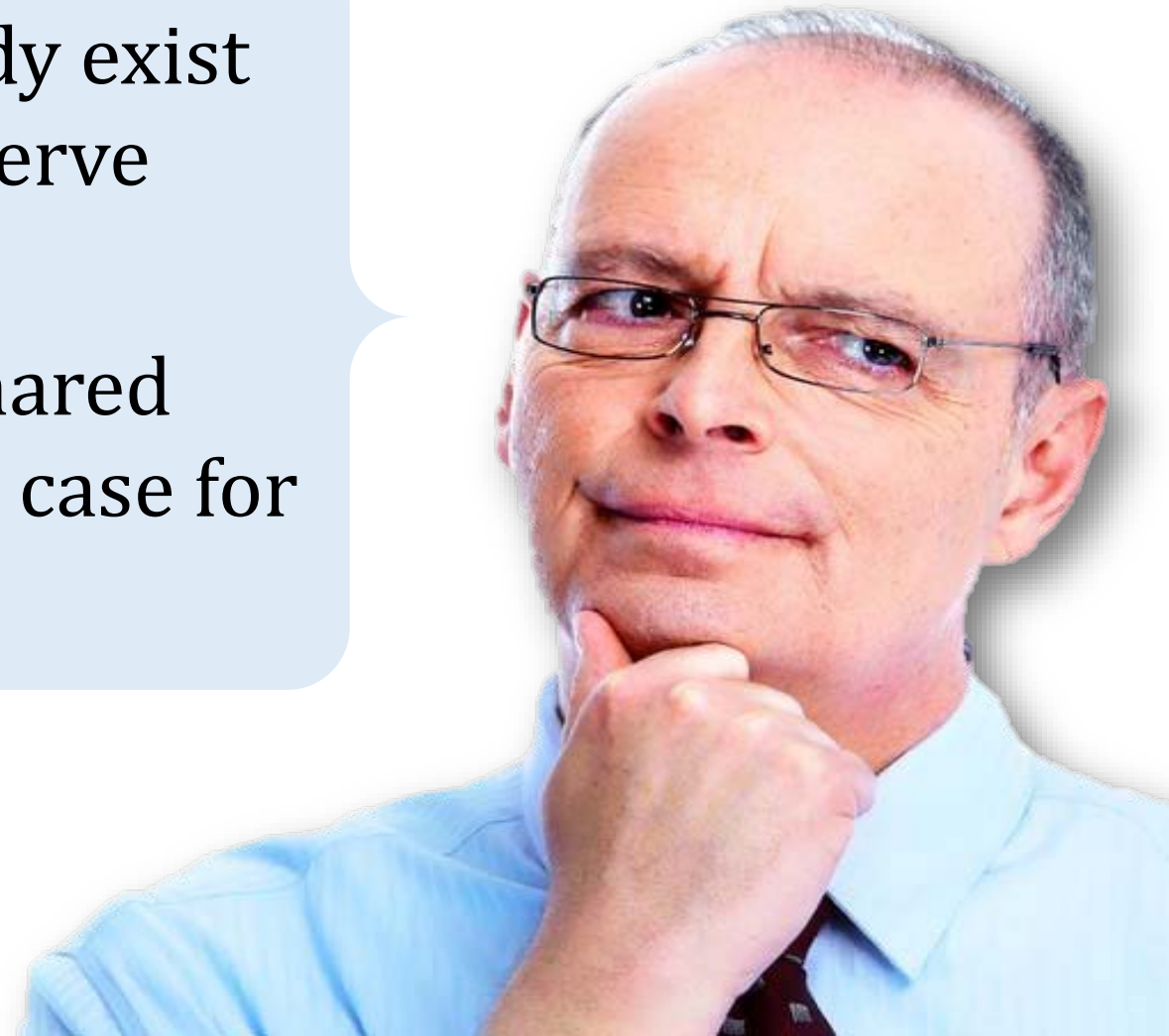


Why will serving the whole family matter to your funders?

- Decrease recidivism-Offenders with more family contact are less likely to be arrested or incarcerated again
- Cost Savings for courts and county
- Engage community- Family assessment tools can capture family strengths as well as needs
- Highlight your leveraged funds for sustainability
- 2nd generational trauma and prevention

Things to Consider

- What resources already exist in the community to serve children and families?
- Have you identified shared outcomes to make the case for shared resources?





Questions for Discussion

- Do you know how many children your client's have?
- Do you know if there are other collaborative courts (family treatment courts) already serving children in your state/city?
- Do you agree that these children are part of the overall task of getting our client's healthy and productive?
- Do you think you can work with child and family-serving agencies to get services needed by clients' children?
- Can you agree on how to measure your success in carrying out these tasks?

Action Planning Ideas – Intake & Services

- How will your DC ask clients if they have children?
- How will your DC ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location, and quality of relationship)?
- How will your DC ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings, assessments, intervention and treatment services?
- How will you ensure that children are screened for services?
- How will you ensure that questions about child and family status are asked at intake?
- “How are your kids doing?”

Action Planning Ideas – Monitoring Outcomes

- How will you decide which outcomes you want to monitor?
- How will you ensure a process of maintaining partnerships?
- How will you ensure policies for sharing information with service providers?
- How will you use court information systems to track progress?
- How will you conduct accountability reviews of outcomes of agencies who serve children and families?
- How will you provide participants opportunities to provide ongoing feedback?

A silhouette of a young girl with long hair, holding the hand of an adult whose arm is visible on the right. They are positioned against a bright, glowing sunset or sunrise sky. The girl is looking towards the right. The overall mood is hopeful and supportive.

Big steps

Small steps

Just keep moving

Q&A and Discussion



*On behalf of children
and families in your
community, thank you
for the work you do!*



Contact Information

*Strengthening
Partnerships*

*Improving
Family
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