

Title

Planning for Safe Care – How Your Family Preservation Court Can Be Part of the Solution to Keep Children Safe and Families Together

Presenters/Bios

Mary Hale, MHS, CHC currently serves as Senior Program Associate with the Center for Children and Family Futures (CCFF), which operates the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. In this role she is responsible for providing technical assistance, expertise, and support on collaborative practice, capacity building, continuous quality improvement and assurance. She helps sites with implementation of trauma informed evidence and research-based practices and policies to sites providing services to children and families with substance use disorders, child welfare and family court involvement throughout the United States.

Ms. Hale has been with CCFF since 2019. She was previously the Behavioral Health Director for Orange County, CA and has 30 years of direct and administrative experience with behavioral health services and cross-system collaboration. As the Behavioral Health Director, she was responsible for the development, implementation, management, and monitoring of more than 200 substance use and mental health prevention and treatment programs. Collaboration with child welfare, courts and community service providers was a key component with the provision of these services. Ms. Hale holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Master of Science degree in Clinical/Community Psychology from California State University, Fullerton and is Certified in Health Care Compliance.

William Blakeley, Program Associate at Children and Family Futures, graduated from the University of Dayton in 2011 and received my master's degree from Christian Brothers University while teaching full time as a history and religion teacher at Memphis Catholic High School.

I worked for Child and Family Services for two years in Billings, Montana, before managing and creating a new program called Fathers Up Front with the Center for Children and Families, as part of an enhancement grant for Yellowstone County Family Drug Treatment Court. After this, I became the coordinator of that court, rebranding it as Yellowstone Family Recovery Court and catching the court up on evidence-based practices and best practice standards. In this position, I was selected for and participated in a Learning Collaborative with courts around the country, a five year SAMHSA grant, a community-wide initiative for trauma-informed care, and an opportunity to share applications of new practices at the NADCP national conference. I am now a Program Associate for Children and Family Futures, focused on grant management and training and technical assistance to family treatment courts around the country.

Length: 75 min

Session Description

All collaborative courts are family courts when serving individuals who are part of a family system. Substance use disorders (SUDs) have a profound effect on all relationships in the family unit and recovery support must be extended beyond the individual to a more family-centered approach. This general session will offer treatment court professionals working in all types of collaborative courts key strategies for implementing a family-focused approach. This presentation will make the case for why all collaborative courts should pay greater attention to children and families and why cross-system collaboration and communication are critical for individual and family safety and recovery.

Learning Objectives

1) Gain a greater understanding of the effect of substance use on the family, and the importance of addressing family

needs as a critical part of a participant's recovery

2) Learn how cross-systems collaboration, communication, and community partnerships are critical in serving the complex needs of children and families in your treatment court

3) Highlight key lessons, take-aways, and challenges from treatment courts as they transitioned to a family centered approach

References

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

[About CAPTA: A Legislative History](#)

<https://www.childwelfare.gov> › pubs › factsheets › about

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This factsheet summarizes the legislative history and purpose of the **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)**, the key Federal legislation

National Drug Court Institute and Children and Family Futures. (2017). *Transitioning to a family centered approach: Best practices and lessons learned from three adult drug courts*. Alexandria, VA: National Drug Court Institute.

Retrieved from <http://www.cffutures.org/files/OJJDP/Transitioning-to-a-Family-Centered-Approach.pdf>

Robinson, Jenna (2017). Seven Common Ingredients for Family Treatment Courts. *American Bar Association Child Law Practice*: Vol. 36: May/June 2017. https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol-36/may-june-2017/seven-common-ingredients-for-family-treatment-courts/