



National Conference on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Save the Date

Call for Proposals

Putting the Pieces Together:
1st National Conference on
Substance Abuse, Child Welfare
and the Dependency Court

July 14 - 15, 2004

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

Dear Colleague:

This Administration has made a commitment to ensure that people struggling to free themselves from the grasp of substance abuse have access to treatment and supportive services that promote recovery. The human and economic costs of untreated alcoholism and drug abuse are well known: lost education, lost jobs, and lost lives. For some, however, the costs are measured in the effects on family, particularly on the children. Today, as many as 6.1 million children under age 18 live in households in which one or both parents experience substance dependence or abuse. Perhaps nowhere are those costs more keenly felt than in families in which substance abuse contributes to child abuse or neglect.

The cost to these families too often is counted in placements of the children into the foster care system. Unless parents become established in recovery from substance abuse within the same time frame in which child welfare permanency decisions are made for their children, they face permanent loss of custody. Loss of family is a terrible consequence that can often be avoided not only with support for recovery but also with better coordination between community-based child welfare agencies and substance abuse treatment providers.

Fostering the spirit of one Department of Health and Human Services, our agencies have joined together to address the complex practice, clinical, and policy issues in delivering services to families involved in the child welfare system with parental substance abuse. Our goal is to stimulate organizational and system change to promote effective, coordinated and culturally relevant practices at the intersection of the substance abuse treatment and child welfare systems. To that end, we have created *The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare* (NCSACW) to provide technical assistance and to disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge to address the needs of child welfare-involved families working to recover from substance abuse.

As part of this effort, we are convening ***Putting the Pieces Together: 1st National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Dependency Court***, to encourage all three systems to work together to address the problems for alcohol and drug involved child welfare cases. The conference is slated for July 14-15, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland. It will provide a unique opportunity to bring together representatives of the substance abuse, child welfare and dependency court systems from around the country to share innovative policy and programmatic efforts, to learn about best practices in providing services to families, and to support further collaboration across agencies.

Our continued efforts are critical to improving outcomes for families. We look forward to your participation in this important conference.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Curie, M.A., A.C.S.W., Administrator
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Children and Families
Administration for Children and Families

Call for Proposals:

Proposals must be received by December 5, 2003

Proposals are being sought that address policy and programmatic issues related to working with children and families involved in the child welfare and dependency court systems that are affected by substance abuse.

Requirements for proposal submission are on page four. The conference will highlight the cross-system partnerships and practice changes that are needed to address the multiple needs of these families. Workshop content should focus on one of the four conference focus areas: Serving Children of Substance Abusers in the Child Welfare System; Practice and Clinical Issues; Increasing Collaboration, Funding and Systems Issues; and Workforce and Staff Development.

Submissions are encouraged from front-line practitioners and administrators of child welfare and substance abuse services and the dependency court as well as policymakers and researchers.

Workshop Sessions

Workshop sessions are 90 minutes in duration. A limited number of three-hour symposia will also be available.

Please note that conference registration fees will be waived for presenters.

Proposed Agenda

July 14, 2004

- 8:00am Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00am Greetings from the Federal Sponsors
- 10:30am Break
- 10:45am Plenary
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:30pm Workshop Session I
- 3:00pm Break
- 3:15pm Workshop Session II
- 4:45pm Adjourn
- 6:30pm An Evening Event

July 15, 2004

- 7:30am Continental Breakfast
- 8:30am Plenary
- 10:30am Break
- 10:45am Workshop Session I
- 12:15pm Lunch
- 1:45pm Workshop Session II
- 3:15pm Break
- 3:30pm Plenary
- 4:30pm Adjourn

For More Information

(714) 505-3525

Conference Focus Areas:

Putting the Pieces Together: 1st National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Dependency Court will highlight four focus areas as they relate to improving outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system who are affected by substance use disorders. Innovative or substantive work in related topics that do not fall directly under these areas is welcomed and will be considered.

1. *Serving Children of Substance Abusers in the Child Welfare System*

Estimates indicate that at least one in eight young people are growing up with a substance abusing parent. There is widespread agreement that children of substance abusers who are also victims of child abuse and/or neglect are at significant risk for poor developmental outcomes and maladaptive behaviors. Yet, targeted prevention, intervention and treatment programs regarding substance abuse issues for children in the child welfare and dependency court systems are rare.

Workshops in this category might focus on the following topics:

- Child development in the context of parental substance abuse
- The effects of alcohol and other drugs on children
- Specific effects and interventions for Alcohol Related Birth Defects
- Identifying Children of Alcoholics and Children of Substance Abusers and interventions for them
- Developing service delivery models for Children of Alcoholics and Children of Substance Abusers

2. *Practice and Clinical Issues*

The processes of intake, screening, assessment and client engagement and retention in care are key practice and clinical issues that impact whether or not treatment is successful. Engagement and retention is often a difficult process with families involved in the child welfare system and dependency courts.

Workshops in this category might focus on the following topics:

- Working with parents with co-occurring mental health, trauma and substance use disorders
- Engaging parents and families in changing risky behaviors
- Improving retention of parents and families in substance abuse treatment
- Assessing risks of abuse and neglect, developmental status and interventions to children in the context of parental substance abuse

3. *Increasing Collaboration, Funding and Systems Issues*

No single agency, discipline, or profession possesses the skills or resources to address the full range of needs of families in the child welfare system who are affected by substance abuse. The ability of alcohol and other drug organizations, child welfare agencies and dependency courts to respond to the needs of these families and to collaborate with one another to serve these families is affected by their resources, their history, and their different organizational cultures.

Workshops in this category might focus on the following topics:

- Defining elements and strategies of collaborative policy and practice to link alcohol and other drugs, child welfare services and the dependency court
- Developing and measuring cross-system outcomes
- Identifying Children of Alcoholics and Children of Substance Abusers and interventions for them
- Model programs for effective collaboration

4. *Workforce and Staff Development*

The degree to which staff is trained and possess specific skills has enormous influence on the ability of agencies and the courts to produce positive outcomes for families. For successful collaboration to occur between the systems a foundation of cross training is important.

Workshops in this category might focus on the following topics:

- Diversity and cultural competence related to gender and ethnicity
- Model curricula for cross-system training
- Multi-disciplinary training using adult learning theory and techniques for alcohol and other drug, child welfare and family court professionals

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be selected based on their relevance to the conference's four focus areas. Submissions from tribal programs are encouraged.

Preference will be given to presentations that address

- Linkages between alcohol and other drug, child welfare services and the dependency court;
- Cultural competency;
- Quality materials and tools for participants to take knowledge and skills back to their communities.

Outline for Proposal Submission

Section I: Presenter information

- Name of primary presenter (primary contact for conference correspondence)
- Submit name, title, organization, complete mailing address, phone, fax and email address for each presenter
- Submit brief bio statement (not to exceed ½ page) and a current resume or Curricula Vitae for each presenter

Section II: Logistics

- List any times that you are not available to present on July 14 or 15, 2004
- Specify any audio-visual equipment to be requested (e.g., screen, overhead projector, LCD, portable computer for presentation, flipchart, etc.)

Section III: Workshop information (please begin this section on a new document page)

- Title
- Focus area:
 - Serving children of substance abusers in the child welfare system
 - Practice and clinical issues
 - Increasing collaboration and funding or systems issues
 - Workforce and staff development
 - Other: Specify
- 25-50 word description of your workshop for the conference brochure
- Time requested: 90 minute workshop or 3 hour symposium
- Presentation format:
 - Panel
 - Lecture
 - Facilitated discussion
 - Experiential exercise
 - Other: Specify
- Three to five specific learning objectives
- List up to three conferences at which the primary presenter has presented on topics specific to substance abuse, child welfare or dependency courts

Section IV: Workshop abstract (please begin this section on a new document page)

The abstract is not to exceed one single spaced page and should include:

- Overall goal of the workshop
- The type and level of staff the workshop is aimed toward
 - Beginning practitioner
 - Experienced professional
 - Manager or administrator
 - Researchers
 - Other: specify
- A description of the programmatic or research to be covered
- Types of handouts to be distributed to workshop attendees

Proposals must be received by 5 pm PST on December 5, 2003

Email submissions preferred

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714-505-3525 FAX 714-505-3626 Email: ncsacw@samhsa.gov