



## Healing Families Through The Family Drug Court Model: The El Paso County Colorado Family Treatment Drug Court A Model Program Since 2002

**Presented By**

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## Agenda

- Welcome And Opening Remarks
- Review of Data That Drove The Decision To Start a Family Treatment Drug Court (FTDC)
- Review of 11 Key Components
- System Synchronization: Joint Service Management
- Brief Review of Program Design and Outcomes
- How FTDC's Are Aligned with the Drug Endangered Children's



## Introductions

- **Julia L. Roguski, MA, LPC, CACIII**  
Director of Child Protection Services  
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Denver, Colorado
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Child Welfare Director  
El Paso County Department of Human Services  
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## Who's In The Room?

## Some Important History

- El Paso County Recognized The Need For Specialized Services For Substance Involved Families
  - Many Children Were Entering Foster Care and Not Returning Home
  - Fragmented Response to Cases By All Systems Involved
- Initial Work Group
  - Financial Situation Stopped Meetings
  - Brought in Savio Direct Link
  - Identified Joint Service Management Partners
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, DHS, TANF, Savio and AspenPointe

## Reasoning Behind Building The Partnership

- Identifying Necessary Partners
- Each System Was Asked to Bring Resources
  - AspenPointe – Dedicated a Staff Member
  - TANF – Assigned a Worker
  - DHS – Re-Assigned Staff
  - Savio – Had the Model, Hired and Trained Staff
  - Court – Dedicated Docket Time

## Doing Business Differently...

- “Joint Service Management” Requires Different Participation by Each Member
- Traditionally Services are Fragmented
- JSM Partners are Jointly Responsible for....
  - Program Design and Development
  - Continuous Quality Improvement
  - Case and Program Outcomes
  - Collection and Reporting of Data

## Making It Work

- Systemic Problems We Addressed Head On
  - Some of the JSM Partners were Competitors – This Was Shift In Their Relationship
  - Getting Judicial On Board – Changing Standard Practice
  - Developing Trust and Cooperation Within The Treatment Team
- Setting a Start Date
  - Ready, Start, Aim...
  - It's Important Not To Just Plan Forever – Nothing Would Ever Start

## 11 Key Components of Family Treatment Drug Courts

1. A Steering Committee Composed of Key Stakeholders Provide Advice In The Design and Operations of The Court
2. Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services That Are Integrated With Justice System Case Processing
3. Use of Non-Adversarial Approach, With Prosecution and Defense Counsel Promoting Public Safety While Protecting Participants Due Process Rights
4. Early Identification And Prompt Placement of Eligible Participants.

## 11 Key Components of Family Treatment Drug Courts

5. Access To A Continuum of Alcohol, Drug, And Other Related Treatment And Rehabilitation Services
6. Frequent Staffings (Team Meetings) Where Each Client's Progress, Strengths, Obstacles, and Options Are Discussed Individually, and Case Plans Are Updated As Needed
7. Frequent Alcohol and Other Drug Testing
8. A Coordinated Strategy That Governs Drug Court Response To Participants' Compliance

## 11 Key Components of Family Treatment Drug Courts

9. Judicial Interaction That is Ongoing With Each Drug Court Participant
10. Interdisciplinary Education That Promotes Effective Planning, Implementation and Operations
11. Partnerships Among Drug Courts, Public Agencies, And Community Based Organizations

## Program Design

## Entrance Criteria

- Referred Through DHS Intake
- Substance Abuse Primary Concern
- One Child Under the Age of 12
  - Focus on Younger Children (Under 6)
- At Least One Parent Willing To Participate
- Placement Prevention
  - Children Would Have Been Placed Were It Not For This Intervention

## Referral Process

- DHS Intake Worker Checks With DHS Gatekeeper
- Refers to Savio Direct Link
  - Intensive In-Home Services Begin Immediately
- Office of County Attorney Flags Case
- D&N Filed
- FTDC Counsel Appointed at Filing
- Waiver Provided To Family
- Pre-Trial In Front Of FTDC Magistrate
- Family Enters or Returns To Regular Docket System

## Program Capacity

- Program Serves 54 Families Through DHS and Grant Funding
- Average Length of Stay 12 Months 8 Days
- Use Of Outcomes to Promote Program Sustainability

# Treatment Philosophy

Strength Based  
with An Emphasis on  
Motivational Interviewing\*  
And  
Solution-Focused Brief Therapy

\*William Miller and Stephen Rollnick  
(1991). New York: Guilford Press

## Phases of Treatment

- Research Informed Program Development
- There are Four Phases of Treatment
  - Orientation
  - Achieving Sobriety
  - Treatment
  - After Care Planning and Treatment Completion
- These are Designed to Follow the Treatment Process
- Behaviorally Anchored to Make Advancement and Regression Consistent
- All Phases are Tied Into The Treatment Model

Rewards  
Sanctions  
and  
Treatment  
Responses

- Each Identified Behavior Will Have A Sanction Or Reward **AND** Treatment Response
- Rewards Will Occur Regularly Throughout The Treatment Process & In Court
- Sanctions Are Given During Each Court Hearing and on A Graduated Scale
- Sanctionable Offenses are Outlined in The FTDC Waiver
- Offenses are Cumulative From Acceptance Into FTDC Through Graduation
- Participants will Receive One Sanction or Reward Per Court Hearing (Highest Offense)
- The Focus is On Supporting The Change Process

## Rewards

- Reduced Drug Screening
- Decreased Court Appearance
- Reduced Intensity of Treatment
- Increased Visitation (If Applicable)
- Decrease In-Home Intensity
- Decreased Sanctions
- Pizza Certificates (90 Days Sobriety)
- Certificates Signed By Treatment Team
- Reunification (If Applicable)
- Commencement

## Court Sanctions

### Sanctionable Offenses

- Positive Drug Screens
  - Admission Prior to Result
  - Admission After Result
  - Denial
  - Missed or Dilute
- Failure to Appear in Court
- Failure to Meet with Savio Worker (In-Home Worker)

## Treatment Focused Sanctions

- Idea Is To Provide A "Meaningful" Sanction That Also Has A Treatment/Therapeutic Component
  - Understanding of Risk and Needs Level
- Treatment Team Using A Graduated Sanctions Guide To Help Determine An Appropriate Sanction
- Sanctions Are Reduced When A Client Is Honest
- Sanctions Include:
  - Useful Community Service
  - Writing Assignments
  - Watching A Court Docket
  - Other Individualized Sanctions
  - Jail Time

## Jail Time

- Jail Time Is Not Given For First Positive Drug Screen
- Will Be Used For Failure to Attend Substance Abuse Treatment More Quickly Than Positive Drug Screen (Emphasis on Importance of Treatment)
- Will Be Used for Failure to Meet With Savio Worker (In-Home Worker)

## Treatment Focused Implementation

- The Treatment Team Wants to Acknowledge The Process of Treatment and Recovery and Will Only Regress Participants for Having Three Violations in a 60 Day Period
- The Treatment Team Will Also Take Into Consideration Confirmable, Reasonable, Mitigating Circumstance Prior to Imposing A Sanction
- We Are Role Modeling Good Parenting, And Transparently Use Every Opportunity As A Teaching Moment

## Partnering With Drug Endangered Children

- Local Efforts
  - Local Alliance for Drug Endangered Children
  - National Center On Substance Abuse And Child Welfare (NCSACW) Pilot Site
  - Best Practices Court
- Many Of The Same People Were Involved In Each Group
- Local People Were Involved And Getting Involved With Colorado DEC

## Bringing Efforts Together

- Our Community Has A History of Successful Collaborations
- We Wanted To Coordinate Efforts, Eliminate Duplication, And Be As Productive As Possible
- Invited DEC To Make A Presentation
- Several Key Members Began Regularly Attending Colorado DEC Meetings
- Local Meth Task Force Decided To Formally Align With Colorado DEC

## Current Status

- Best Practices Court and The Local Alliance For Drug Endangered Children Work In Unison
- Continued Work BETWEEN The Groups To Share Knowledge And Improve Efficiency
- Sharing Knowledge and Best Practices
- Family Reunification Grant Brought Creative Positions
  - ADEC Executive Director
  - Respondent Parent Social Worker

## Relationship Is the Key To Change

- Family - Professionals
- Family – Extended Family/Kin
- Family - Community

## Family Treatment Drug Court 2010 Outcomes Summary

## Why Are Outcomes Important

- Quality Assurance
  - Feedback To Your Program Operations
- Funding and Support At The Macro Level
- Ability To Use Outcomes To Apply For Grants

## 2010 Program Summary

- 137 Families Served
  - 213 Adults
  - 267 Children
- 61 Families Discharged
  - 97 Adults
  - 128 Children
- Average Length of Stay 12 Months 6 Days



## Placement Of Children At Discharge

94% Were At Home or With Kin At Discharge

81%	Home
13%	Kinship Care

6% Foster Care or Other

## 1 Year Follow Up

61% **Successful**  
No Reports on State Child Welfare System

24% **Partial Success**  
Unfounded or Inconclusive Child Welfare Report

15% **Unsuccessful**  
Founded Child Welfare Report, Placement OR New Dependency and Neglect Petition Filed

## 5 Year Longitudinal Follow-Up Outcomes

Families Discharged 2005 – 2009

75% No Founded Report of Child Abuse/Neglect, Placement or New Dependency and Neglect Petition Filed

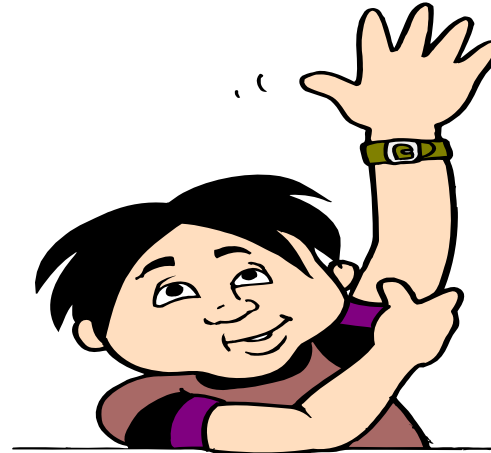
## Creative Funding During Fiscally Challenging Times

- Need Support of Top Administration
- These Families Are Being Served Somehow Within The System
- Sometimes Intervention is More Costly Up-Front
- Managing Funding Creatively
- Search For Grant Funding
- Develop Collaborative Partnerships With Equal Investment

## Some Resources

- Children and Family Futures
  - [www.cffutures.org](http://www.cffutures.org)
- National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (NADEC)
  - [www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Association (SAMHSA)
  - [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)
- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) & Office of Justice Programs Drug Courts Programs Office
  - [www.ojp.usdoj.gov](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov)
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
  - [www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org)
- National Association For Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and National Drug Court Institute (NDCI)
  - [www.NDCI.org](http://www.NDCI.org)

## Questions and Answers



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