



Evolution of Therapeutic Child Care (TCC) in Georgia

The early 1990's - the pilot stage

- How can we remove barriers for women seeking residential treatment for substance abuse?
- Who will care for their children?

Into the 21st century - the experimental stage

- How can we provide additional services for resident children?
- What do they really need?

Evolution Continues

Growing in the 2000's - the prevention stage

Can we provide improved, more targeted services for these children: potentially our next generation of addicted adults?

The next decade - building on early intervention

How can the youngest of children in our TCC programs receive the appropriate level of early intervention?

What we do now: What is this thing called TCC?

- A statewide network of 20 public and private programs within the Ready For Work substance abuse treatment programs for women.
- A group or series of services provided for the children of women at all levels of care.
- A nurturing environment that supports families working on recovery.
- A safe haven created by staff and program that can empower the women and children to grow in a positive, healthy way.
- A holistic approach to the children's needs, providing the critical connection to resources that can address their physical, mental, emotional and social development.

The Goals

- Healthier behavioral and relational patterns for the children and their families.
- Connect families to appropriately trained and skilled, pediatric medical and mental health professionals.
- Women in recovery learn to interact in a nurturing, constructive and healthy manner with their children; learning or regaining healthy parenting skills.
- Improve developmental and academic outcomes for the children.
- Increase children's knowledge of substance abuse issues.
- Reduce future risk for children to engage in tobacco use, underage drinking as well as abuse of alcohol and/or drugs.

How do we do what we do in TCC ? Processes

- Thorough intake process including a full biopsychosocial history for each child.
- Initial assessment complete within 30 days of child's entrance into their TCC program to include clinical interviews with mother and child as well as appropriate developmental, psychological and/or behavioral screenings.
- Needs identified in assessment are addressed as goals in a service plan which includes a description of services that will take place in the program as well as those service needs referred to other community providers.

More about Processes

- Introduce mothers and children to *Nurturing Parenting*® programs to support goals related to parenting as well as creating safe, supportive environments for children
- Age appropriate substance abuse prevention curricula provided for children by TCC staff or community prevention programs.

Expanding TCC Work - Collaboration with Prevention

- TCC historically relied upon Regional and State Prevention offices to support our inquiries regarding how to best serve youngest children and those in need of less intensive intervention.
- Prevention work becomes an area of focus for expansion TCC services in enhancing resiliency for these children.

Prevention Partnership

- 2002 State Prevention Office initiates TCC - TUPP (Tobacco Use Prevention Program) funding prevention programming for all TCC providers.
- 2004 TCC - TUPP becomes TCC - PP (Prevention Program) to expand prevention effort for TCC youth with inhalant abuse awareness.
- 2006 TCC - PP enhancement made possible when State funding provides training for all TCC programs in *Al's Pals*® and *Here, Now and Down the Road*® to answer prevention needs of preschool children and their mothers.
- 2011 TCC - PP expands focus to provide comprehensive prevention curricula in TCC to encourage awareness of all substance abuse risks, including tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

Other Annual Prevention Initiatives in TCC - PP

As a result of partnerships with various prevention entities, TCC - PP has engaged in annual actions and awareness campaigns such as

- National Children of Alcoholics and Addicts Week
- National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week
- Recovery Month
- Award winning Red Ribbon campaigns

Building on Early Intervention Partnerships

2009

Identified need to serve increased number of infants and very young children residing in treatment with mothers.

2010

- TCC Services links with State Public Health and Early Intervention Office to insure effective partnerships across state TCC programs.
- Select TCC staff trained as trainers for ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE developmental screening tools.
- TCC Consultant joins Early Childhood Comprehensive Services (now Peach Partners) Steering Committee and Developmental Screening subcommittee.
- All TCC provider staff statewide trained in used of developmental screening tools and appropriate referral processes and resources for children birth to 5.

Sustaining philosophy (hypotheses)

- TCC Programs strengthens families, builds the foundation for children to resist repeating the cycle of addiction, supports long term family recovery.

How can we know if TCC is succeeding?

Measuring Outcomes - TCC Evaluation Process

- Aggregate data for Nurturing Parenting groups utilizing AAPI-2 pre-post testing.
- Process data for children in TCC programs.
- Early data for developmental, academic, emotional and behavioral progress for children.
- In depth TCC evaluation plan; continue to work toward testing hypotheses that will enable determination of effectiveness of TCC services.

Where are we going?

- Everywhere; maximize our connections with the schools, DFCS, Drug Courts, Family Collaboratives, Early Interventions agencies, Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking, Regional Prevention Specialists, Churches, etc.
- Will funding go away? Can our partnerships help in a tough economy?
- Continue strengthening our partnerships with stakeholders; i.e. Child Protective Services continues to have a strong interest in family preservation and TCC can be a positive influence to support this goal.
- Communities across the state continue to have a need to know we are available and understand our goals.
- Not all TCC - PP programs are created equal; not all communities are created equal. We can endeavor to meet our communities unique needs, while continuing to operate from a foundation of good prevention, intervention and case management practice.

Contact us ! :)

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