



NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN  
Rescue. Define. Support. Empower.

Identifying Drug-Endangered Children  
A Collaborative Approach

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our Goal:  
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children

100%



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Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)



Children + Drugs = Risk

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**Understanding Risk**



Risk (n.): **The chance of something going wrong;** the danger that injury, damage or loss will occur.

-Encarta Dictionary of North America

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**Understanding Risk**



- **All** drug endangered children are **at risk**
- **How much risk** and **risk for what** varies

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**Understanding Risk**

**58.7%** of child maltreatment victims  
 And  
**80%** of child maltreatment fatalities  
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**Children ages 0 to 3**

SOURCE: Every Child Matters

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### Understanding Risk



A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds

SOURCE: childhelp.org

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### Understanding Risk



**3.3 Million referrals of 5.9 Million Children**

SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012

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### Understanding Risk



**1.9 Million referrals screened for investigation**

SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012

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### Understanding Risk

1/5 of the investigations found one child a victim of abuse or neglect

SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012

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### Understanding Risk

4/5 of the investigations determined child was not a victim of abuse or neglect

SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012

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### Understanding Risk

- In CT - 95,000 calls received in 2010
  - About 45,000 of the calls were deemed worthy of some further inspection but,
  - eventually, only about half (23,000) of those were serious enough to warrant full investigations

SOURCE: CT Director of the CAN Hotline

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### Understanding Risk

Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime.

SOURCE: childhelp.org

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### Understanding Risk

As many as two-thirds of the people in treatment for drug abuse reported being abused or neglected as children.

SOURCE: childhelp.org

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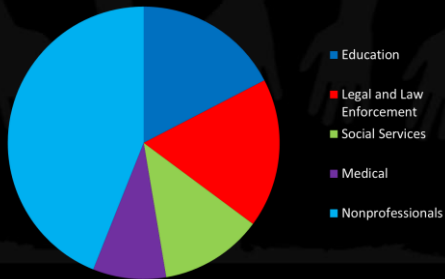
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### Understanding Risk

Who reported child maltreatment?



SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012

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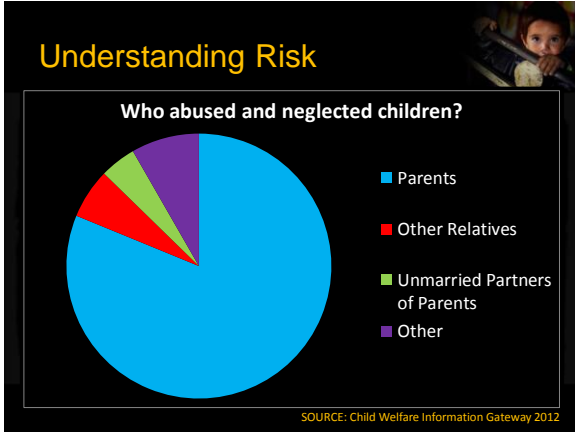
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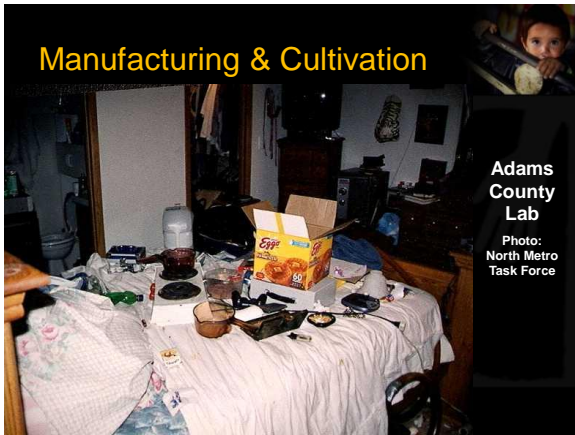
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True Stories

[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

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## Evidence of Harm

- When do we take action to protect children?
- Do we consider illicit drug activity alone justification to intervene?
- Do we wait until additional maltreatment circumstances arise?
- What if we wait too long?

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## Our Goal:

Healthy, Happy & Safe Children

# 100%

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## Collaborative Mindset



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## Collaborative Mindset

COLLABORATION:

[E]xchange of information, altering of activities, sharing of resources, and **enhancement of the capacity of another for the mutual benefit of all** and to achieve a common purpose.

Chris Huxham, *Creating Collaborative Advantage*

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## Collaborative Mindset

WHY collaboration is challenging:

- Competing goals
- Relationship issues
- Control issues
- Differing values
- Helplessness
- Un-channeled passion/energy

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## Collaborative Mindset

- Law Enforcement
  - Evidence collection
  - Arrests
  - Criminal prosecution
- Child Protective Services
  - Child risk assessment
  - Safety plans
  - Reunification or termination




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## Collaborative Mindset

- Forming
- Storming
- Norming
- Performing
- Adjourning or Transforming

Developed by Bruce Tuckman - 1965

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## Collaborative Mindset

	Knowledge is Hidden	Knowledge Creation	
Trust Unknown	Forming	Performing	Synergy
Distrust	Storming	Norming	Collaboration
	Knowledge Hoarding	Knowledge Sharing	

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## Law Enforcement Specific

- Law Enforcement
  - Evidence collection
  - Arrests
  - Criminal prosecution

**Primary Focus**

- PUBLIC SAFETY
- CRIMINAL ACTIVITY / DRUGS




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## Child Welfare Specific

- Child Protective Services
  - Child safety & risk assessments
  - Safety plans & removal/placement
  - Permanency (Reunification, termination)

**Primary Focus**

- CHILD AT RISK




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### Collaborative Mindset

By collaborating, we increase the likelihood of success for the good of children & families

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### Collaborative Mindset

Break the cycle of abuse & neglect for the next generation

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## The Trigger and the Follow-up

- The 1st response is an opportunity to identify and intervene and it should.....
  - trigger a systemic response, rather than a simple referral
- Then—a good handoff, followed by lasting efforts
- The judicial system and child welfare together = monitors of accountability and opportunity to provide better service to children.

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# Collaboration

[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

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## Collaborative Mindset

- Law Enforcement/Child Welfare
  - LE evidence collection
    - Identify and Report
    - Facts relevant to Risk/Safety/Plan
    - Protective Custody
  - CW information (risk/safety)
    - Children/Placement/History
    - Known Weapons
    - Other Occupants/Floor Plan




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# Collaborative Mindset

- Law Enforcement/Child Welfare
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    - Children/Placement/History
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**Primary Focus** – Child at Risk, Public Safety and Drugs

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# LE/CW Collaborative




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**LE/CW Collaborative**

**Investigation**

- Build a case (children + drugs = risk)
  - Surveillance
  - Buys
  - Knock & Talks
  - Trash pulls
    - If signs of children, immediately notify CW (if kids are present or not)
    - If CW follow up is immediate, make LE silent partners
    - Negotiate case steps and timeline (2 buys for search warrant)

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**LE/CW Collaborative**

**Gathering Information**

- Silent Partners
  - Talk with LE to discuss plan & gather/share information
  - Interview children
  - Interview alleged perpetrators/parents/caretakers
  - Talk with professionals (probation, parole, educators, medical, etc.) to gather information
  - Determine placement

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## LE/CW Collaborative

### Execution of Search Warrant

- Entry/Safety Plan (children + drug = risk)
  - Notify child welfare of execution of warrant
  - Surveillance (signs of children?)
  - Briefing
    - ✓ High likelihood children present?
    - ✓ Plan accordingly
  - Make safe entry
  - Reduce trauma
    - ✓ If children are present develop positive rapport

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## LE/CW Collaborative

### Evidence Collection

- Check children for signs of abuse/neglect with child welfare
- Photograph and document risks to children in partnership with child welfare
  - Evidence of risk of neglect
  - Evidence of risk of abuse
  - Evidence of risk of exposure to illegal activity
- Maintain rapport with child
- Share documentation and photos with child welfare

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## LE/CW Collaborative

### Placement Decision

- Removal and placement as needed; work with law enforcement (court order vs. protective order vs. protective custody vs. safety plan)
- If court order, protective order or protective custody notify child welfare county attorney
- Prepare dependency and neglect report with all information obtained (documented: photos, videos and reports from LE if available)

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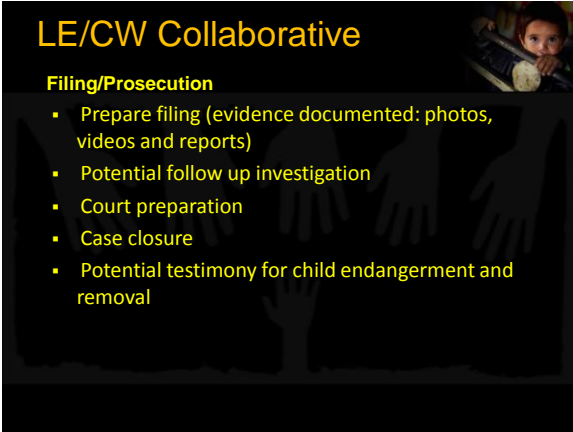
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## LE/CW Collaborative

**Filing/Prosecution**

- Prepare filing (evidence documented: photos, videos and reports)
- Potential follow up investigation
- Court preparation
- Case closure
- Potential testimony for child endangerment and removal



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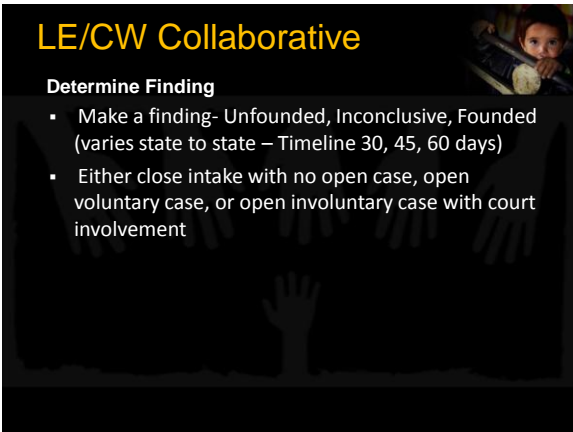
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## LE/CW Collaborative

**Determine Finding**

- Make a finding- Unfounded, Inconclusive, Founded (varies state to state – Timeline 30, 45, 60 days)
- Either close intake with no open case, open voluntary case, or open involuntary case with court involvement



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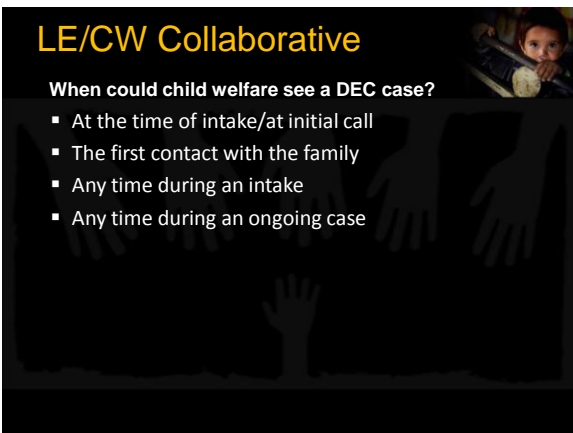
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## LE/CW Collaborative

**When could child welfare see a DEC case?**

- At the time of intake/at initial call
- The first contact with the family
- Any time during an intake
- Any time during an ongoing case



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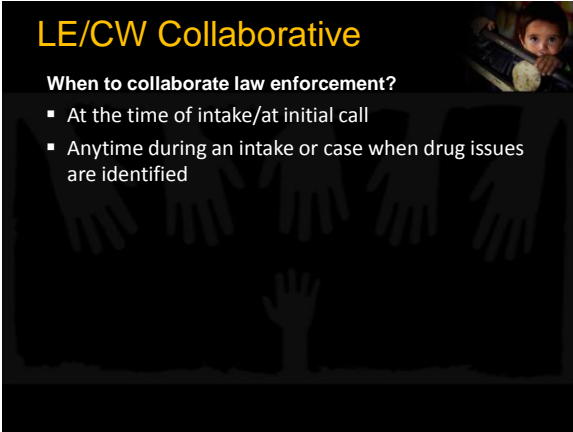
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## LE/CW Collaborative

When to collaborate law enforcement?

- At the time of intake/at initial call
- Anytime during an intake or case when drug issues are identified



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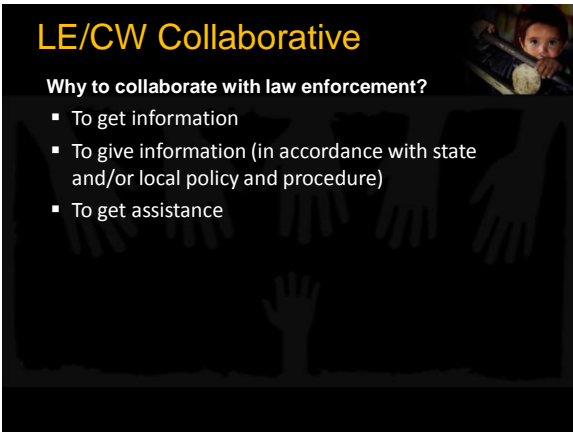
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## LE/CW Collaborative

Why to collaborate with law enforcement?

- To get information
- To give information (in accordance with state and/or local policy and procedure)
- To get assistance



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## Collaborative Mindset



- Criminal Justice
- Child Welfare
- Judicial: Legal Representation
- Medical
- Drug Treatment
- Education

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**Collaborative Mindset**

Criminal Justice  
Child Welfare  
Judicial: Legal Representation  
Medical  
Drug Treatment  
Education

**DEC**

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**Our Goal:**  
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children

**100%**

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**Thank You**

[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

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