



Alignment for Drug Endangered Children
Lori Moriarty
9th Annual National DEC Conference
Des Moines, IA
October 23, 2012



our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children
100%



Understanding Risk

In 2010
3.3 Million referrals of
5.9 Million Children to
CPS

SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012

Understanding Risk

Screened to determine if there is enough information to warrant an investigation

SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012

Understanding Risk

1.9 Million screened for investigation

SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012

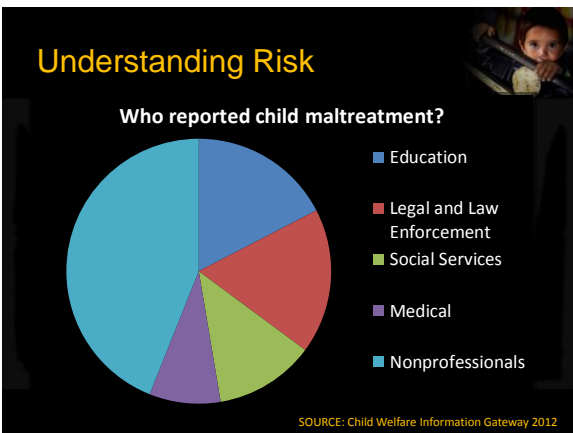
Understanding Risk

Make a finding
- Unfounded
- Inconclusive
- Founded

SOURCE: Child Welfare Information Gateway 2012








Understanding Risk



DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

April 4, 2002:
Meet Brandon

Understanding Risk

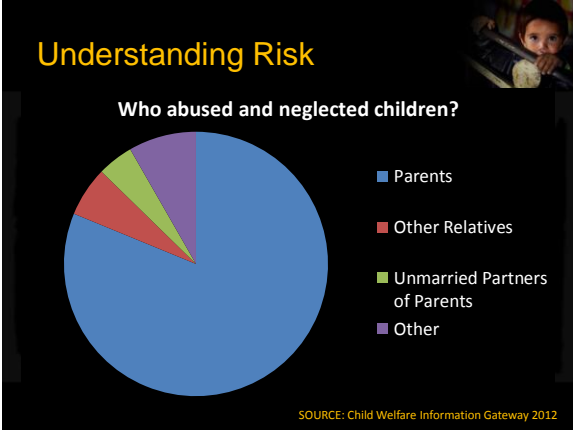


Adams County Lab

Photo:
North Metro Task Force

**CHILDREN
AT RISK**

www.nationaldec.org



Understanding Risk

- Children whose parents abuse alcohol or drugs are:
 - 3 times more likely to be verbally, physically or sexually abused
 - 4 times more likely than other children to be neglected

SOURCE: A Guide for Caring Adults Working with Young People Experiencing Addiction in the Family, CSAT, SAMHSA

Understanding Risk


Children of parents with substance use disorders have a higher likelihood of developing substance use problems themselves.

SOURCE: (CSAT 2005, Price & Simmel, 2002, Young, Gardner & Dennis, CSAT, 2004)

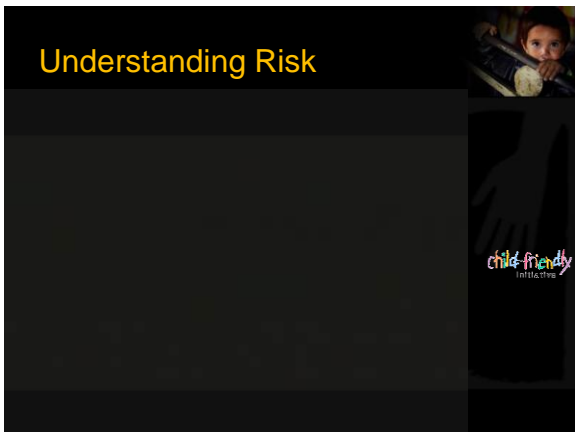
Understanding Risk

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

SOURCE: childhelp.org



Understanding Risk




child-friendly initiative

Understanding Risk



Children + Drugs = Risk

Understanding Risk



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


-Encarta Dictionary of North America

Understanding Risk



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

Understanding Risk



- Risk of Physical Abuse
 - **Erratic discipline**
 - Severe, inconsistent & inappropriate discipline
 - **Increased irritability**
 - **Irrational rage**

Understanding Risk



- Risk of Neglect
 - Lack of supervision
 - Lack of necessities
 - Lack of safe and nurturing environment
 - Neglect of basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, supervision

Understanding Risk



- Risk of Exposure to Illegal Activities
 - Property Crimes
 - Drug dealing
 - Drug transporting
 - Kidnapping
 - Home invasions

Understanding Risk



- Other Risks
 - Exposure to violence
 - Domestic
 - Crime-related
 - Overlay deaths
 - Exposure and ingestion
 - Sexual abuse
 - Emotional Abuse
 - Disruption of parent/child relationship, child's sense of trust, belonging

Understanding Risk



- Other Risks
 - Loss
 - Parents
 - Death
 - School
 - Sibling Separation
 - Pets (loss or death)
 - Home


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

Children at Risk

- On daughter's 10th birthday, daughter told teacher and school resource officer about drugs in her house.
- SRO advised taskforce of the information
- Task force executed search warrant and discovered meth lab
- Father's first phone call from jail



Courtesy of Eric Nation, Jasper Sheriff's Office, IA.



Children at Risk



Dad: Are you there? Daughter: Ya
 Dad: How does it feel to know you just sent your dad to prison for a long time? Daughter: Sorry
 Dad: No you're not f@%-#** sorry! You had no business saying this s*#@ to anybody! All you had to do is say something to me or grandma! What f@%-#** business did you have going running your f@%-#** mouth at school?
 Daughter: Sorry
 Dad: No! No sorry my a**! This is no sorry to it! Answer my question! Why did you go run your f@%-#** mouth at school?
 Daughter: I had no business
 Dad: No! You didn't have no business! But, thanks to you, I will be spending a lot of time in prison! I'm done talking to you! Bye!

Children at Risk



- Daughter arrested years later for felony theft
- Daughter has been in and out of the criminal justice system on numerous occasions



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?





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.

Collaborative Mindset

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

Collaborative Mindset

Break the cycle of abuse & neglect for the next generation







Evidence of Risk

Questions To Ask:

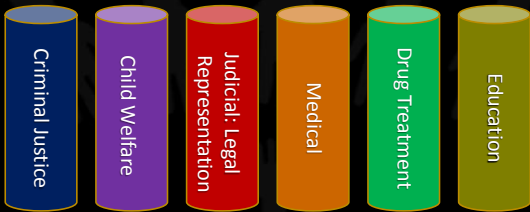
- What evidence can you look for that shows the risk of physical abuse?
- What evidence can you look for that shows the risk of neglect?
- What evidence can you look for that shows the risk of exposure to illegal activity?
- What other evidence can you look for that shows risks?

Long Term Needs

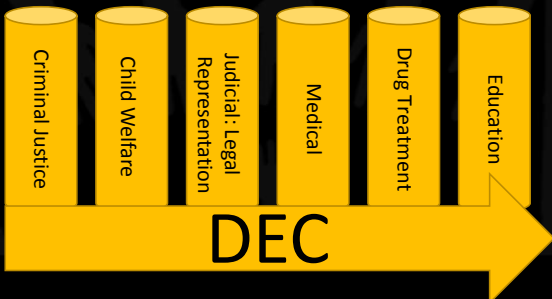
Questions To Ask:

- What evidence can you look for that shows the emotional problems?
- What evidence can you look for that shows the behavioral problems?
- What evidence can you look for that shows the cognitive problems?

Collaborative Mindset

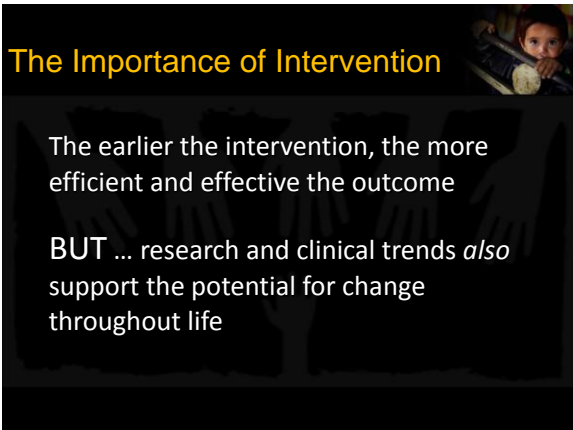


Collaborative Mindset





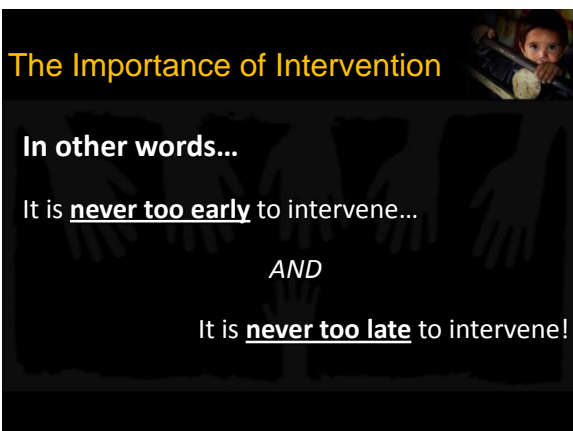
We ALL have an **intervention** and **prevention** role to play



The Importance of Intervention

The earlier the intervention, the more efficient and effective the outcome

BUT ... research and clinical trends *also* support the potential for change throughout life



The Importance of Intervention

In other words...

It is **never too early** to intervene...

AND

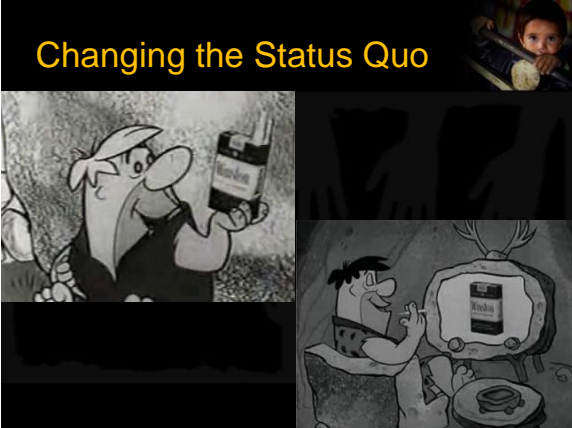
It is **never too late** to intervene!

Changing the Status Quo

Changing our attitudes and beliefs



Changing the Status Quo



Changing the Status Quo

