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Assessing Family Needs in Adult Drug Courts

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Acknowledgement

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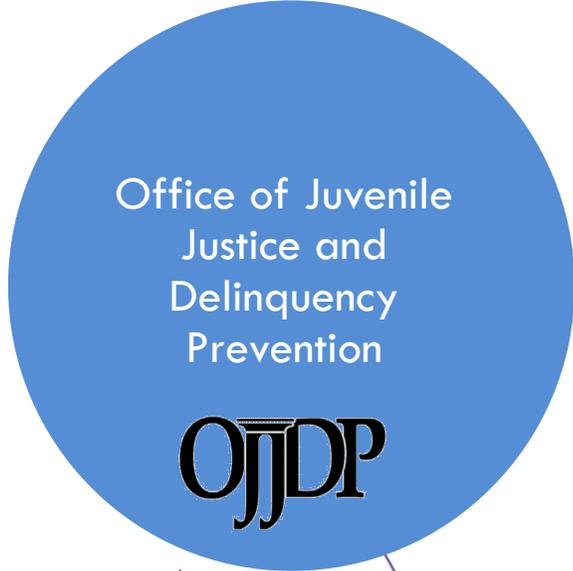
The Office of Juvenile Justice and
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*Improving
Family
Outcomes*

*Strengthening
Partnerships*





Learning Objectives

1. Gain greater understanding why addressing family needs is vital for collaborative court professionals improving individual and family outcomes in collaborative courts.
2. Explore practice and policy implications for addressing family needs that impact individuals whose child neglect stems from substance abuse and prior emotional trauma, including the need for greater collaboration within the collaborative courts and the community.
3. Learn about the Family Strengths and Needs Survey and its capacity to improve case processing for attorneys at the beginning of the collaborative court referral process by reviewing the outcomes of implementation in pilot projects.



Core Messages

- **Don't forget the children - treatment is about families**
- **Recovery for both parent and child occurs in the context of family**



8.3 million children

** 2002 – 2007 SAMHSA National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)*



60-75%
of participants in
adult drug courts
have at least
one minor child

Did You Know?

Raising the Bar – All Drug Courts are Family Courts



- Collaborative Courts **hold parents responsible** for their recovery and their parenting
- But to function effectively, courts must also **hold the system accountable** for responding to the needs of children
- If treatment has a family dimension, collaborative courts must **raise the bar on their capacity to serve families**



Addiction as a Family Disease

Developmental impact

Generational Impact

Psycho-social impact

Impact on parenting



Family Recovery

Developmental
assessment and
services

Drug treatment
and prevention

Mental health
services

Parenting and
parent-child
relationship

Family-Centered Approach



Recognizes that addiction is **a family disease** and that recovery and well-being occurs **in the context of families**



What is the impact

*of parental substance use disorders
on children?*

- 
- A close-up photograph of a baby's face, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The baby has dark hair and eyes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus yellowish-brown.
- Prenatal exposure
 - Postnatal environment:
 - Living with a parent with a substance use disorder
 - Trauma
 - Separation and attachment

Impact on the Child

Prenatal Exposure



- Prenatal screening studies document **11-15%** of infants were prenatally exposed to alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- The most severe consequence of exposure to alcohol during pregnancy is **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)**, the largest **preventable** cause of birth defects and mental retardation
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)** – full range of effects

Impact on the Child

- Executive functioning problems, inability to self-regulate and to generalize across situations
- Gross and fine motor delays
- Attention problems
- Memory difficulties
- Attachment disorders



Children of parents with substance use disorders are at an increased risk for developing their own substance use and mental health problems.

Postnatal Environment – Potential Impact of Living in Substance Abusing Family

The potential impact on the child can range from:

- Severe, inconsistent, or inappropriate discipline
- Neglect of basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, and supervision
- Situations that jeopardize the child's safety and health (e.g., drug manufacturing and trafficking)
- Trauma as a result of all of the above as well as from removal
- Disruption of parent/child relationship, child's sense of trust and belonging
- Chronic trauma of childhood

Sources of Trauma in the CWS Population



- Neglect
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Placement history

Source: E. Telford, Children's Research Triangle, 2012

Trauma disrupts all aspects of normal development,

especially during infancy and early childhood, including:

- Brain development
- Cognitive growth and learning
- Emotional self-regulation
- Attachment to caregivers and social emotional development
- Trauma predisposes children to subsequent psychiatric difficulties

Childhood Trauma



Source: Lieberman et al., 2003

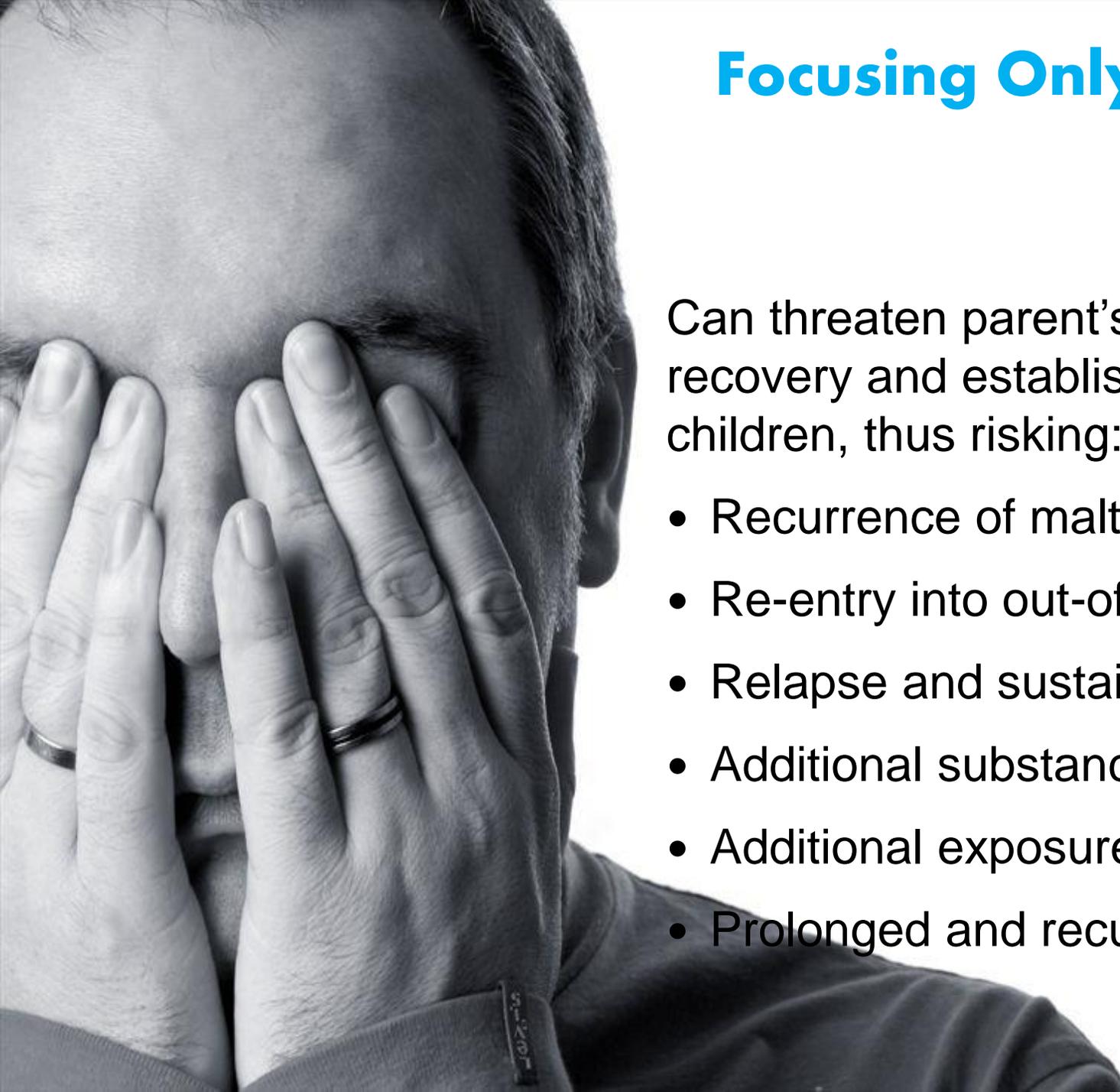
We Know the Costs: Children of Parents with a Substance Use Disorder



- They are children who arrive at kindergarten not ready for school
- They are in special education caseloads
- They are disproportionately in foster care and are less likely to return home
- They are in juvenile justice caseloads
- They are in residential treatment programs



What is the relationship
between children's issues
and parent's recovery?



Focusing Only on Parent's Recovery Without Addressing Needs of Children

Can threaten parent's ability to achieve and sustain recovery and establish a healthy relationship with their children, thus risking:

- Recurrence of maltreatment
- Re-entry into out-of-home care
- Relapse and sustained sobriety
- Additional substance exposed infants
- Additional exposure to trauma for child/family
- Prolonged and recurring impact on child well-being

Parenting in Adult Drug Courts

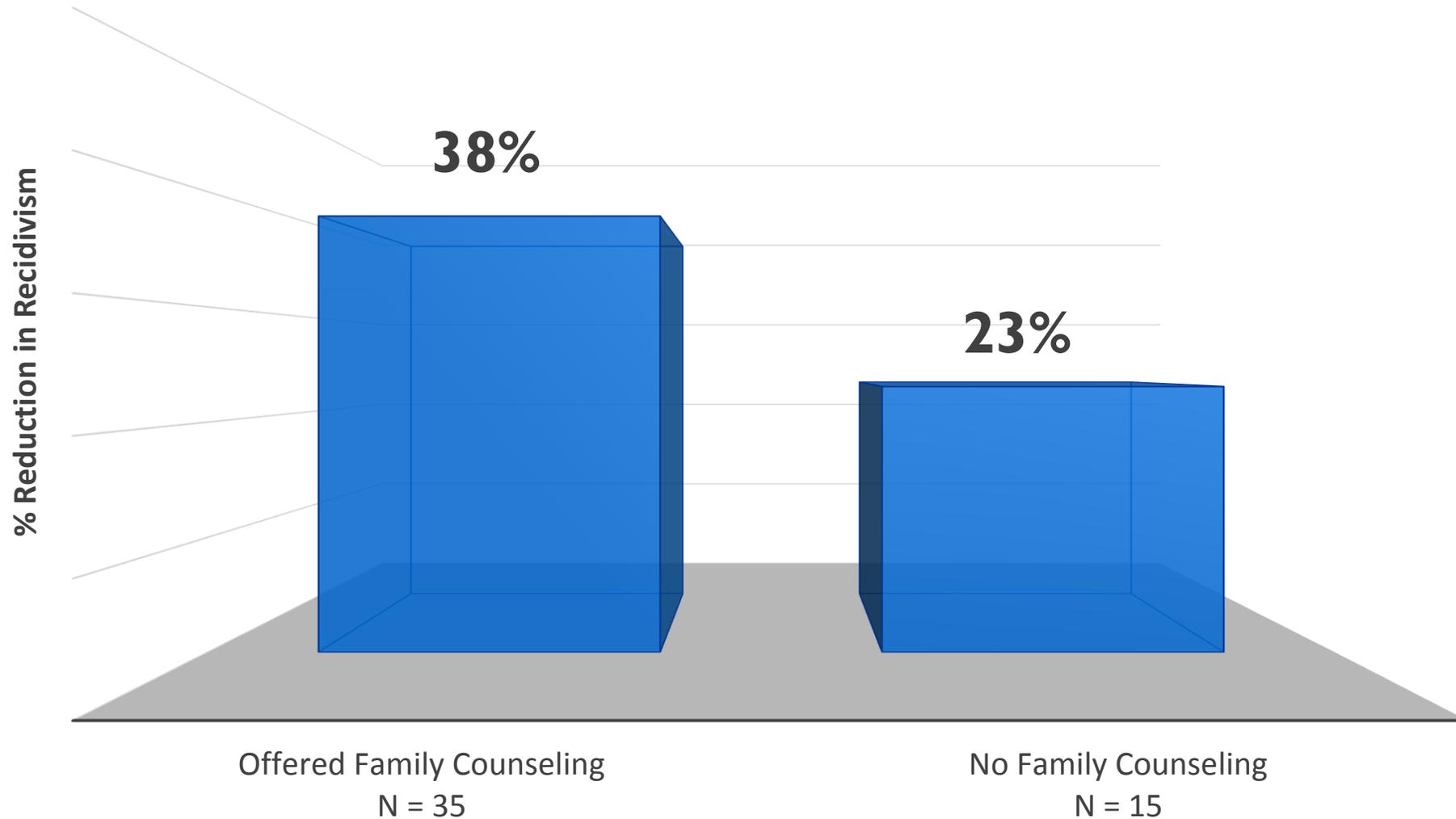


Adult Drug Courts that provided parenting classes had **65% greater reductions** in criminal recidivism and **52% greater cost savings** than Drug Courts that did not provide parenting classes.

Source: Carey, S.M., Mackin, J.R., & Finigan, M.W. (2012). What works? The 10 key components of Drug Court: Research-based best practices. Drug Court Review.



Drug Courts That Offer Family Counseling Had 65% Greater Reductions in Recidivism



We are learning more about

Serving Families

Serving Children



Children Affected by Meth Grants



- **Funded by SAMHSA** to focus on expanding and/or enhancing **services to improve the well-being, permanency and safety outcomes of children**
- **12 Grantees** awarded; \$1.4 million over 4 years
- **Wide range** of program designs and program strategies
- Designated Services Coordinator

Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) Grant Program



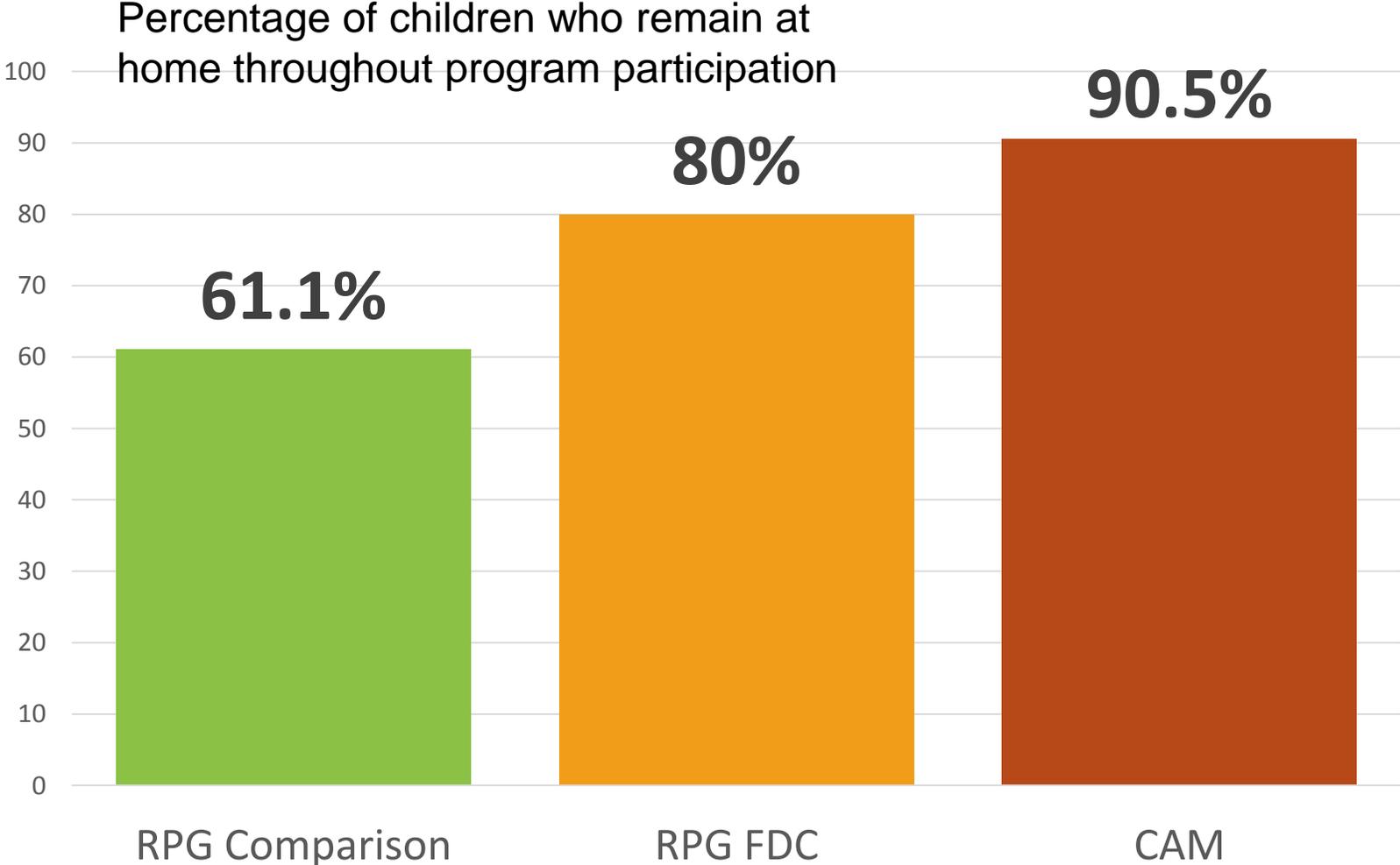
3,213 Children
1,972 Adults
1,496 Families

Challenges Being Addressed by CAM Grantees

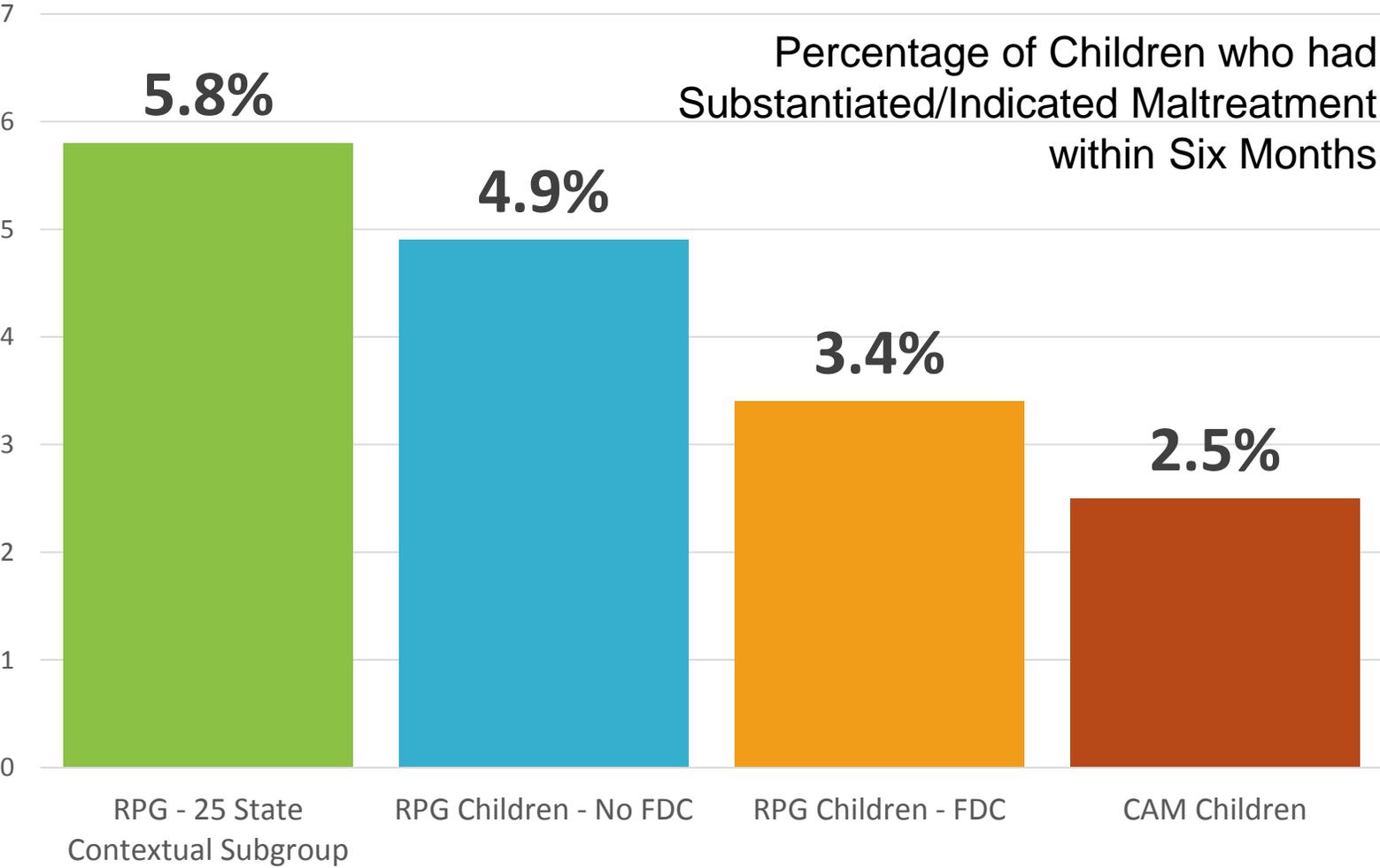


- Parents need understanding and skill to meet children's needs
- Children need comprehensive assessments and services
- Parents and children need assessments and services to address trauma and relationship issues
- Families need access to supportive services following reunification

Remained in Home



Recurrence of Child Maltreatment





It's imperative that Adult Drug Courts identify the strengths and weaknesses of the family if they are to maximize the Court experience for primary adult participant.

3Ns

NUMBERS

NEEDS

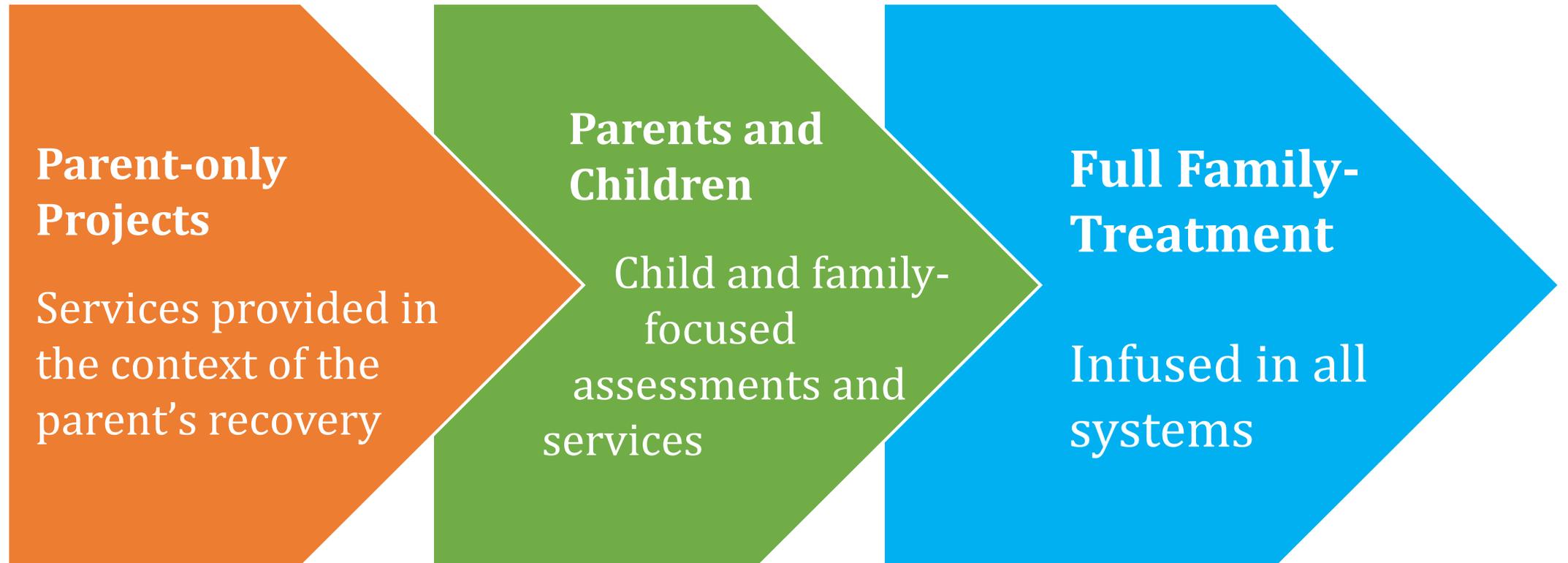
NETWORK

A Framework



It's a Developmental Process

1) Practice Improvements in the Field at Large (Macro)



2) Progression During Each Court's Life Cycle (Micro)

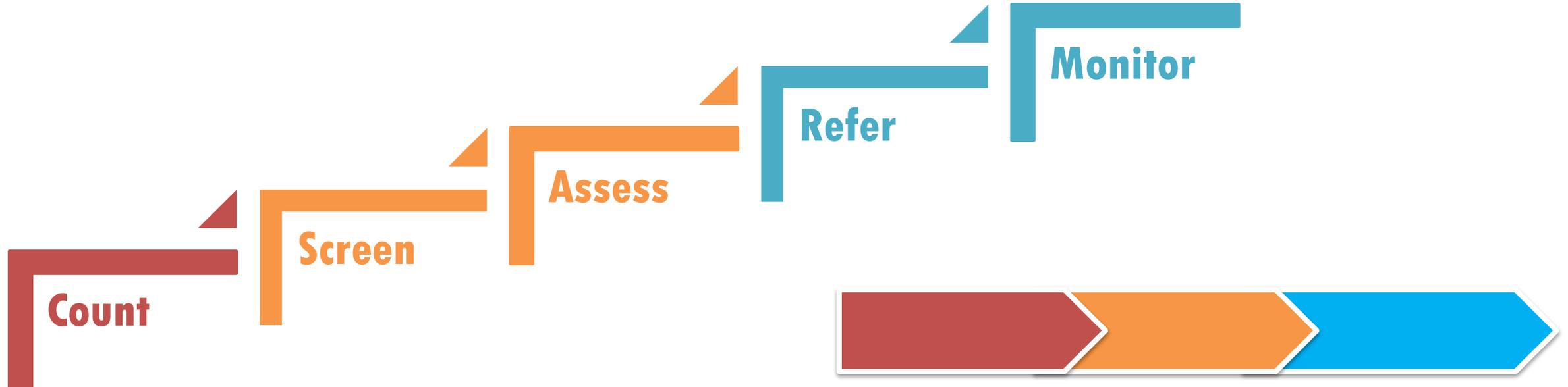
Serving Children & Families – A Developmental Process

3Ns

Numbers

Needs

Network





3Ns

NUMBERS

How can Adult Drug Courts determine the **number of children associated with participant adults?**

You can't coordinate what you can't count.

Numbers

- How will your Court ask clients if they have children?
- How will your Court ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location and quality of relationship)?
- Ask questions about **family status** at intakes?
- Strategize on how to get **entire family into treatment** to assist in identification of parental drug use and facilitate treatment
- Ensure that **court information systems** include tracking of family members



3Ns

NEEDS

How can Adult Drug Courts determine the needs of children and families associated with participant adults?

What services and supports do these children and families need?

Needs – Guiding Questions

- Are child's medical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional needs assessed?
- How will your Court ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings and assessments?
- Has the child and family been assessed for trauma? Relationship issues?
- Did the child receive appropriate interventions or services for the identified needs?
- Do the parents have an understanding of the child's identified needs? Are they able to cope with the child's needs?
- Does the family have access to long-term supportive services?
- Are you providing training and education to the Court Team, including judicial leaders on the importance of serving children and families?

Action Planning Ideas – Intake & Services

- How will your Court ask adult clients if they have children?
- How will your Court ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location, and quality of relationship)?
- How will your Court ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings, assessments, intervention and treatment services?
- How will you ensure that children are screened for services?
- How will you ensure that questions about child and family status are asked at intake?
- *“How are your kids doing?”*

3Ns



NETWORKS

How can Adult Drug Courts build lasting effective networks or partnerships to respond to the needs of these children?

You don't have to do it alone— that's what collaborative means!

Building A Network of Services

- How will you refer and follow-up to outside agencies with children's services?
 - You need an inventory of children's services
 - Ask your Family Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, VTC, 0-3
 - Ask local coordinating bodies
 - Ask local congregations
 - Community mapping
 - Join a community coalition
- How will you ensure availability of evidence-based, family-centered treatment services?
 - Community mapping
 - Understand what already exists

Comprehensive Treatment and Support

- Family-centered services
 - Interventions with parents and children
 - Attached focused interventions
 - Successful visitation (therapeutic)
- Evidence-based treatment and services
 - Peer/Parent mentors
 - Home services
 - Recovery support specialists
 - Parenting services
- Gender-responsive
- Trauma-informed and focused
- Clinically sound, non-judgmental and nurturing relationships with staff
- Ongoing support

Network - Guiding Questions



- Do you refer and follow-up to outside agencies with children's services?
- Are child and family-serving agencies on your collaborative team?
- Are you mobilizing and linking to new resources from other agencies that already serve children and families?

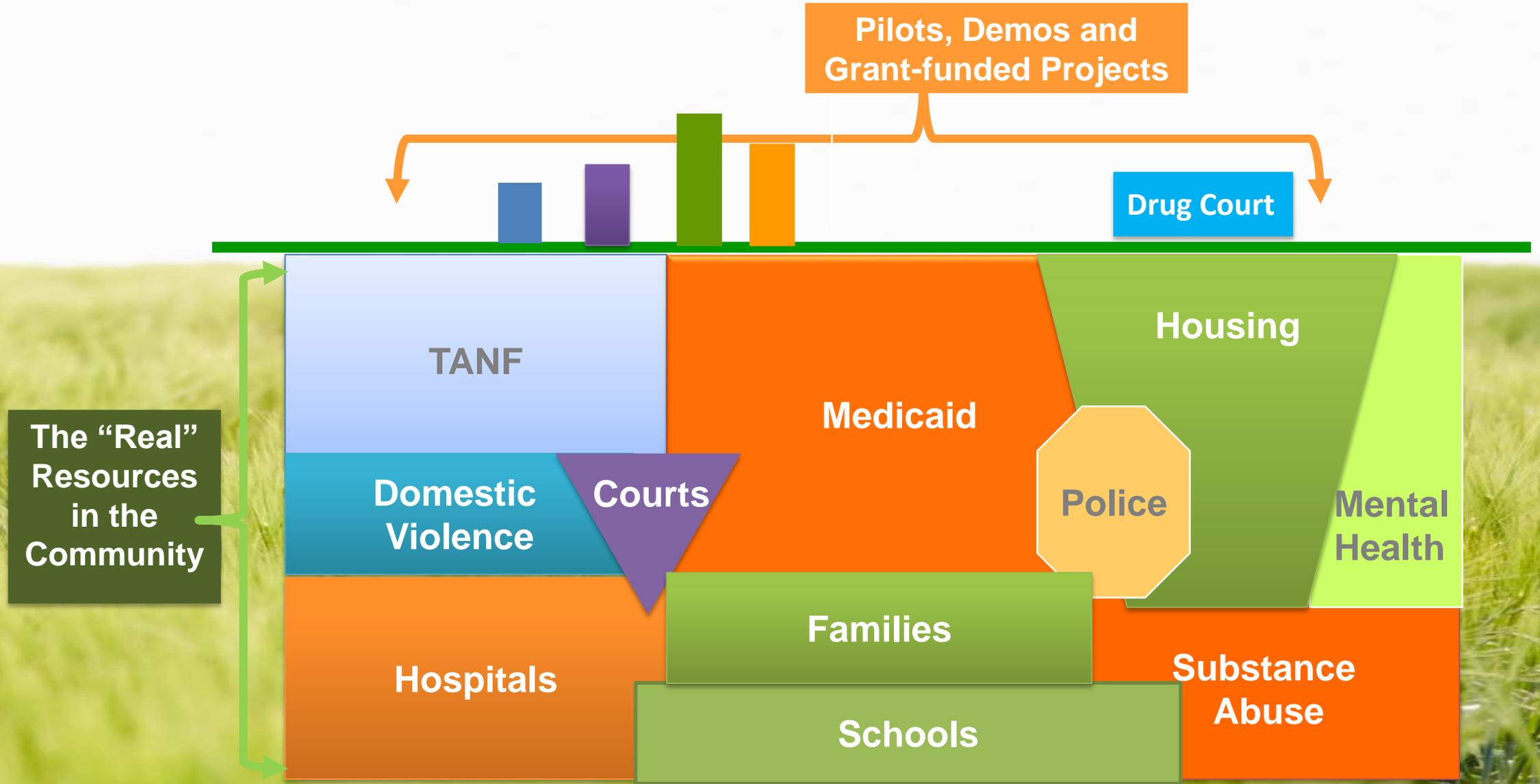
You Don't Have Do It Alone



- The task is not diverting funds from your Court, but to mobilize and link to existing services or accessing *funds already available for children's services*
- Securing their fair share of \$350 billion in existing children's programs:
 - Maternal and child health
 - Mental health
 - Child development
 - Youth services
 - Special education
 - Delinquency prevention

Are child and family-serving agencies on your collaborative team?

Redirection of Resources Already Here



Importance of a Cross-Systems Response

- Effective family interventions require **collaboration** to facilitate meaningful and sustainable family involvement and successful individual and family outcomes.
- Interventions are most effective when implemented within the context of a **coordinated, cross-system approach**.
- Interventions should consider children's and family's ecology—extended family, peers, school and neighborhood.

The Collaborative Structure for Leading Change



Systems Walk-Through

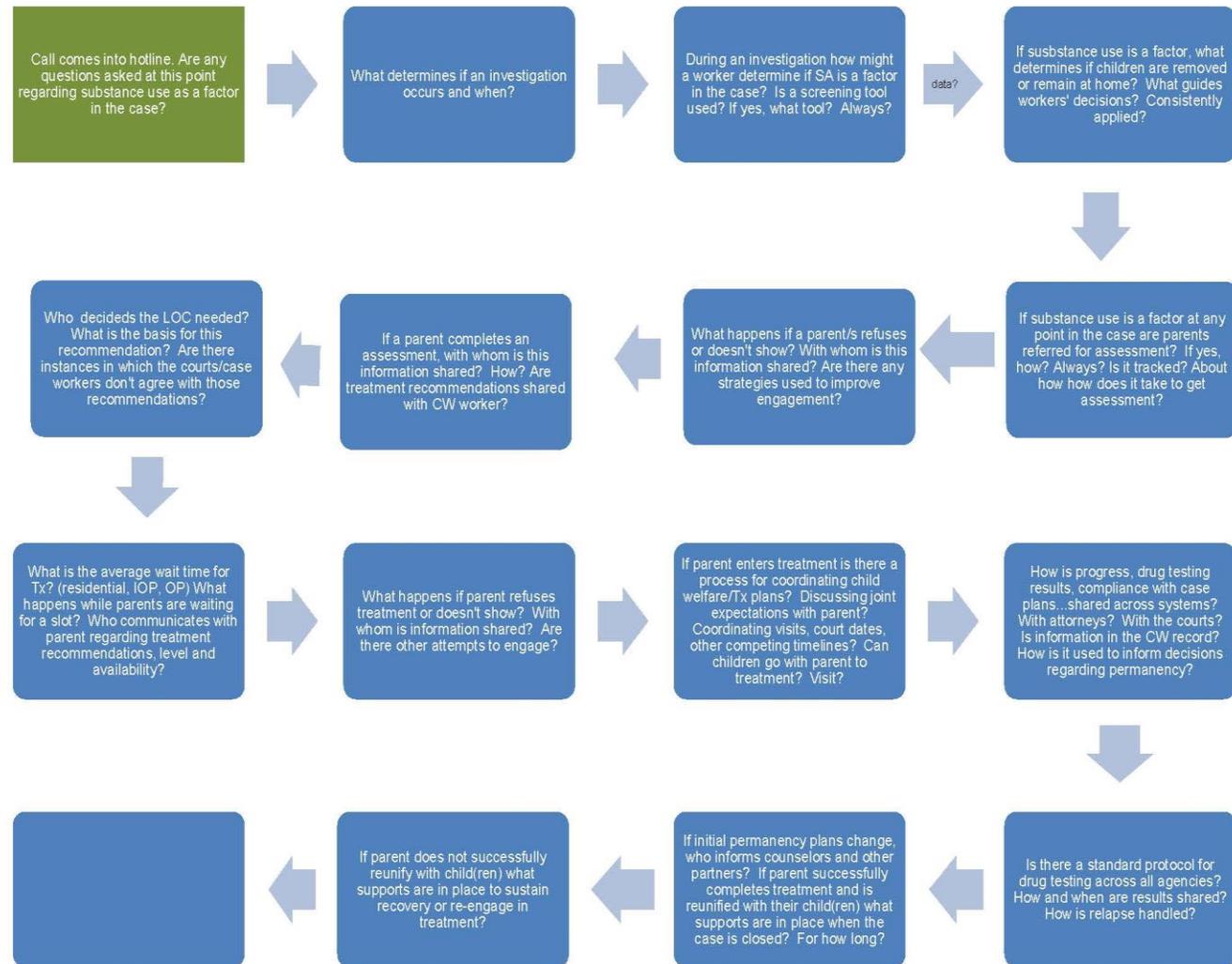
Screening

Assessment

Referral

Monitoring

Flow Chart: Child Welfare Involved Families With Substance Use Disorders



Continues on page 2

How do you know.....

How will you.....



- How are families doing?
- Doing good vs. harm?
- What's needed for families?
- Monitor and improve performance?
- Demonstrate effectiveness?
- Secure needed resources?

What Outcomes Do You Want to Monitor?

Do you have families involved in the Child Welfare System?

Family Reunification – are children being reunified with parents?

Do you have families involved in custody cases?

Visitation – are children seeing non-custodial parent?

Do the children need special intervention services (i.e. mental health services)?

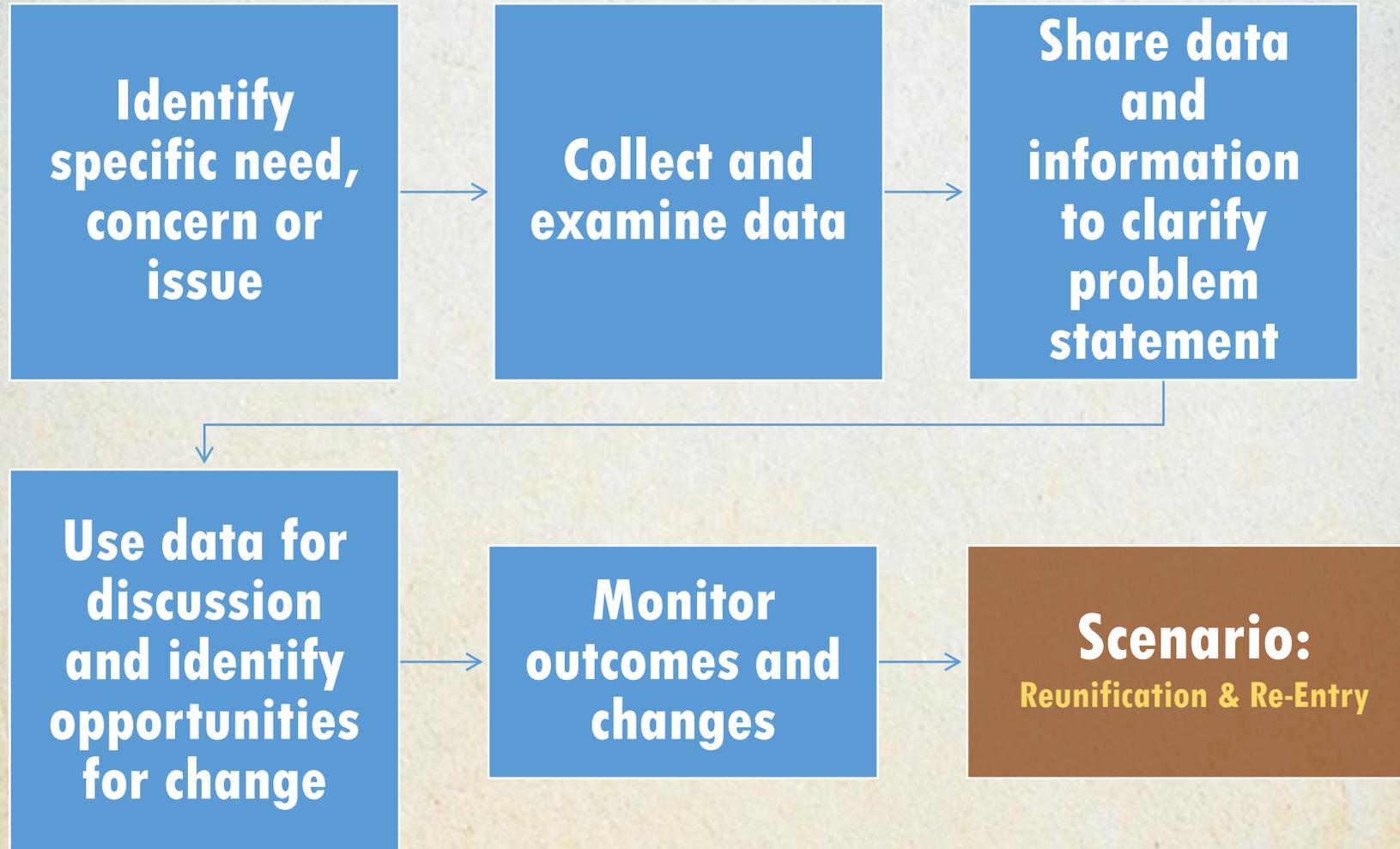
Evidence-Based Programs – are they making progress by participating?



Data Dashboard

- What needles are you trying move?
- What outcomes are the most important?
- Is there shared accountability for “moving the needle” in a measurable way?
- Who are we comparing to?
- Is there room for children’s outcomes? Do we care enough to count?

Data-Driven & Problem-Focused: Identifying Opportunities for Change



Holding Each Other Accountable

- Our systems hold parents responsible for their recovery and their parenting
- Our systems must also hold each other accountable to improve the outcomes for families affected by substance use disorder



Culture of Accountability!

Family Strengths and Needs Survey

A Resource

The Montana Experience



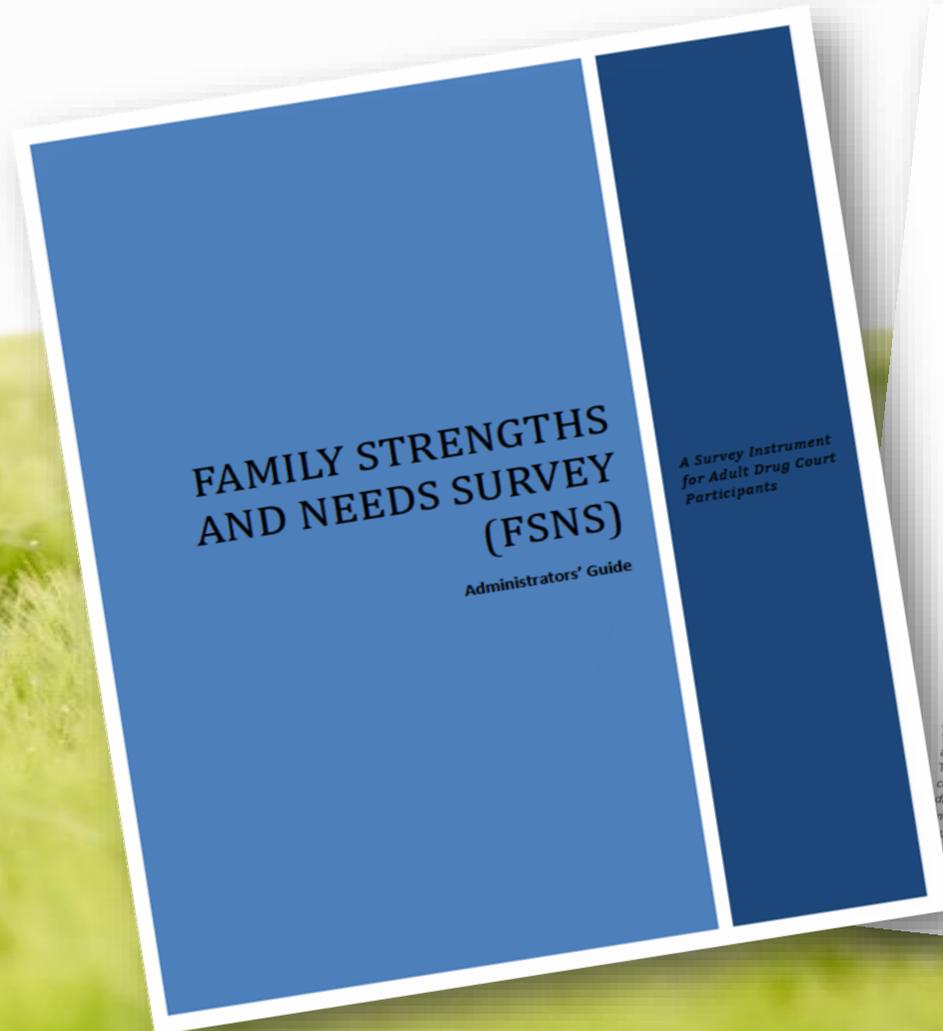
The Need for a Tool

- Brief screening tool that can be administered by a drug court coordinator (with little or no training)
- Simple and efficient - screening should be completed in a short time frame
- Identify an array of family related issues regarding the family of an adult drug court client
- So appropriate referrals can be made within the immediate community
- Applicable to complex family structures common to drug court participants

The Approach

- Preferred administrator approach is utilizing Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques. MI is a collaborative conversation to strengthen a person's own motivation for and commitment to change
- The spirit of MI is based on three key elements:
 - (1) Collaboration between administrator and client
 - (2) Evoking or drawing out client's ideas about change
 - (3) Emphasizing autonomy of client

Family Strengths and Needs Survey



Family Strengths and Needs Survey

Case or Client ID: _____ Survey Administrator ID: _____

Jurisdiction: _____ Interview Start Time: _____

① Missoula County Family Drug Court ⑤ Missoula County Veteran's Court
② Missoula County Co-Occurring Court ⑥ Cascade County Adult Treatment Court
③ Mineral County Adult Treatment Court/DUI Court ⑦ Billings Municipal Treatment Court
④ Custer County Adult Treatment Court ⑧ Fort Peck DUI Court (Nat. Am.)
⑨ First Judicial District Adult Treatment Court

Program: _____

Today's Date _____ Enrollment/ Intake Date _____

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS:

Gender? Male Female Other

Please specify "Other" _____

Age in years? _____

First number: ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦

Second number: ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫ ⑬ ⑭

What is your race/ ethnicity?

① American Indian or Alaskan native ④ Hispanic/Latino
② Asian or Pacific Islander ⑤ Caucasian
③ African American ⑥ Other (please specify) _____

Read to Client: As you know, substance abuse impacts the entire family. We want to make sure that you and your family have as much support as possible during your recovery process. May I ask you a few questions about your family's strengths? This will help identify the ways we can support you to meet your family's needs. The information you provide will remain confidential. However, I need to make you aware of some limits to confidentiality. It is my legal responsibility to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child, elderly person or a disabled person or if I believe you are in danger of harming yourself or another person. If you report that you intend to physically injure someone the law requires me to inform that person as well as the legal authorities. However, I am not directly seeking this type of information in this interview. May I answer any questions? Is it OK to begin now?

1

The Family Data Capture Sheet

First Name	1 Participant - Peter	2 Cynthia	3 Jennifer
Relationship to Participant		Spouse	Biological Child
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male
Date of Birth/Age	3/13/1981	8/09/1984	3

FSNS Short Form

MEDICAL and DENTAL

	1 Participant- Peter	2 Cynthia	3 Jennifer	4	5	6	7	8
	Relationship to Participant	Spouse	Biological Child					

**1) Do you have any worries or concerns regarding medical problems or issues for any of your family members?
(Note: Identify family members with medical issues at right)**

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧
 No

Family Issues that may Affect Recovery



- **52.7%** had concerns regarding one or more of their **children's social and emotional well-being**
- **47.2%** of participants had concerns regarding **medical problems or issues** with one or more of their children
- **40.0%** had concerns about one or more of their **children's behavior**
- **17.8%** had significant concerns about their spouse's or significant other's **mental health**

Feedback From Montana Court Coordinators

Process of completing the FSNS fostered rapport and contributed to building a relationship between the survey administrator and participant.

The process expanded administrators' view of a participant to include her/his family issues and dynamics and other factors affecting recovery.

Drug Court Coordinator Experience Administering FSNS

“This experience opened up a world of needs that have gone unaddressed and also provided motivation for finding these services and linking with other community organizations.”

“The process of administering the FSNS helps coordinators to get to know the participant at a deeper level, much less superficial than with the standard intake/ screening tool.”



Importance of Leadership

- Leadership does not “just happen”
- Needed at every level
- Capable of systems thinking and has effective relations in larger system
- Data-driven and problem-focused
- Sees barriers as goals and targets for change
- Opportunity to shape a policy environment to move towards expansion and institutionalization



Q&A and Discussion

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