

Child Welfare Spotlight-Opiate Addiction

Fairfield County Office of Job and Family Services,
Child Protective Services

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Caseworker and Supervisor Challenges

- o Access to Resources
 - o Limited options
 - o Waitlists
- o Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997
 - o A status review once every 6 months
 - o In addition, a permanency planning hearing must be held within 12 months of the date the child entered care
 - o If a court determines that “reasonable efforts” are not required, a permanency planning hearing must be held within 30 days

Differences in Perspectives Child Welfare vs. Treatment Services

- o Fundamental Differences
 - o How a family enters their system
 - o The choices available to families while participating
 - o The consequences for families if they cannot meet the standards required for each system

Drug Testing and Decision-Making

- o Drug testing is a tool for caseworkers
- o Guides decision making
 - o Child removal
 - o Family support services
 - o If a child can visit a family member
 - o Family reunification
 - o Termination of parental rights

Drug Testing and Decision-Making

- o A drug test alone cannot provide information for:
 - o Determining safety of a child
 - o Providing sufficient information for substantiating allegations
 - o Making decisions about the disposition of the case

Drug Testing and Decision-Making

- o Drug tests in collaboration with additional tools should guide decision-making:
 - o The assessment/investigation
 - o Safety Assessment
 - o Family Assessment
 - o A comprehensive substance abuse assessment

Training and Education

- o The intersection of substance use disorders and child maltreatment.
- o The role of co-occurring issues
- o Strategies for prevention, intervention, and treatment

What do we need?

- o Collaboration with service providers
 - o Joint planning and case management
 - o Wraparound and comprehensive community services
 - o Shared decision-making, risk-taking, and accountability
 - o Collective commitment
 - o Integrated funding

What do we need?

- o Therapeutic Approach
 - o Family Treatment Drug Court
 - o Assessing the substance abusers needs
 - o Creating an effective, mandated treatment plan
 - o Providing the necessary follow-up to assist with the treatment process
 - o Less punitive
 - o More engaging