

Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)



The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.

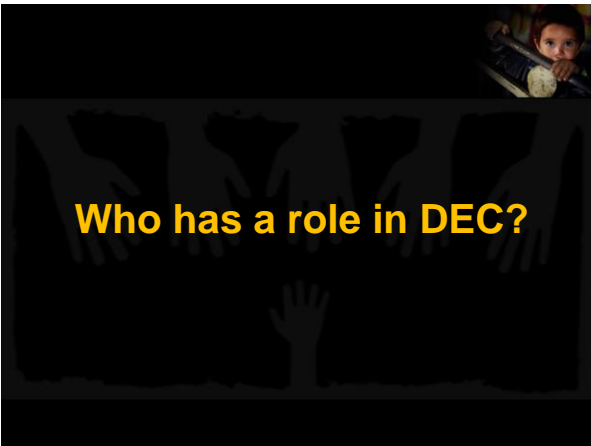
They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

our Goal:
Healthy, Happy & Safe Children

100%



Who has a role in DEC?



Who do you bring to the table?

Required to start:

- Law Enforcement
- Child Welfare
- County Attorney's Office
- Medical (ER, private practice, etc.)

Additional Professionals in the future:

- Probation/Parole
- Judicial/Courts
- Fire and EMS
- In-home Service Providers
- Schools/Educators
- Substance Abuse Providers
- Mental Health Providers

Bring only one or two from each discipline
to the table – too many causes confusion
and can be disruptive

Challenge

- Who do we bring to the table?
- How do we mend broken fences?
- How do we make them understand/believe?
- How do we make this work?
 - Moving from individuals and teams to taskforces
- How long will this take?

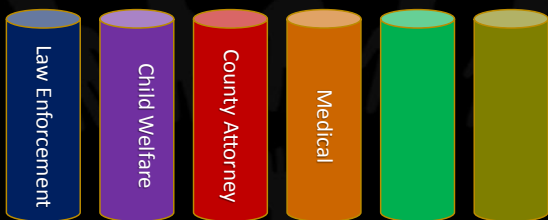
Collaborative Mindset

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*

Collaborative Mindset



Collaborative Mindset



Collaborative Mindset

WHY collaboration is challenging:

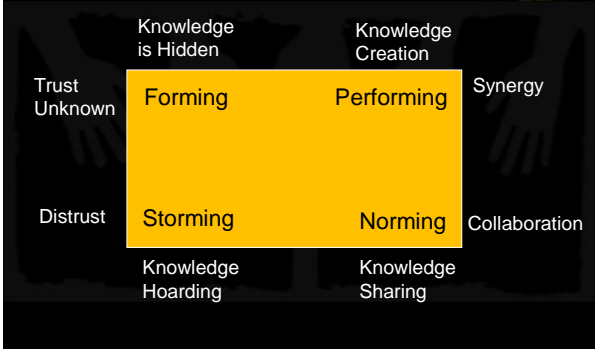
- Competing goals
- Relationship issues
- Control issues
- Differing values
- Helplessness
- Un-channeled passion/energy

Collaborative Mindset

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

Developed by Bruce Tuckman - 1965

Collaborative Mindset



The First Meeting

- Each discipline make a list of 10 items that they would like to see addressed by this DEC taskforce
- List of 10 was provided by each discipline and was then asked to reduce to main 5
- You have to be willing to address or come close to addressing everyone's wants and needs

Law Enforcement

- Educate
- Free us up ASAP
- Help investigate

Child Welfare

- . COMMUNICATION
- . Law Enforcement removals
- . Share information and intell
- . Shared case files to include
 - . Photos and videos
 - . Reports and evidence sheets
- . Help on home visits if needed
- . Court Testimony

County Attorney

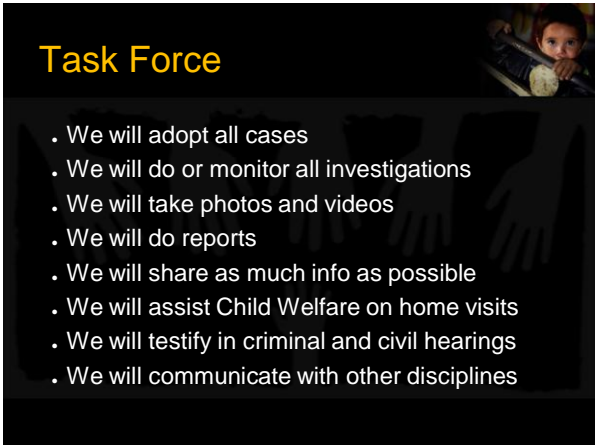
- . COMMUNICATION
- . Clean removals and/or placements
- . Complete investigation and follow up
- . Lots of photos and video
- . GOOD Reports
- . GOOD Court testimony

Medical

- . COMMUNICATION
- . Provide us training
- . Photos of drugs and environments
- . Be an additional resource for us

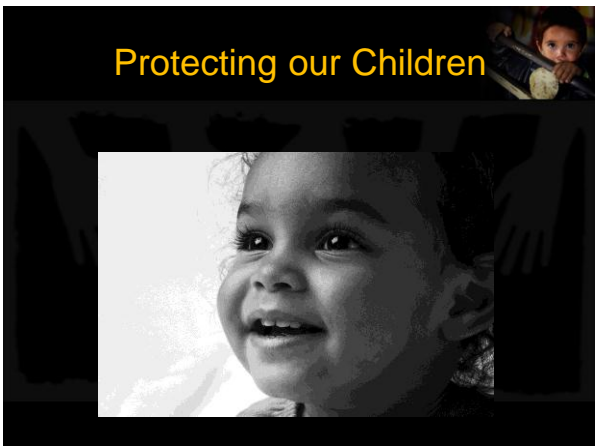


Adapt to others and they will follow!!!!




Task Force

- . We will adopt all cases
- . We will do or monitor all investigations
- . We will take photos and videos
- . We will do reports
- . We will share as much info as possible
- . We will assist Child Welfare on home visits
- . We will testify in criminal and civil hearings
- . We will communicate with other disciplines



Protecting our Children



Collaborative Mindset



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

Changing the Status Quo



- Common elements for change:
 - Recognition of an unacceptable situation
 - Shared vision for a desired outcome
 - Strong leadership
 - Guided activities of many
 - Never give up!

Changing the Status Quo



Changing our attitudes and beliefs

What is each disciplines role?

- Law Enforcement
- Child Welfare
- CA office
- Medical

Law Enforcement

- First line interaction with kids and parents
- Evidence collection
- Notification to Child Welfare
- Reports
- Education of drugs and trends to other disciplines
- Available resource at all hours

Child Welfare

- Assess the safety of children
 - Investigation
 - Removals
 - Placements
 - Reports
- Provide ongoing services
 - Adoption
 - Termination
 - Court
- Follow up safety plans

County Attorney

- Run MDT / Lead Agency
- Prosecution
- Court removals
- Legal advice at all hours

Medical

- Medically assess child
- Treat child
- Make referrals
- Consult with other taskforce member if and when needed

Knowledge

- So we want everyone to and join this movement, but in order to be successful they must be given direction and knowledge. What are we looking for?
 - Children
 - Drugs
 - Maltreatment
 - Neglect
 - Risk

Knowledge

- Do you know what you are looking for?
- Do you understand the exposure to the kids?
- Do you know the life of the child?
- Do you understand the dangers?

Shake and Bake Remnants



Cold Packs



Used Cold Packs



"Mom, look what I found!"



DEC Taskforce/Alliance

- Moving from individuals and teams to a **TASKFORCE/ALLIACE**
- Developing Bylaws
- Developing Protocols
 - Keep them realistic and simple – don't make them work against you
- Stress open and honest communication. If one can't do it or handle it, get rid of them. (not argumentative)

Remember

- **Individuals** = I and me; How does it effect and benefit me?
- **Teams** = Agency/discipline specific; How does it effect and benefit my agency or my discipline?
- **Taskforce** = Us; How does it effect or benefit ALL of us?

Taskforce = A UNIT established to work on a single defined task or activity.

SOURCE: Wikipedia.com

DEC Taskforce/Alliance

- DEC can't and won't be a convenience thing. Stay in touch with your taskforce members.
 - Communication and flexibility will be key
- Make notes of the good and the bad and then share them at you next DEC taskforce meeting.
 - Praise in public, discipline in private
 - Make good notes of positives and negatives
 - Then see if you can (if possible) correct the negatives

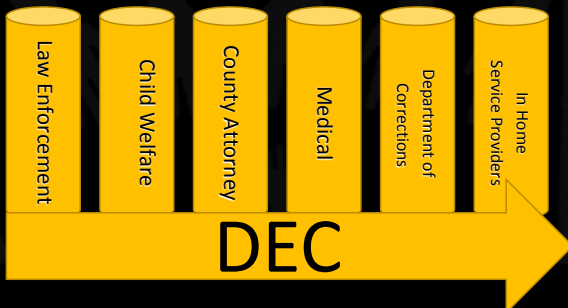
DEC Taskforce/Alliance

- Review protocols
 - review protocols quarterly
 - Are the current ones working
 - Are the current ones realistic
 - Do we need to adjust them?
- Good time to review all the notes taken by each discipline
- You will make changes, or should!!!!!!

DEC Taskforce/Alliance

- Once core group is in place, you can start bringing in other disciplines slowly.
- Make sure you can support additional disciplines
 - Prior to bringing into the taskforce, have an idea what the disciplines roll maybe
 - Every discipline has a role within, we just need to understand it and they need own it

Collaborative Mindset



Department of Corrections

- Home visits
- Dirty UA's at office

In Home Care Providers



- Information
- Assistance if needed

Educators / Schools



- Insight on children's situation
 - Just conducted a raid last night. Little tommy will be in today and tommy may have lots of questions
- Knowledge and information
- What teachers and counselors' see

Substance Abuse Service Providers



- Provide information on any substance abuse that may impact a child
- Provide information on dirty UA drops
- Provide Substance Abuse Service Providers with reports and photos as needed.

**What happens when we
Don't have a DEC
Taskforce?**

Meth lab Fire



Meth Lab Fire



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
- Taskforce executed search warrant and discovered meth lab
- Father's first phone call from jail



Children at Risk

Dad: Are you there?

Daughter: Ya

Dad: How does it feel to know you just sent your dad to prison for along time?

Daughter: Sorry

Dad: No your not f#@king sorry! You had no business saying this shit to anybody! All you had to do is say something to me or grandma! What fucking business did you have going running your f#@king mouth at school?

Daughter: Sorry

Dad: No! No sorry my ass! This is no sorry to it! Answer my question! Why did you go run your f#@king 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 theft 2nd.
- Daughter has been in and out of the criminal justice system on numerous occasions

