



Taming the Many Headed Dragon: Collaborative Models and Systems Issues

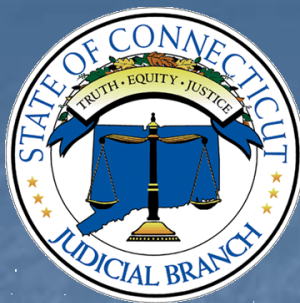
Presentation for "Putting the Pieces Together for Children and Families"
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Taming the Many Headed Dragon: Collaborative Models and Systems Issues

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RSVP ~ Short Film on Recovery





CT In-Depth Technical Assistance
from the
National Center on Substance Abuse and Child
Welfare
(SAMHSA and ACF)
Recovery Specialist Voluntary Program
(RSVP)



RSVP

A collaboration between:

- **Department of Children and Families (DCF)**
- **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)**
- **Judicial Branch – Court Operations**

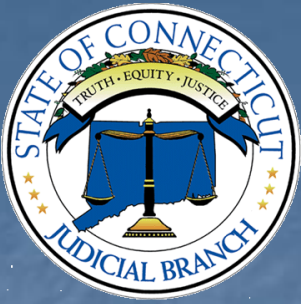
Along with:

- **Advanced Behavioral Health, Inc (ABH) (Non Profit ASO)**
- **Office of the Chief Child Protection Attorney (CCPA)**
- **Office of the Attorney General**



Barriers Identified

- **Parents' Difficulty Navigating the three major systems: Child Welfare, Substance Abuse Treatment, Court**
- **Lack of Communication between the systems;**
- **Systems' frustration with inability to share information because of confidentiality and privacy laws and concerns;**
- **Time to treatment vs. ASFA timelines**



IDTA/RSVP

Shared Principle

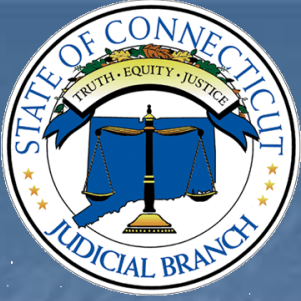
To improve Safety and Permanency for children when parental substance abuse has been identified as a significant issue resulting in children being removed from their homes.

Goals of the RSVP Agency Collaboration

- Implement a recovery oriented integrated system of care for families that addresses multi-system policies, procedures and practices resulting in improved access to services and collateral supports;
- Increasing the systems' capacity to better serve families impacted by substance use disorders through improved communication and information exchange among systems, practitioners, communities, consumers and families;
- Facilitating ongoing communication and collaborative problem resolution for concerns and issues raised by the parties.

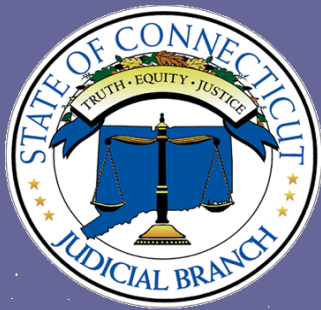
Goals of Collaboration (continued)

- Developing a system of joint, multidisciplinary training that promotes cross-agency understanding of evidence-based interventions, children's mental health, child development and well-being, the impact of substance abuse/dependency on parenting, and culturally and gender-appropriate service delivery;
- Establishing mechanisms that promote more timely access to information across systems resulting in improved individual, program and system outcomes.



English Translation ~ Goals of RSVP

- Help parents navigate the DCF, Court and Provider systems
- Establish one definition of substance abuse treatment and recovery
- Help the systems talk to each other
- Do it fast



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Project Structure

Over sight by Agency Commissioners and
Chief Administrative Judge

CORE TEAM
Leadership from
DCF, DMHAS & Court

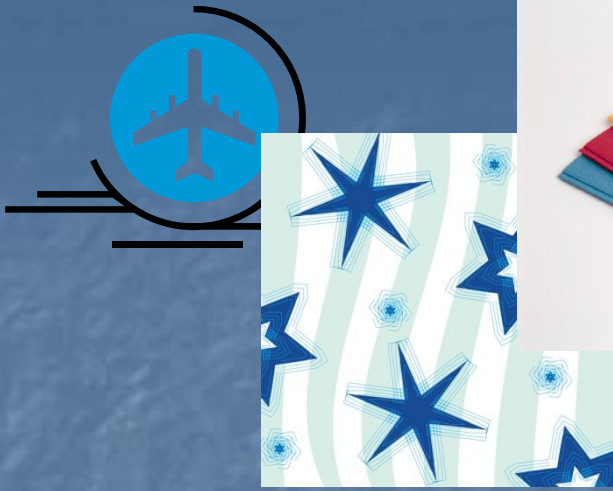
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Development of Recovery Specialist Voluntary Program

CORE Team

Policies and Practice





RSVP

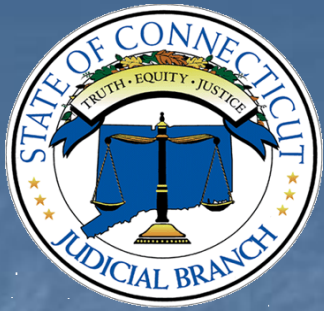
- CORE Team Members traveled to Sacramento.
- STARS Model introduced to CT IDTA Members.
- Memorandum of Understanding between systems developed.
- Stakeholder Input and
- Cross-training Events Held



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Recovery Specialist Voluntary Program

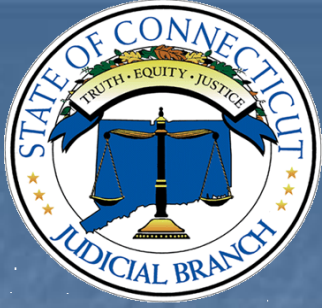
- Policy and Practice Model Developed and Implemented
- Voluntary program offered to parents whose child(ren) is removed by court order as a result of alleged abuse or neglect and substance abuse is a significant factor in the removal.
- RSVP introduced to Parent at the first Court Hearing on the Temporary Removal Order.
- SAMSS meeting in each area office



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DCF Area Offices/Juvenile Courts Pilot Sites

- New Britain – Urban/Suburban
- Bridgeport - Urban
- Willimantic – Rural



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- Parent must sign "Agreement to Participate in RSVP" and Releases of Information.
- "Agreement to Participate" and program expectations become "Standing Order."
- Recovery Specialist is assigned to Parent at the Court.

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- DCF completes a preliminary assessment using GAIN Short Screen;
- Parent referred to Substance Abuse Assessment by DCF;
- Level of Care and other service needs identified.

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Recovery Specialist



- The Recovery Specialist, working with DCF, the substance abuse treatment provider and the Juvenile Court to reduce the burden on the parent by facilitating treatment.
- RS provides coaching, advocacy and support for the parent;
- Not a DCF or Court employee.

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Recovery Specialists:

- ABH Staff, Supervised by Program Manager
- Assist parents in engaging in SA treatment.
- Conduct reliable random drug screens.
- Support parents in increasing their recovery capital through recovery coaching.
- Provide regular documentation to DCF, courts, and attorneys.

Substance Abuse Managed Service System (SAMSS)

- **Facilitated by DCF with active participation from DMHAS, ABH and local treatment providers**
- **Case overview presented by DCF SW**
- **Review evaluation findings and recommendations**
- **Develop a plan of action through collaborative problem solving and resource identification**
- **Community Networking**



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- Client presented/followed at SAMSS for coordination of services.
- Progress reviewed monthly during Case Status Conferences in Court conducted by the Court Services Officer (CSO).



OUTCOMES



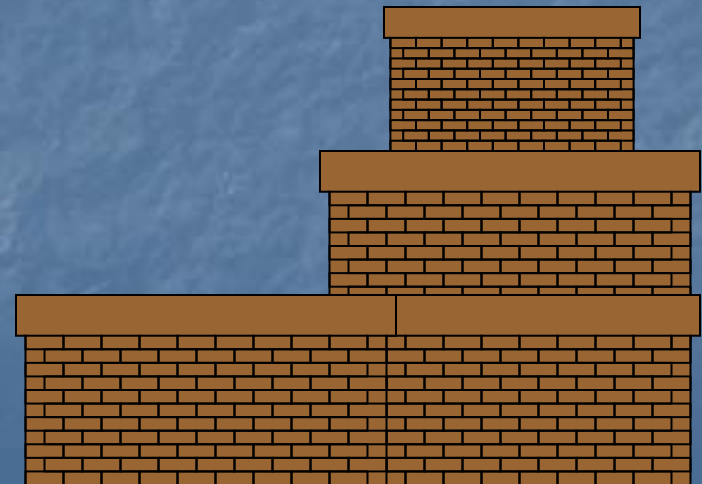
- **Policy to Practice Model**
- **Budget neutral programming - Redirected funds from other sources**
- **Jointly funded program evaluation**
- **DCF/DHMAS/Court Improvement – cross training**
- **Time to treatment, drug testing, reunification/permanency**
- **Timely case resolution that we hope results in cost savings**

Unanticipated Positive Outcomes

- Needs across systems were identified and addressed. Two examples:
 - RCM preventive strategy-keep kids home/prevent removal/recovery support
 - Collaboration with the Women and Children's programs;
- Created a problem solving environment;
- Created and sustain respectful relationships predicated on the best interest of families;
- Eliminated the system “silos”.
- Created an environment of “shared risk”

LESSONS LEARNED

- Attorney involvement-agency and parents and kids
- Ongoing Core Team meetings
- Ongoing communication with local stakeholders
- Cross site interaction



Materials

- RSVP Brochure
- DHMAS Info Brief
- Memorandum of Agreement
- Standing Order
- Agreement to Participate
- Court Protocol
- Recovery Specialist Job Description
- ABH Biannual Report



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Parting Words

*"Together we embrace safety, permanency,
substance abuse treatment and recovery.*

*Our
ultimate goal is to achieve positive results
for
a family that will last a lifetime."*