Supporting the Parent-Child Relationship

Putting Knowledge into Practice:
Simulated Family Treatment Court Staffing and Status Review Hearing

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Key Takeaways

Recovery occurs in the context of relationships

Frequent, quality parenting time increases the likelihood of reunification

Evidence-based services can strengthen the parent-child relationship
Recovery Occurs in the Context of Relationships

- SUD is a brain disease that affects the family
- Adults (who have children) primarily identify themselves as parents
- The parenting role and parent-child relationship cannot be separated from treatment
- Adult recovery should have a parent-child component including prevention for the child

The Importance of the Parent–Child Relationship

For young children in the Dependency system, early relationships may have been the cause of harm or neglect, with potential negative consequences on their developmental trajectories if we don’t intercede early.

Strengthening parent-child relationships can be the foundation needed to repair the harm and improve family functioning.

The challenge for FTCs is to create partnerships with child welfare, treatment providers and family members and to provide family focused evidence-based interventions to strengthen the bonds between parents and their children.
**Impact of Parenting Time on Reunification Outcomes**

- Children and youth who have regular, frequent contact with their families are more likely to reunify and less likely to reenter foster care after reunification (Mallon, 2011)

- Visits provide an important opportunity to gather information about a parent’s capacity to appropriately address and provide for their child’s needs, as well as the family’s overall readiness for reunification.

- Parent-Child Contact (Visitation): Research shows frequent visitation increases the likelihood of reunification, reduces time in out-of-home care (Hess, 2003), and promotes healthy attachment and reduces negative effects of separation (Dougherty, 2004)
Elements of Successful Parenting Time Plans

Parenting time should occur:

- Frequently
- For an appropriate period of time
- In a comfortable and safe setting
- With therapeutic supervision when appropriate
- Allow parents to practice “real life” parenting experiences with support

Interventions that Include Parent–Child Component

- Do the services of partner providers have parent-child components?
- Can you do more and expand your services array?
- How do providers document progress in strengthening the parent-child relationship?
- What will the parenting reports look like to include the parent-child piece?
Parenting Programs Specific to Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders

- Celebrating Families - [http://www.celebratingfamilies.net/](http://www.celebratingfamilies.net/)

Please visit:
- California Evidence-Based Clearing House - [www.cebc4cw.org](http://www.cebc4cw.org)
- National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices - [www.nrepp.samhsa.gov](http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov)

### Grantee EBPs Identified and/or Selected

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<th>Grantee</th>
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<td>• Baby Smarts (existing)</td>
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<td>• Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma (new)</td>
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"Existing" – leveraging existing EBP community resource; "New" – implementing new EBP