



# LOCAL DEC DEVELOPMENT

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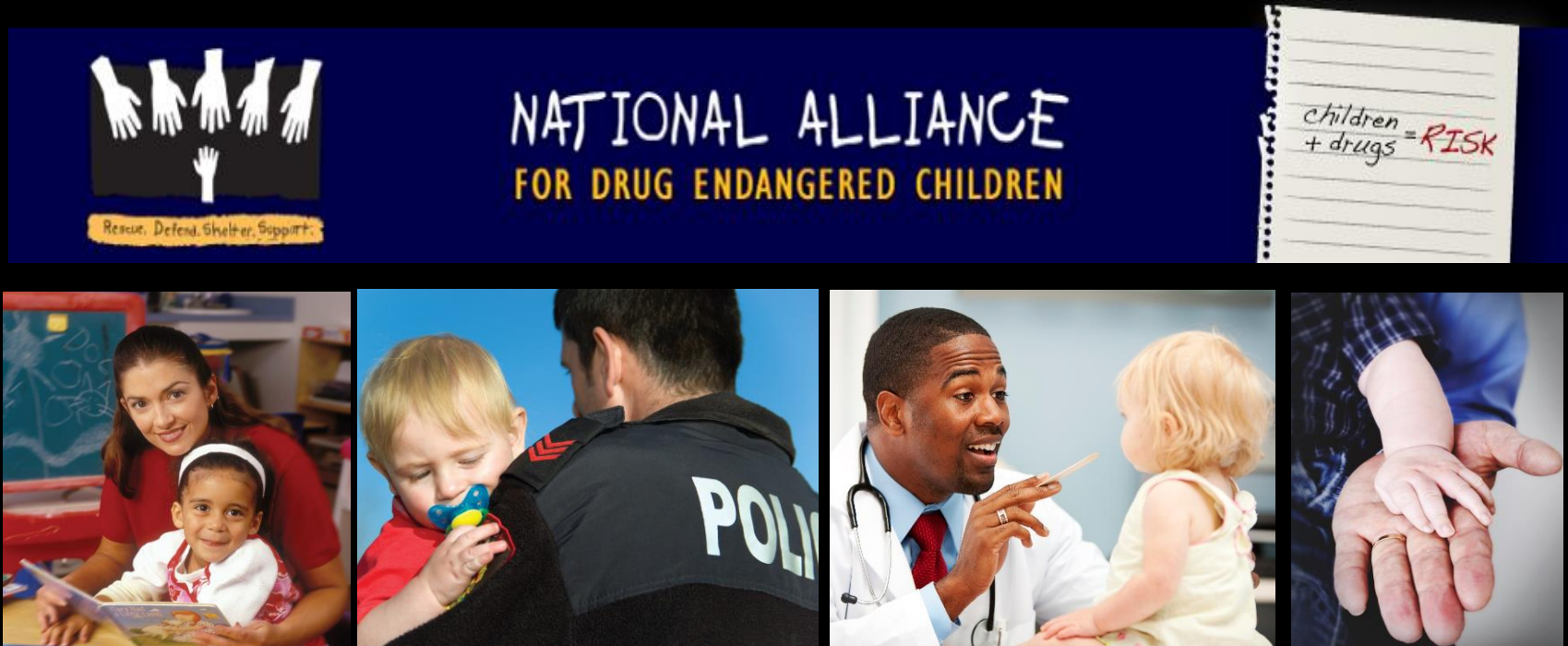
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[www.nationaldec.org](http://www.nationaldec.org)

# LOCAL DEC DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE

- Review of the DEC Approach:
  - Common Vision
  - Ongoing Collaboration
  - Ongoing Change
- Benefits of a local DEC Alliance
- Building a local DEC Alliance
- Who to bring to the table
- Taking a closer look: what do other disciplines have to offer?
- MOU's
- Protocol development
- Summary

# THE DEC MISSION



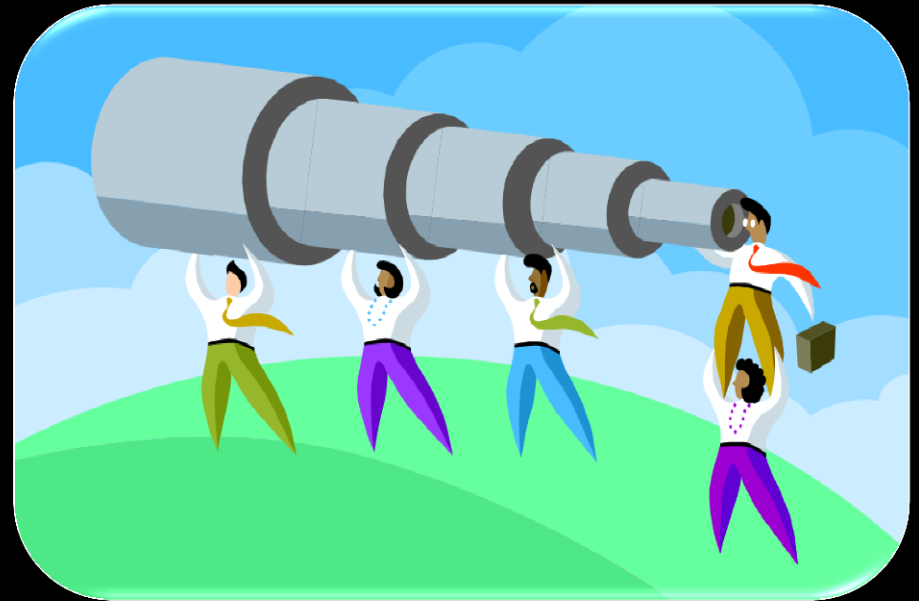
**National DEC's mission is to change the status quo by empowering practitioners to identify and respond to children living in dangerous drug environments.**

## THE DEC APPROACH

**The DEC Approach** is a multidisciplinary strategy to change the trajectory of a drug endangered child's life through a common vision, ongoing collaboration, and ongoing change, which increases the likelihood of better outcomes for drug endangered children

## COMMON VISION:

*100% Healthy,  
Happy, Safe Children*



## ONGOING COLLABORATION:



*Collaboration is the exchange 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.*

## ONGOING CHANGE:

“Change” is to make or become different

Examples of how we can change:

- Identification
- Mandatory Reporting
- Evidence and information collection
- Other changes



## OVERARCHING BENEFITS OF A LOCAL DEC ALLIANCE

- Assists in establishing/maintaining sustainable and effective DEC efforts within the community
- Provides common vision: brings people together; keeps them focused
- Leadership in the development of programs, policies, and services
- Enhances partnerships
- Develops collaboration between disciplines and agencies
- Assists in coordinating resources, services, and practices
- Improves interventions, advocacy, and services
- Increases the likelihood of better outcomes
- Changes attitudes





## INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS



- Less “system inflicted” trauma to children and families
- Better decisions, including more accurate investigations and more appropriate interventions.
- More efficient use of limited professional resources.
- Better trained, more capable professionals
- More respect in the community and less burnout among child abuse professionals

***These benefits can translate into safer communities.***

## FORMING A LOCAL DEC ALLIANCE

### Awareness

- Create awareness of the problem
- Identify Leadership
- Identify interested stakeholders
- Basic awareness training
- Initiate needs & resources assessment (community assessment)
- Connect with National DEC

### Implementation

- Continued Awareness training
- Engage leadership and stakeholders
- DEC Approach training
- Complete needs & resources assessment (community assessment)
- Identify disciplines involved
- Identify persons involved
- Connect with National DEC

### Institutionalization

- Continued Awareness and DEC Approach trainings
- Train trainers within community
- Develop Protocols
- Establish MOU's
- Conduct regular meetings
- Continue to reassess
- Connect with National DEC

# AWARENESS

## Awareness

- Create awareness of the problem
- Identify Leadership
- Identify interested stakeholders
- Basic awareness training
- Initiate needs & resources assessment (community assessment)
- Connect with National DEC

Trainings,  
Meetings,  
word of mouth

Community?  
Departmental?  
Political?

Who supports  
DEC ? Who should  
be on board?

Core DEC Training  
to many disciplines

Staff, Website,  
Webinars,  
eUpdates

National DEC's  
Community  
Assessment

# IMPLEMENTATION

## Implementation

Core DEC  
Training

Hold meetings,  
Send emails,  
Have talks

DEC Approach  
Training with many  
disciplines

- Continued Awareness training
- Engage leadership and stakeholders
- DEC Approach training
- Complete needs & resources assessment (community assessment)
- Identify disciplines involved
- Identify persons involved
- Connect with National DEC

Pull out needs  
and resources; know  
community

Who is involved:  
LE, CW, medical,  
Education, etc.

Management?  
In field worker?

Continue to reach  
out and stay  
up to date

# INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Training for  
all disciplines

Provide agenda.  
Who to attend?  
What to discuss?

Who could be a  
DEC trainer?

What is/isn't working?  
Protocols, MOU's,  
Etc.

National DEC's  
Protocol Development  
Worksheet; examples

Have regular  
contact; make sure  
members connecting

Who can sign MOU?  
Which disciplines?

## Institutionalization

- Continued Awareness and DEC Approach trainings
- Train trainers within community
- Develop Protocols
- Establish MOU's
- Conduct regular meetings
- Continue to reassess
- Connect with National DEC

## MOU'S

An agreement between two or more agencies or disciplines

Benefits:

- Lays out the ground rules
- Provides an obligation to the efforts by all



## PROTOCOLS

A formal agreement between agencies/disciplines that defines how and when agencies will respond

Benefits:

- Keeps everyone on the same page
- Everyone knows what to do
- Everyone knows what other have agreed to do



## POLICY SUPPORT

Individual agencies should consider formally adopting policies:

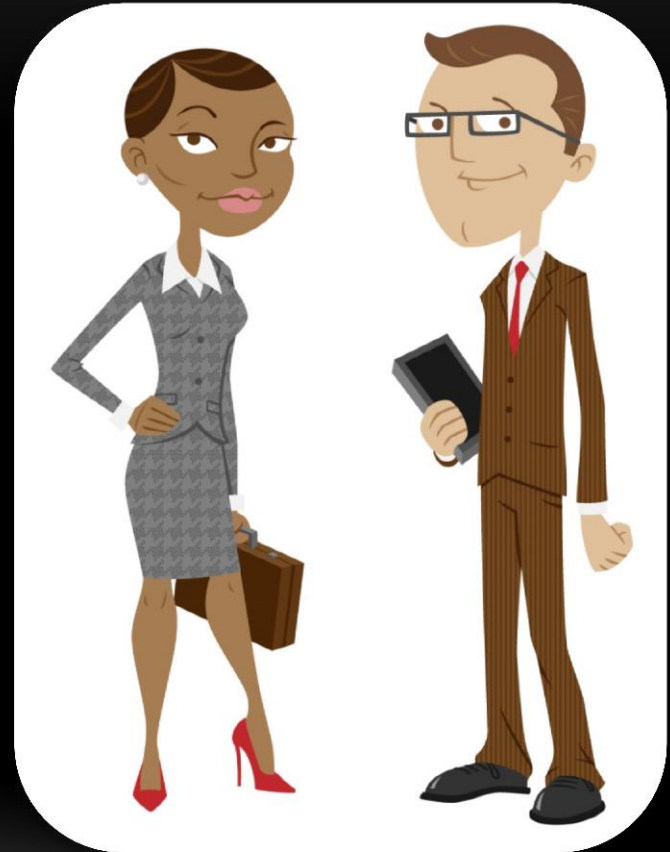
- To reinforce DEC objectives
- Important when looking at funding the DEC alliance/efforts
- Will help institute the DEC Approach within the state/area/tribe



## COMMUNICATION :

Each member of the DEC alliance has to:

- openly acknowledge each discipline's individual mission
- refrain from being “controlling” or egocentric,
- share resources
- agree upon doable common goals.



Open communication among alliance members is a **MUST** in keeping the alliance running smoothly. When conflicts arise, resolution needs to be sought out **QUICKLY**.

## COMMUNICATION :

### How do we establish a communication framework?

- DEC efforts should establish formal and informal communication mechanisms.
- Local service providers need the ability to discuss and evaluate DEC efforts
- There is often a need to share information with the state DEC alliance

### Are we communicating to reduce conflict?

- An effective communication structure is necessary to prevent conflict from overshadowing the benefits to a collaborative DEC alliance.

### Are we sharing our DEC success stories to build momentum?

- If not, why not?
- How do we work through confidentiality?

## KEYS TO SUCCESS:



- ***Confidentiality policies*** accord with legislative mandates, agency policies, professional practices, and the best interests of the at risk children
- ***Conflict resolution practices*** that ensure core issues are aired and resolved satisfactorily based on mutual respect and recognition
- ***Periodic self-analysis and outside evaluation*** of how the team is working so that it continues to achieve the purposes for which it was formed
- ***Support*** for members/agencies of the alliance

## FIRST ALLIANCE MEETING

1. **Activity:** Each discipline make a list of 10 items that they would like to see addressed by this DEC alliance. Then each discipline reduces list to the main 5 items. Discuss importance of meeting needs of everyone's top 5.
2. **Discussion:** Each member explains their role and agency's role and previous experience in drug endangered children situations
3. **Discussion:** Start discussing development of a mission statement that clearly sets forth the purpose of the alliance, the scope of its activities, and its guiding principles.
4. **Discussion:** Let members know the importance of subsequent creation of the alliance protocols at upcoming meetings.