



LOCAL DEC DEVELOPMENT

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LOCAL DEC DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE

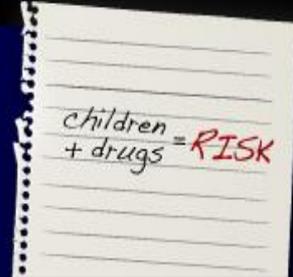
- Review of the DEC Approach:
 - Common Vision
 - Ongoing Collaboration
 - Ongoing Change
- Benefits of a local DEC Alliance
- Building a local DEC Alliance
- Who to bring to the table
- Taking a closer look: what do other disciplines have to offer?
- MOU's
- Protocol development
- Summary

THE DEC MISSION



Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN



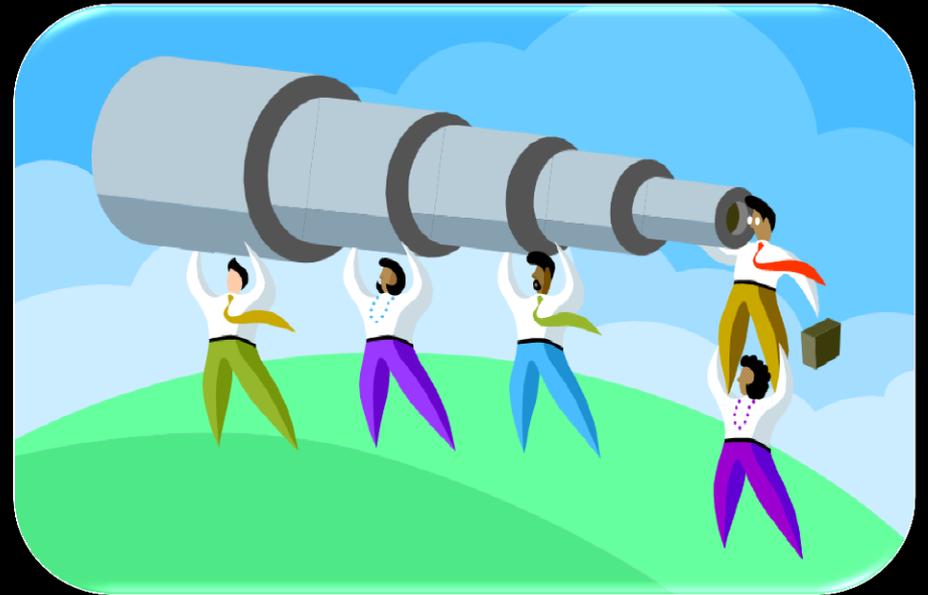
National DEC's mission is to change the status quo by empowering practitioners to identify and respond to children living in dangerous drug environments.

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

Who could be a
DEC trainer?

National DEC's
Protocol Development
Worksheet; examples

Who can sign MOU?
Which disciplines?

Provide agenda.
Who to attend?
What to discuss?

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

Have regular
contact; make sure
members connecting

Institutionalization

- Continued Awareness and DEC Approach trainings
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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

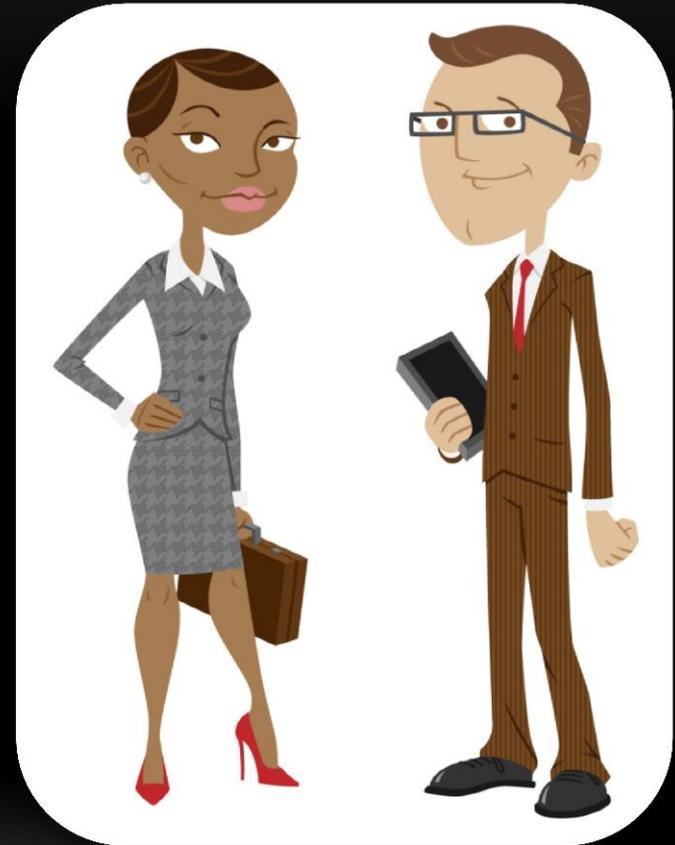
Individual agencies should consider formally adopting policies:

- 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.