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ABSTRACT

Although substance abuse affects the family, the children of substance abusers suffer the most. When parents are unable to care for their children because of their untreated addiction, the children are at risk for social and health problems that include alcohol and drug use, delinquency, depression, and poor school performance. One approach to supporting families with substance abuse problems involves fostering and establishing collaborative relationships with agencies responsible for child welfare, social services, prevention programs, and mental health organizations. This action kit provides resources and action steps that can be taken to start or further efforts to raise awareness in a community about the effects of substance abuse. It suggests ways to create linkages between the child welfare system and substance abuse prevention and treatment systems. Successful community interventions are described to provide ideas on how to solve problems. A list is included of organizations that treat parents with substance abuse problems and addictions. (JDM)

Strengthening Families

ED 455 483



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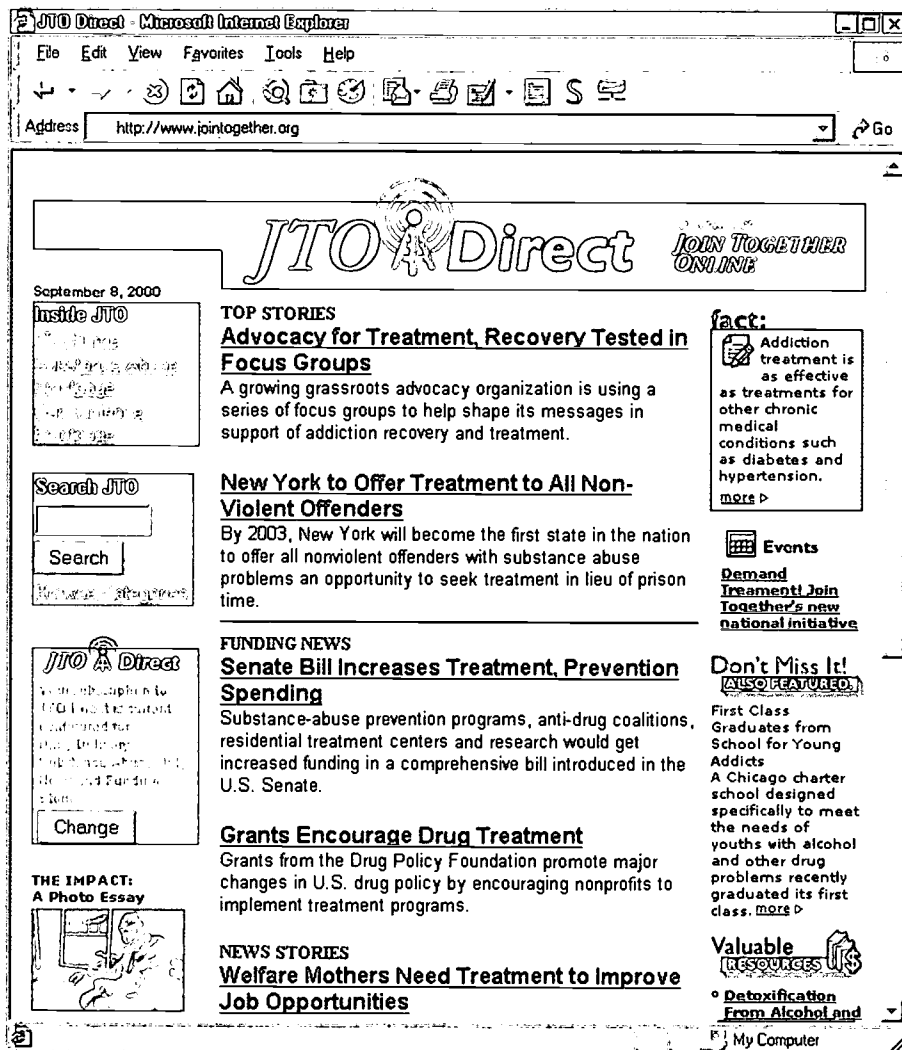
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Action Kit

WHAT COMMUNITIES CAN DO TO SUPPORT
FAMILIES WITH ADDICTIONS

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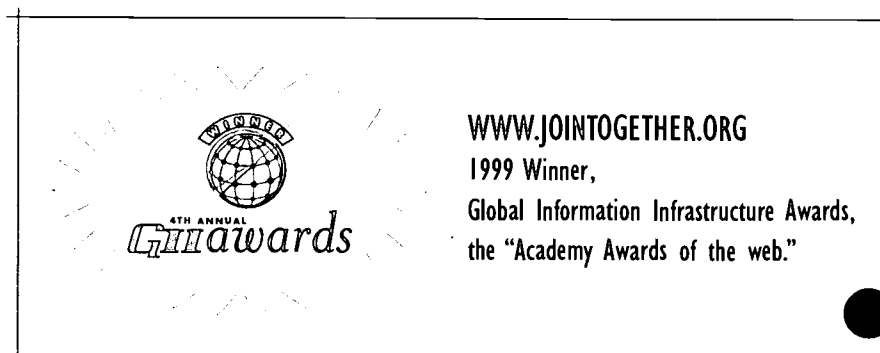
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There are many ways communities can support families with addictions

Alcohol dependency and drug addiction tears at the fabric of family life, leaving family members vulnerable to a host of problems.

Although substance abuse impacts the family as a whole, it is perhaps the children of substance abusers who suffer most. When parents are unable to care for their children, because of their untreated addiction, the children are at risk of social and health problems that include: alcohol and drug use, delinquency, depression, poor school performance. These children are more likely to be victims of abuse and neglect. Due to the chronic nature of dependency and addiction, parents are oftentimes unable to provide appropriate care for their children which increases the likelihood that they will enter the child welfare system. Although the system works hard to keep families together or attempts to reunify family members while addressing substance abuse problems, it is clear that it cannot in and of itself adequately meet the present need.

One approach to supporting families with substance abuse problems involve fostering and establishing collaborative relationships with agencies responsible for child welfare, social services, the provision of alcohol and drug services, public housing with community-based substance abuse treatment centers, prevention programs, mental health organizations, and job training programs. Working together, these groups can share resources that promote better processes to share information, develop data sources, improve case management, and better wrap essential services around families in need. The impact of this collaborative effort can help support adult recovery, reduce or prevent childhood trauma related to a substance abusing caregiver, break a cycle of family dysfunction, reduce outside placements, and overall improve the quality of family life.

This Action Kit provides resources and action steps you can take to start or further efforts to 1) raise awareness in your community about the effects substance abuse has on parents and children; 2) create opportunities in your community for linkages between the

child welfare system and substance abuse prevention and treatment systems. We encourage you to share these facts and strategies included in this kit with others to encourage them to take action.

You can also use this information to help educate local policymakers on how substance abuse treatment is cost-effective and benefits the entire family. It can be used to encourage collaboration by key agencies and groups to establish programs that expand treatment and brief interventions for parents and specialized prevention programs for their children. Finally, information in this kit may be helpful in supporting local welfare to work objectives by advocating for treatment of parents who are transitioning from welfare to work, and who would benefit greatly by substance abuse treatment.

Building strong, healthy and safe children is about supporting strong, healthy families. When public and private entities see the value in working together, they increase the chance of local success. Groups increase the likelihood of working together when they realize the positive impact it can have on children. When parents receive needed treatment for abuse or addiction, and have jobs which provide a source of pride and empowerment, and when they have strong family bonds they are more likely to maintain recovery. In a very real sense, parental substance abuse treatment, when it works, is childhood substance abuse prevention. It is our best chance for healthy family strengthening.

We encourage you to reprint the statistics and examples provided in this kit in your organization's own publications and website. Find other related facts and information on Join Together Online at www.jointogether.org. For more information about this Action Kit, contact Join Together at (617) 437-1500 or email info@jointogether.org.



FACTS & FIGURES

❖ Over 9.6 million children in the United States live with an alcohol abusing or drug dependent adult. (*Center for Substance Abuse Research Fax, 2000*)

❖ Parental risk factors are disproportionately high among low-income women in general and those receiving welfare in particular. (*National Center for Children In Poverty. 2000. Promoting Resilience: Helping Young Children and Parents Affected by Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Depression in the Context of Welfare Reform. New York, NY*)

A Letter from the CWLA Director

UPCOMING CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA RESOURCES

Comprehensive Assessment Tool and Decision-Making Guidelines: CWLA will produce an up-to-the-minute, comprehensive assessment tool and decision-making guidelines that frontline child welfare workers and supervisors can use to determine how alcohol and other drugs are impacting child safety, family functioning and assist workers in determining the most appropriate intervention options for each young person.

Special Edition Issue: CWLA will be devoting a special edition of CHILD WELFARE – its journal of child welfare policy, practice, and program – to issues regarding alcohol and other drug problems and their impact on the child welfare system. Child Welfare is an 80-year-old publication with a subscription base of over 14,000 individuals and organizations. The special edition is expected to be published in March/April 2001.

For more information, contact the Child Welfare League of America at (202) 942-0311 or via email at ebattist@cwla.org

Dear Colleague:

The epidemic of alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse that threatens our nation has many economic and social costs, but its cost to families is where it takes its greatest toll. Too many Americans are living on the outskirts of hope and opportunity, with hundreds of thousands of children and adolescents feeling the devastating effects of abuse and neglect, homelessness, violence, and economic erosion. The widespread AOD use by parents and other family members intensifies these social ills. Families should be the first line of defense in the nation's war on drugs, but in many cases, AOD use has broken through that line and captured the minds and bodies of parents we should be able to count on to protect their children and youth.

Although it is difficult to establish a causal relationship between AOD use and child maltreatment, we know from research and from those on the frontline, that there is a frequently occurring correlation between parental AOD misuse and child abuse and neglect. In fact, the statistics are staggering.

- Children whose parents abuse AOD are almost three times more likely to be abused and more than four times likelier to be neglected than children of parents who are not substance abusers.
- Evidence from various national studies suggest that 40% to 80% of the nearly three million child abuse and neglect reports involve problems associated with AOD.
- A 1998 study by the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse revealed that 80% of states reported that parental substance abuse and poverty are the top two problems among the approximately one million confirmed cases of child maltreatment.

Is it not time, during this period of economic prosperity, for us to adequately invest in those prevention and treatment programs we know work, and that our children and families so desperately need? A 1997 Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) study found that approximately 67% of parents with children in child welfare required substance abuse treatment services, but child welfare agencies were able to provide treatment for just 31%.

In order to ensure appropriate AOD treatment for families as well as safety and permanence for vulnerable children as required by the landmark Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), increased resources must be directed to meet their special needs. New partnerships between child welfare and AOD agencies, other service providers, courts, community leaders, and family members will have to be nurtured.

CWLA, in collaboration with the Children's Defense Fund, American Public Human Services Association, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, and Legal Action Center, has been advocating for passage of the Child Protection and Alcohol and Drug Partnership Act of 2000 (H.R. 5081—sponsored by Reps. Stark (D-CA), Cardin (D-MD), McNulty (D-NY), Neal (D-MA), Thurman (D-FL), and Coyne (D-PA), and S. 2435 sponsored by Sens. Rockefeller (D-WV), Snowe (R-ME), Dodd (D-CT), Bond (R-MO), Jeffords (R-VT) and DeWine (R-OH). This legislation would provide grants to state child welfare and alcohol and drug agencies to address the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on children and families who come to the attention of the child welfare system. Provisions of H.R. 5081 and S. 2435 include:

- \$1.9 billion in new funding over five years (\$200 million in the first year, expanding to \$575 million in year five) to state child welfare and alcohol and drug agencies that jointly apply. It is allocated based on the states' population of children under 18.
- Expansion of existing partnerships and development of new ones between child welfare agencies and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment agencies.
- Support for the development and expansion of comprehensive, individualized prevention and treatment services; improved screening and assessment; approaches to eliminate barriers to treatment; effective strategies to engage and retain families in treatment; cross-system training and technical assistance; and improved data collection and evaluation.

Now more than ever, if the child welfare system is to meet the challenges posed by AOD problems, a dialogue must begin with professionals, caregivers, and other community members from many different disciplines such as substance abuse prevention and treatment, mental health, juvenile justice, public assistance, and domestic violence. Collaborative, coordinated, culturally competent, community-based services are more likely to emerge when the professionals and caregivers in a community possess a common base of knowledge about child welfare concerns and AOD problems. Community and grassroots leaders play a key role in educating the public on innovations that will bridge the gap between child welfare and AOD and promoting community-wide understanding and compassion for families connected to the child welfare system.

Let's work together for our children.

Sincerely,

Shay Bilchik
Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America
Washington, DC

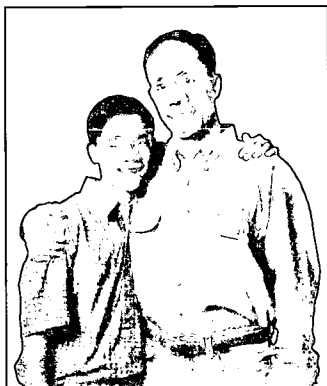
Note: For more information on the Child Welfare League of America and how you can support the Child Protection and Alcohol and Drug Partnership Act of 2000, please visit www.cwla.org.

What others are doing

Communities across the country are implementing various approaches to work with children and parents to create healthier families. Use the information provided here to develop strategies and tactics to use in your own community.

The Free to Grow national demonstration program has several promising models of Family and Community Partnerships using Head Start organizations as the lead agencies. Free to Grow models incorporate strategies to reduce children's vulnerability to substance abuse and other high-risk behaviors, as they grow older. The primary objective of the program is to strengthen the young child's environment, specifically the family and community. Two models are described below. For more information about either model, contact Free to Grow National Program, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, 60 Haven Avenue, Apartment 1D, New York, NY 10032; Phone: 212-304-6418; Fax: 212-304-6420

Aspira De Puerto Rico, Rio Pedras, Puerto Rico
The ASPIRA "Compay" is a community-based model, which addresses the needs of at-risk, multi-problem families in the San Isidro community east of San Juan. Head Start staff, parents and community partners



developed this comprehensive model. The ASPIRA model focuses on intensive individual and family interventions. Carefully screened and selected healthy families, the "Compays," mentor participating at-risk families. "Compays" translates to compadres or godparents. The "Compays" serve

as one-on-one peer counselors to their families. The "Compay" families also intervene with and on behalf of their at-risk families, acting as advocates to help their assigned families obtain needed community services. However, the "Compays'" primary role is to provide support and guidance and model healthy behavior for participant

families. The functions of the "Compay" families are varied, and each differs with the unique needs of the family with whom they are matched. For example, they may help a family member find employment, educate the family about options for drug or alcohol abuse treatment, or assist participant families with strengthening their problem solving skills. "Compay" families try to alleviate the

(Continued on page 8)

RESOURCES

Since many children who are involved in the child welfare system may also be involved in the judicial system, the use of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) can be part of your strategy to help judges make decisions about abused and neglected children. This program uses trained community volunteers to speak for the best interests of these children in court. There are more than 900 programs around the country. For more information, contact: National CASA Association, 100 W. Harrison St., North Tower Suite 500, Seattle WA 98119; 1-800 628-3233 or visit their website at <http://nationalcasa.org/default.htm>

GET INVOLVED IN FAMILY HEALTH MONTH IN OCTOBER.

Family Health Month is sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians. This is an opportunity for communities to link with family physicians so they can talk about how parental addiction can affect children. For more information about Family Health Month, contact Kelly Cannon at 800-274-2237 ext. 5221 or email her at kcannon@aaafp.org. You can also visit their website at www.familyhealthmonth.org.

COLLABORATIONS STRENGTHENS PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEMS FOR FAMILIES

The Children of Alcoholics Foundation (COAF) wants to make lasting systematic changes to better serve families at risk for substance abuse problems. That's why COAF has helped to create Collaborations, a two-year project that links child welfare workers and substance abuse treatment professionals in the Bushwick (Brooklyn) and Central/East Harlem areas of New York. This project allows them to share their knowledge with each other and strengthen their interactions and coordination. The project provides cross-disciplinary training and technical assistance; has developed a Continuity Plan, which includes training of local trainers; and creates ongoing "roundtable discussions" to explore other potential collaborations. COAF is working with New York City policy makers to implement recommended changes based on lessons learned from the training, technical assistance and continuity program. COAF will also host a Replication Conference at the end of the project for New York City agencies to highlight the experiences of this project and encourage replication in other communities. For more information, write to the Children of Alcoholics Foundation, 164 West 74th St, New York, NY 10023; call (212) 595-5810 Ext. 7760 or fax a note to (212) 595-2553.



Action Steps For Your Community To Take

Advocate for collaborations between treatment providers and child welfare workers to identify ways to work together to get parents in need of treatment to treatment and to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

FACTS & FIGURES

✦ Early childhood staff reports that they recognize the needs of young children and parents [with risk factors such as substance abuse], but lack strategies and support to help them. (*National Center for Children In Poverty. 2000. Promoting Resilience: Helping Young Children and Parents Affected by Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Depression in the Context of Welfare Reform. New York, NY*)

✦ Pre-school aged children of alcoholics exhibited poorer language and reasoning skills than children of non-alcoholics. This may be because children of alcoholics have a lower quality of stimulation in their homes. (*National Children of Alcoholics Foundation, 1998*)

Raise awareness in your community about the impact substance abuse has on children. The National Association for Children of Alcoholics has printed materials to assist you. You may want to write a letter to the editor or an op-ed about the links between parental addiction and child abuse.

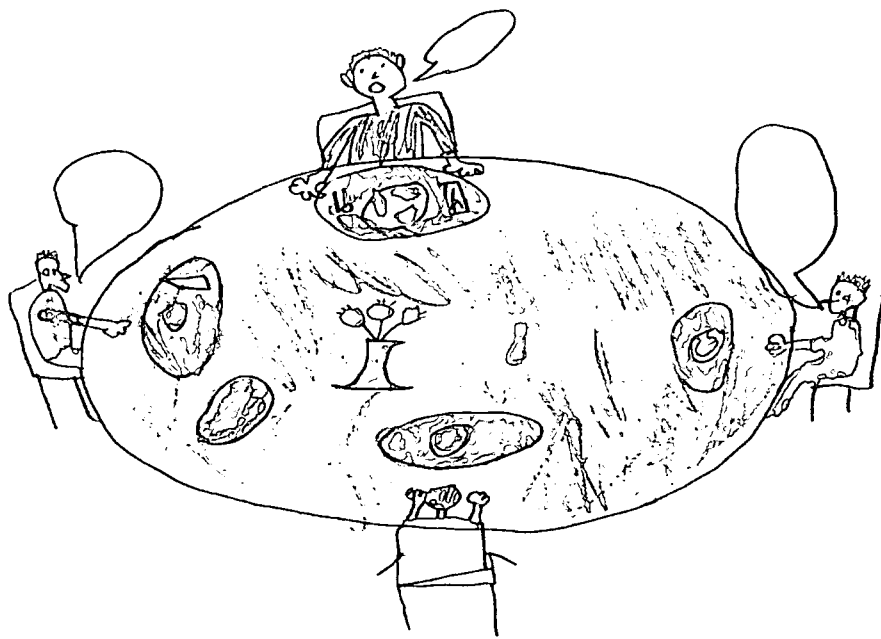
- Establish prevention programs that address the unique risk factors associated with parental substance abuse and focus on the parent-child relationship. The National Institute of Drug Abuse recently produced a publication, "Preventing Drug Use Among Children and Adolescents – A Research-Based Guide." Fourteen prevention principles are presented based on research. When communities put these principles to use, programs will have a greater likelihood of succeeding. For example, Principle #7 says: "Family focused prevention efforts have a greater impact than strategies that focus on parents only or children only." Consider the following questions as you think about designing prevention efforts: Do the family-based programs reach families of children at each stage of development? Do the programs provide access to counseling services for families at risk?

For a copy of the publication, "Preventing Drug Use Among Children and Adolescents – A Research-Based Guide", contact the National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information at 800-729-6686 or visit the National Institute for Drug Abuse's website at www.nida.nih.gov/. You will find an online copy in the publications section of the website.

Raise awareness in your community about the importance of providing effective treatment. Substance abuse is a chronic treatable condition whose success rate is comparable with similar conditions such as adult diabetes, hypertension, and smoking.

- The National Institute of Drug Abuse recently produced "Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment – A Research Based Guide." It outlines thirteen proven components of successful drug addiction treatment programs. Principle #10 says, "Treatment does not need to be voluntary to be effective." Strong motivation can facilitate the treatment process. Sanctions or enticements in the family, employment setting, or criminal justice system can increase significantly both treatment entry and retention rates and the success of drug treatment interventions. To order a free copy of "Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment," contact the National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information at 800-729-6686 or visit the National Institute for Drug Abuse's website at www.nida.nih.gov/. You will find an online copy in the publications section of the website.

Use local data to help you make the connection between substance abuse treatment and child welfare to determine how many children in your community are involved in the child welfare system due to parental substance abuse. Resources like the 2000 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK allows you to generate your own state profiles, graphs, maps and more. You can also get local data by contacting your local child welfare organization. Local child welfare organizations can include children and family services, departments of child protective services, and adoption agencies. Foster dialogue between Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), early childhood, child welfare and substance abuse staff to discuss strategies. For example, use welfare reform as a catalyst to address the needs of hard-to-serve adults, who are transitioning off, seeking to stay off,



communicate

or sanctioned under TANF, and their young children. You can also work with welfare reform groups to use welfare-related dollars to promote integrated behavioral and child development activities for children and families. Finally, you can link with those groups working on welfare reform that are interested in offering substance abuse treatment under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families law.

- Encourage pediatricians, schools and others that come routinely come in contact with kids to do a better job of identifying and intervening with children of parents who have a substance abuse problem.

Push for parity and other changes in practices that will increase treatment opportunities for parents who abuse substances.

Learn more about the impact of substance abuse on families by attending one of the upcoming conferences:

The Institute for Social Justice, Inc is sponsoring a three-day conference on *“The impact of illegal drugs and substance abuse on agencies, families and communities”* on October 1-3, 2000. For more information, contact The Institute at 4802 Tree Crest Parkway, Decatur, GA 30035 or by phone at 770-808-4340 or visit their website at www.instituteforsocialjustice.org

The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau is sponsoring *The 13th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect* will be held on April 23-28, 2001. Professionals from the fields of social work, child welfare, education, substance abuse and others are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact PaL-Tech, Inc, at 1901 North Moore Street, Suite 204, Arlington, VA 22209.

The Child Welfare League of America is sponsoring the following two conferences:

The Child Welfare League of America’s annual national conference, “Children 2001: Creating Connected Communities” will be held on March 7-9, 2001 at the Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC

The Child Welfare League of America’s Managed Care Institute and Behavioral Health Division Spring Symposium will be held on March 9-10, 2001 at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC (Held after the National Conference). Professionals from child welfare, mental health, substance abuse, and managed care are encouraged to attend. For more information on either of these events, please contact Nicky Dixon at (202) 942-0289.

For information about other upcoming conferences, visit the Calendar section of Join Together Online at www.jointogether.org

FACTS & FIGURES

- ❖ Only thirty-seven percent of mothers and forty-eight percent of fathers who used drugs received treatment in the past year. (*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 1997*)

- ❖ Child welfare agencies in the United States say they can access timely treatment for only one-third of clients who need it. (*Child Welfare League of America, 1998*)

Resources

The following organizations can provide you with more information on child welfare and treating parents with substance abuse problems and addictions.

Visit their websites or contact them to learn more.

FACTS & FIGURES

✧ Many parents, especially mothers, who enter substance abuse treatment, are motivated to do so by concerns regarding their parenting and how their substance abuse is affecting their children. (*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 1996*)

Children and Family Futures (CFF)

Address: 4940 Irvine Boulevard, Suite 202,
Irvine, CA 92620

Phone: (714) 505-3525

Email: nkyoung@cffutures.com

Website: www.cffutures.com

CFF is nonprofit organization dedicated to improving outcomes for children and families, particularly those affected by alcohol and other drugs by providing technical assistance and training to government, community-based organizations, and schools on strategic planning, evaluation, and measures of effectiveness.

Children of Alcoholics Foundation, Inc. (COAF)

Address: 164 W. 74th Street, New York, NY
10023

Phone: (212) 595-5810 ext. 7760

Email: coaf@phoenixhouse.org

Website: www.coaf.org

COAF is a national non-profit that provides a range of educational materials and services to help professionals, children and adults break the intergenerational cycle of parental substance abuse.

Children's Defense Fund (CDF)

Address: 25 E Street, NW, Washington, DC
20001

Phone: (202) 628-8787

Email: cdinfo@childrensdefense.org

Website: www.childrensdefense.org

CDF is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to Leave No Child Behind® and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. Publications and information are available to help professionals and families.

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

Address: 440 First Street, NW, Third Floor,
Washington, DC 20001-2085

Phone: (202) 638-2952

Email: kwingfield@cwla.org

Website: www.cwla.org

CWLA is an association of more than 1,100 public and not-for-profit agencies devoted to improving life for more than 3 million at-risk children and youths and their families.

Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (CCANI)

Address: 330 C Street, SW, Washington, DC
20447

Phone: (800) 394-3366 or (703) 385-7565

Email: nccanch@calib.com

Website: www.calib.com/nccanch/

The Clearinghouse is a national resource for professionals seeking information on the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect and related child welfare issues.

National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NaCOA)

Address: 11426 Rockville Pike, #100, Rockville,
MD 20852

Phone: (888) 55-4COAS

Email: nacoa@erols.com

Website: www.nacoa.net

NaCOA advocates for all children and families affected by alcoholism and other drug dependencies. This mission drives all of their programs and materials to help children of alcoholics.

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)

Address: Columbia University, The Joseph L.
Mailman School of Public Health, 154 Haven
Avenue, New York, NY 10032-1180

Phone: (212) 304-7100

Website: www.nccp.org

NCCP is designed to identify and promote strategies that reduce the number of young children living in poverty in the United States, and that improve the life chances of the millions of children under age six who are growing up poor. They have resources related to substance abuse and welfare issues. One of their most recent publications is "Promoting Resilience: Helping Young Children and Parents Affected by Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Depression in the Context of Welfare Reform."



HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS

The following publications can provide you with further information on the effects that parental substance abuse has on children.

"Blending Perspectives and Building Common Ground – A Report to Congress on Substance Abuse and Child Protection, April 1999." This report focuses on the relationship between substance abuse and child protection. It documents what is known about substance abuse treatment and recovery and its relationship to maltreatment. In addition, it provides systemic and individual factors that contribute to or minimize the ability to protect children and assist families in recovery. To obtain a copy of this publication, contact The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, P.O. Box 1182, Washington, DC 20013-1182; call (800) fy-3366 or access the report electronically at www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cbl/.

"No Safe Haven: Children of Substance Abusing Parents" Available from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA). This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of substance abuse on child abuse and neglect and provides illustrations of how parental abuse of alcohol and drugs has affected the nation's child welfare system and seriously compromised its ability to protect children. It also calls for an overhaul of the child welfare system and discusses the critical questions of when a child should be removed permanently from the home. You can access this report online at www.casacolumbia.org or call (212) 841-5227.

"Responding to Alcohol and Other Drug Problems in Child Welfare: Weaving Together Practice and Policy" This guidebook reviews innovative practices in both the child welfare and substance abuse treatment fields, including changes in approaches to families, in interviewing techniques, in community partnerships, and in using treatment outcomes to determine which programs are most effective for which clients. To obtain a copy, call the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at (800) 638-8736 and ask for publication number ncj171669.

"Steps to Success: Helping Women with Alcohol and Drug Problems Move from Welfare to Work" This report profiles twenty alcohol and drug treat-

ment programs in seven states that address the needs of women with alcohol and drug problems who are on welfare. It is available through the Legal Action Center, 236 Mass Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002 or by calling (202) 544-5478.

"The Ties That Bind" This handbook, provides a comprehensive look at parental substance abuse and kinship foster families, including background information, coping strategies, and practical tips. Fact sheets will also be available for agencies that will spotlight simple, practical "tips," with plenty of visuals.

This information is available on the Children of Alcoholics Foundation's web site www.coaf.org.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has produced several resources based on lessons learned from their *Family-to-Family Initiative*. These resources have information on child welfare and substance abuse. A curriculum for a three day workshop on enhancing parents' motivation and preventing drug relapse with the safety of children as a primary focus is presented as well as a program model. The program model describes the Sobriety Treatment And Recovery Team (START) pilot project at Cuyahoga County Department of Child and Family Services in Ohio. For more information about these tools, contact the Annie E. Casey Foundation at 701 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202; 410-547-6600 or visit their website at www.aecf.org/familytofamily/tools.

Healing the Whole Family – A Look at Family Care Programs is a report on innovative residential programs for families struggling with substance abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, and teen parenting. The report features 50 family care programs around the country that offer families supervised living arrangements and intensive services to support the parent, the child and the parent and child as a family unit in order to promote child safety and family stability. The executive summary is available online at www.childrensdefensefund.org. Copies may also be ordered by calling Children's Defense Fund Publications at 202-662-3562

FACTS & FIGURES

❖ Welfare recipients acknowledge that addiction is a significant barrier to self-sufficiency. (*Legal Action Center, 1997*)

❖ According to the National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study participants receiving welfare decreased by 10.7 percent one year after treatment. (*Children's Defense Fund, 1998*)

❖ Fifty percent of out-of-home care placements of children are made because their parents have substance abuse problems (*Child Welfare League of America, 1998*)

What others are doing

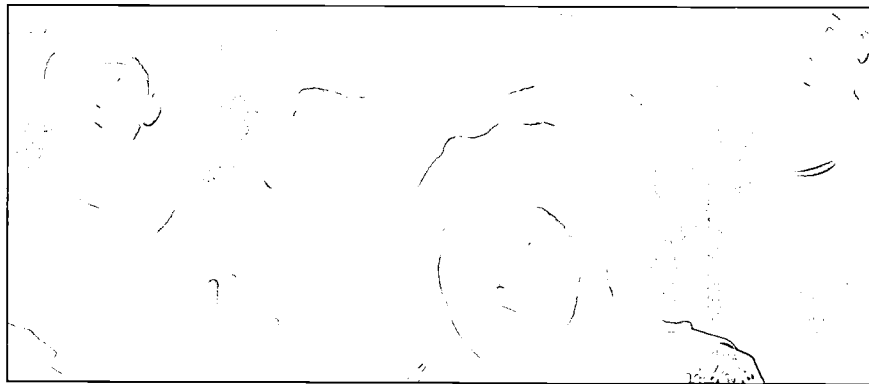
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sense of isolation and even alienation many of the participant families experience. Aspira's major partners are the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Consultores en Conducta Humana, Inc.

Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD), Colorado Springs, Colorado

Head Start staff, parents and community partners, developed this comprehensive model. The CPCD model has two purposes: It targets the most "at-risk" families with individual counseling services and the community-at-large through coalition building and community organizing in this relatively isolated low-income community. The program identifies high risk Head Start families in the relatively isolated Stratton Meadows, a low-income community of Colorado Springs. It links them with the community and with appropriate resources — including free substance abuse treatment counseling for families — and engages them in education and training to build independence and self-sufficiency. Neighborhood committees plan and implement activities in response to community-identified issues of concerns. Thus, the CPCD program focuses on strengthening the environment of the Head Start child by strengthening and empowering their family's capacities and limiting their vulnerabilities in the neighborhood where they live. Their approach builds on the existing Head Start structure; so it also entails promoting better parenting skills and parent involvement; enlisting the support and involvement of the local schools in family success; and family counseling, particularly around the issues of substance abuse. Its major partners include the Neighborhood Resources Division of city government; the McMasters Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment, a 14-member-agency local human services interagency collaborative (Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families), the Colorado Springs police department, and two schools in the Stratton Meadows community.

The National Association of Children Of Alcoholics (NaCOA) has several affiliates that work with children of substance abusers. One of them is the Archway Program at Yonkers General Hospital in Mt. Vernon, NY, which offers support groups for children of alcoholics and addicts at Yonkers General and several outpatient addiction sites. Their Children are People program serves young people, ages 5-18 whose parents are problem drinkers or recovering alcoholics or drug addicts. The program uses a variety of techniques such as discussion groups, games, movies, poetry, music and art. These techniques work to build self-esteem and to increase self-awareness in the child, to provide children with alternative ways of responding to living in an alcoholic/chemically dependent home, and to establish and build a sense of trust with adults. Having these factors in place can help each child break the cycle of addiction in the family. For more information, contact Madeline Zevon at 914-668-1450. For information about other affiliates, contact NaCOA at 11426 Rockville Pike, #100, Rockville, MD 20852; Phone: (888) 55-4COAS or visit their website at www.health.org/nacoa/





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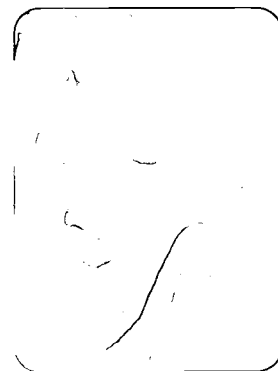
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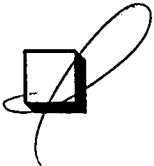


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