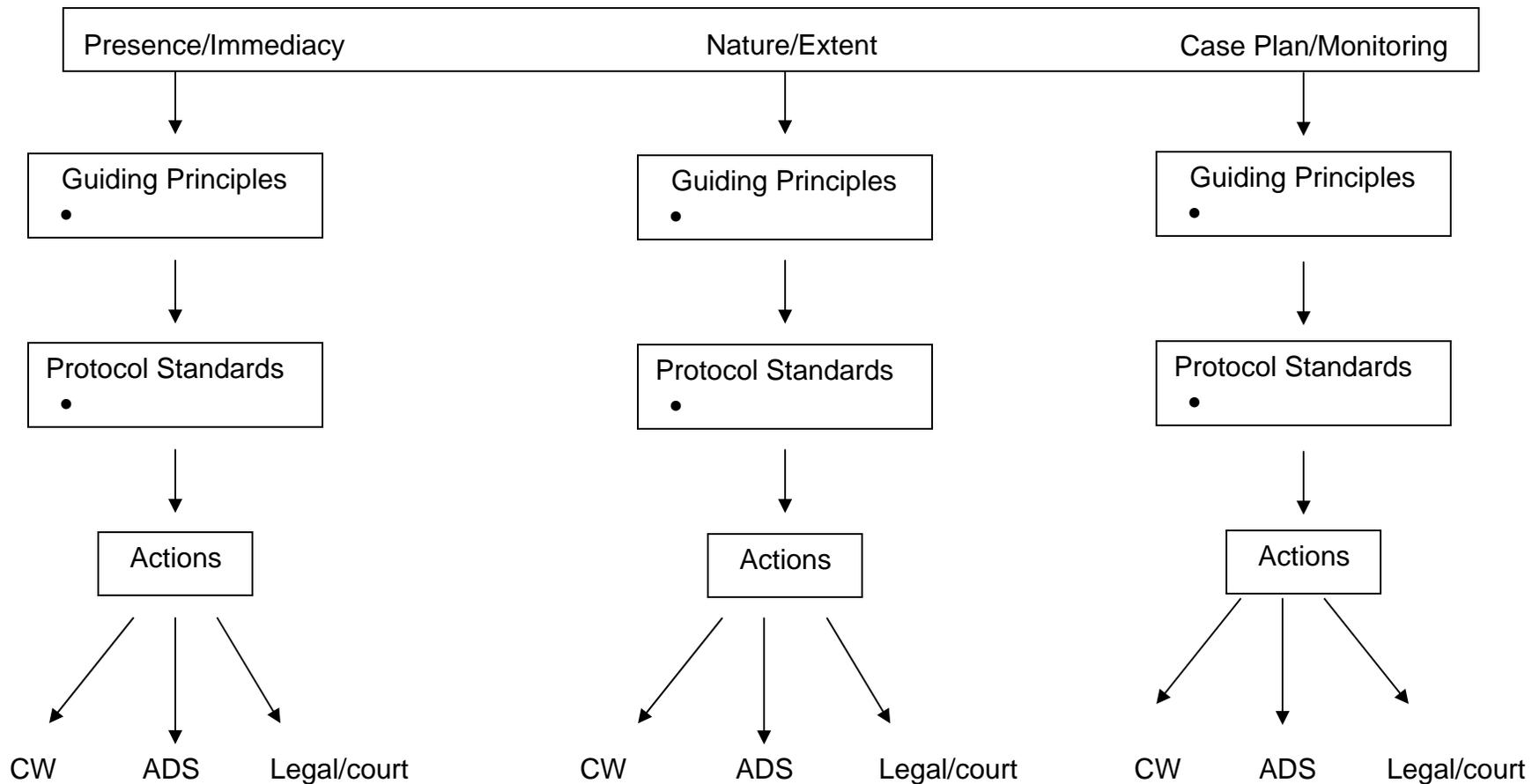


**Colorado**  
**Overarching Statements of Values and Principles about**  
**Families and Colleagues**

# OVERARCHING STATEMENTS OF VALUES AND PRINCIPLES ABOUT FAMILIES AND COLLEAGUES



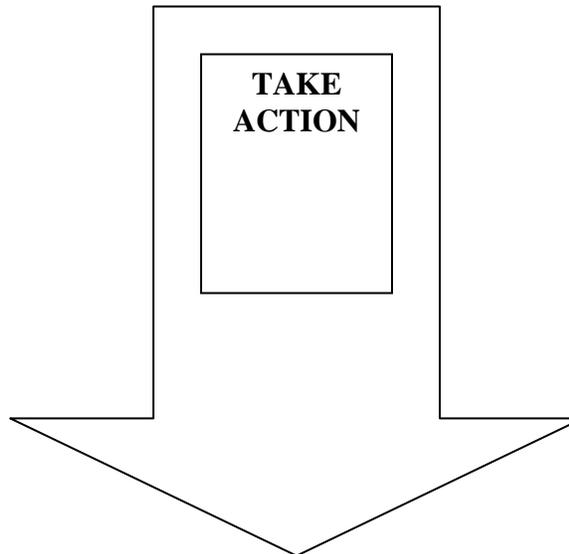
## Determining Presence & Immediacy

### Community Principles:

- In making decisions regarding child and family well being, practitioners from all systems should seriously consider the possibility that substance abuse is a problem and adopt a “screen out stance” with regard to substance abuse
- Regardless of which system (child welfare, court, substance abuse) the family enters and what the presenting problem is, practitioners should systematically inquire about potential involvement with the other systems

### Community Standards

- Develop a tool for use by each system to screen for potential involvement with others
- Develop training curricula to support front line workers in gathering information about substance abuse and use and to identify children with significant alcohol related disabilities
- Develop ongoing mechanisms and communication systems for front line workers to consult with other professionals in their field as well as in other systems when making difficult decisions about child welfare and adult substance abuse.
- Individual agencies/organizations will develop internal guidelines and standards for making decisions about child welfare in the context of adult substance abuse
- Develop expectations that all systems will fundamental knowledge of addiction, recovery, and child welfare standards
- All actions and information gathered should be documented and shared with other systems



**Presence and Immediacy**

**Recommended Actions to Implement Practice Standards**

- Child Welfare**
- Use of standard tool to screen for involvement in other systems
  - Train social workers in methods to gather information about SA
  - Train SW to identify children that may have significant alcohol related disabilities for further assessment
  - Develop strong relationships with SA Tx organizations for consultation around ongoing and potential child welfare cases
  - Develop mechanisms for consultation within child welfare on difficult cases
  - Develop internal guidelines for making decisions when SA is a factor
  - Provide ongoing training to child welfare administrators and front line staff on addiction and recovery

- Substance Abuse Treatment**
- Use of standard tool to screen for involvement in other systems
  - Train SA counselors to identify situations that are potentially dangerous to children
  - Train SA counselors to identify children that may have significant alcohol related disabilities and/or significant emotional, behavioral, or cognitive problems & refer for appropriate assessment
  - Develop strong relationships with Child Welfare & Judicial systems for consultation around child welfare cases
  - Develop mechanisms for consultation within SA Tx organizations on issues of child wellbeing
  - Develop internal guidelines for making decisions about how to ensure the emotional and physical wellbeing of children of adult clients
  - Provide ongoing training to SA counselors and administrators on issues related to child safety and child development.

- Judicial**
- Use of a standard tool to screen for involvement in other systems
  - Training for judges, family court facilitators, & GALs to identify children that may have significant alcohol related disabilities and refer for further assessment
  - Develop standards for inquiring about child welfare's assessment of potential substance abuse issues. Look for documentation.
  - Actively seek out input from SA tx professionals when making decisions
  - Develop strong relationships with SA Tx organizations for consultation around ongoing & potential child welfare cases
  - Develop mechanisms for consultation within judicial system on difficult cases
  - Develop internal guidelines for making decisions when SA is a factor
  - Provide ongoing training to judicial staff on addiction & recovery in the context of child welfare cases

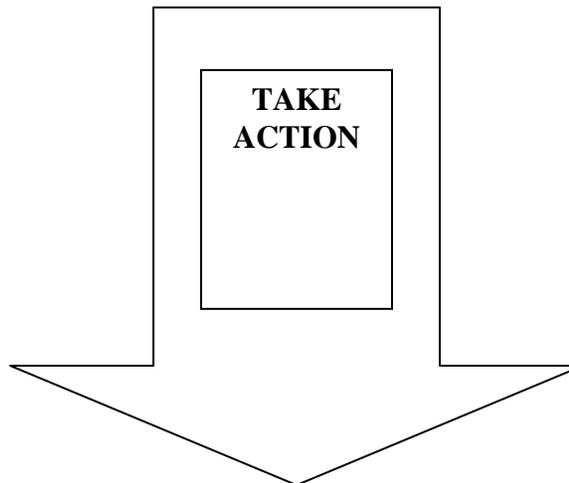
## Nature & Extent

### Community Guiding Principles:

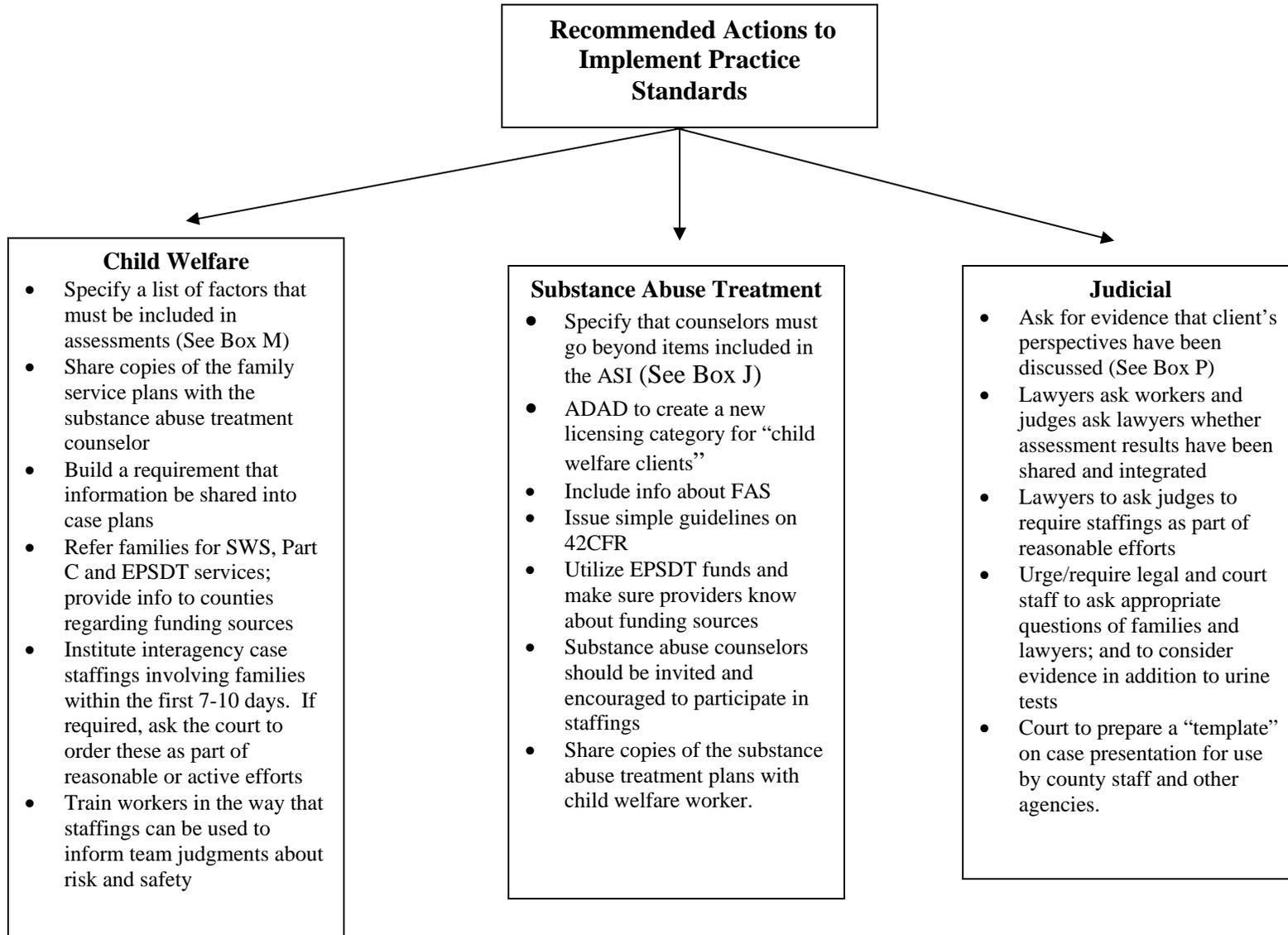
- The team is more critical than the tool in determining the relationship between substance use and child safety or risk (but the team does need the tools)
- During the assessment process, children's needs should be identified and addressed
- Sharing information appropriately is desirable, helpful, and feasible
- People from all systems should understand the range of funding streams that are available and should know how to access those funds

### Community Standards

- Substance abuse and child welfare assessments should include the client's perception and beliefs about the circumstance
- Assessments conducted by one worker should be shared with other workers
- Children should be assessed for
- Case plans and information to courts should reflect all assessments and the client's perspective
- Lawyers and court staff should have complete and consistent information that allows them to comment on progress and make informed judgments
- Procedures should be in place to utilize all potential funding sources for services
- Families should not experience delays in receiving services that are the outgrowth of assessments



## Nature and Extent



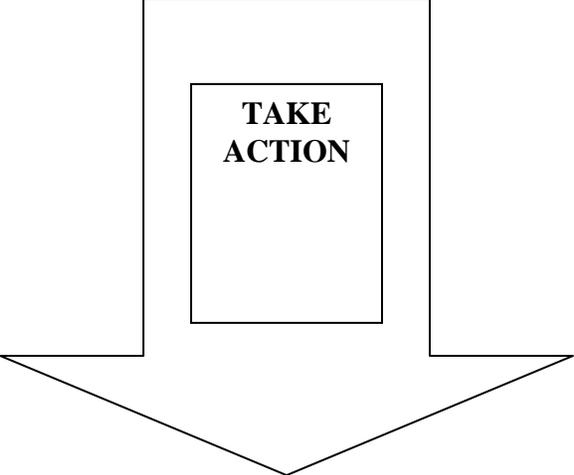
## Case Plan & Monitoring

### Community Guiding Principles:

- Case plans can and should be modified as circumstances change.
- Actions should have consequences that are fair, timely, and appropriate to the action
- Consequences should apply to families and to staff; consequences should not be used solely as punishments
- Family progress should be recognized, noted, and shared with family members

### Community Standards

- Staff from all systems should know how the family is progressing in the other two systems
- Judges, magistrates, and mediators should have adequate grounding in child and family development and addiction and recovery to allow them to make informed decisions
- Workers should have knowledge and skills to present credible testimony to attorneys and in court
- Families should be active participants throughout and should be included in meetings and staffings
- Case plans should recognize and build upon cultural, ethnic, and religious values of families



**TAKE  
ACTION**

## Case Plan and Monitoring

