

## **Pennsylvania Cross Systems Drug and Alcohol Work Group**

### **Cross Systems Collaboration Survey**

National studies have indicated up to 80% of adults associated with a child welfare case have substance abuse problems that contributed to the abuse or neglect of their children. Early identification of these parents and faster access to better treatment for them can lead to significant improvements in child welfare outcomes of safety, permanence, and well being. Thus, communication between children and youth (C&Y) agencies and drug and alcohol (D&A) treatment providers becomes crucial in efforts directed towards maximizing positive outcomes for families involved with the child welfare system. Similarly, it is imperative that the courts be made aware of parental substance abuse problems and treatment progress in order to make informed decisions regarding the goals of the family service plan.

The Pennsylvania Cross Systems Drug and Alcohol Work Group has been assembled to assess the quality of collaboration across these three systems in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. The Work Group, comprised of representatives from The Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF), the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), Department of Drug and Alcohol (DDAP), the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC), Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA), Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators (PCYA), Single County Authorities (SCA), and the County Children and Youth Agencies (CCYA), is currently seeking feedback from each of the county child welfare, court, and substance abuse systems in order to identify and address any barriers to effective cross system cooperation.

The survey you are about to complete will ask a series of questions related to the interaction between C&Y, D&A, and the dependency courts in your county. As individuals involved with child welfare, court, and substance abuse systems, we value your input regarding collaboration within your respective counties and appreciate your participation in this survey.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey please feel free to contact Darlene Black at [dablack@pa.gov](mailto:dablack@pa.gov) or Natalie Perrin at [nperrin@pa.gov](mailto:nperrin@pa.gov).

## Cross Systems Collaboration Survey

**Area of Primary Responsibility:**                      **County Represented**\_\_\_\_\_

- Substance Abuse Services
- Child Welfare Services
- Dependency Court Judicial Officer
- Attorney Practicing in Dependency Court
- Mental Health
- Other, Specify:\_\_\_\_\_

**1. Our county C&Y staff utilizes standardized screening tools to inform referrals made to D&A.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**2. Our county has identified the confidentiality provisions that affect C&Y, D&A and dependency court connections and has developed a means of sharing information that remains within regulatory parameters.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**3. Cross systems training programs regarding substance abuse, child welfare and dependency court issues are offered in our county.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**4. Our county has the adequate D&A treatment resources available to address referrals from C&Y.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/ Don't Know

**5. Our county C&Y workers routinely screen for substance abuse when working with families in the C&Y system.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**6. Our dependency court system has adequate and timely access to treatment monitoring information to determine how parents are progressing through treatment.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**7. Our county's C&Y staff has the skills and knowledge to talk with their clients about D&A use and related problems.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**8. Our systems have case plans that include the substance abuse recovery plan integrated or linked with the child welfare case plan.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**9. Once a referral is received by D&A from C&Y, D&A assessment of the client occurs within a reasonable time frame.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**10. Our county's D&A staff has the skills and knowledge to talk with their clients about child safety and C&Y involvement.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**11. In our county, C&Y makes referrals to D&A in a time sensitive manner.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**12. When our county C&Y staff makes referrals to D&A, they receive feedback regarding the referral outcome and any subsequent course of treatment.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**13. Our county C&Y staff is familiar with the steps to take once they have determined a referral to D&A should be made.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**14. Our county's dependency court's response to parents with problems of addiction is generally appropriate and effective.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**15. Our county's D&A treatment system receives referrals from C&Y staff on a regular basis.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**16. Overall, our county has developed effective collaboration between C&Y, D&A and the dependency court.**

Disagree                      Somewhat Agree                      Agree                      Not Sure/Don't Know

**17. What barriers to effective collaboration between D&A, C&Y and the court system would you identify as problematic for your county? Please be as specific as possible. For example, “lack of communication between C&Y and D&A regarding referral outcomes and treatment progress” or “difficulty with clients obtaining Medicaid to help cover D&A services.”**

**18. Do you believe there is a breakdown in communication between these systems? If so, where in the process does the breakdown occur and how might communication be improved?**