

Lead Agency:

Colorado Judicial
Department Juvenile
Probation, Denver
Juvenile and Family
Justice – Treatment
Accountability for
Safer Communities

**Geographic Area and
Congressional**

District Served:

Denver County,
Colorado;
Congressional
District 1

Federal Grant:

\$1.48 million/4 years

**Evaluation Design,
Comparison Group
Type and**

Treatment Received:

Pre-post design,
treatment group only

**Proposed Number
Served (4 Years):**

Children: 190
Adults: 76

Project Description

The Denver County Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) Project serves children and their parents with concurrent child welfare and criminal cases. Also known as CAMDEN, this project is expanding and enhancing services to parents and children participating in the Family Integrated Drug Court (FIDC). Key elements of the CAM project include:

- **Community Outreach Program** – Esperanza (COPE) – a home- and school-based trauma focused treatment that includes Trauma Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and, as needed, Parent Child Interaction Therapy;
- **SafeCare** – a home visitation model providing parent training in child safety, health care and parent-child interaction;
- **Child Screening, Assessment and Referral** – to address issues related to trauma, development, mental and physical health;
- **Outreach and Engagement strategies** – Staff members conducting specialized outreach and encouraging CAM participants to engage in or continue with CAM services and the FIDC.

Target Population

This project serves families and children in Denver, Colorado, the capital and largest city in the state with a population of 620,000. Services are provided to children ages 0 – 17 and families who are participating in the FIDC in Denver.

The FIDC serves families on two court dockets. All families on both dockets have an open dependency and neglect case with the Denver Department of Human Services. The first docket includes families with a concurrent criminal case in the District Court system. The second docket includes families with a concurrent criminal case in the Denver County Court system. Criminal cases are not necessarily related to the dependency and neglect case.

Major Project Goals

- Provide immediate screening and assessment for children and youth of parents with methamphetamine use and involved in the FIDC;
- Provide evidence-based, culturally competent treatment and follow-up services for trauma-exposed children and youth ages 0 – 17 with methamphetamine abusing, parents;
- Strengthen and support participating parents and caregiver's parental capacity through evidence-based home visitation programming.

Partner Agencies and Organizations

The CAMDEN Project includes the following partners:

Child Welfare

- Denver Area Youth Services
- Denver Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare Services

Substance Abuse

- Arapahoe House
- Reach Counseling
- McNeil and Associates
- Savio House
- University of Colorado Health Science Center, The Haven

Courts

- Denver Juvenile Court, Colorado Second Judicial District,
- Denver County Court

Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Legal and Related Organizations

- Denver Police Department
- Denver District Probation Department
- Denver County Probation Department
- Denver Juvenile Probation Department
- Denver District Attorney, Denver Alliance for Drug Endangered Children
- Division of Probation Services–Colorado State Judicial Branch

CAM Program Description

Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded grant program focused on expanding and/or enhancing services to children and their families who are affected by methamphetamine use and abuse. The Public Health Service Act of 2000 Section 509 provided funding over a four-year period to 12 Family Treatment Drug Courts (FTDC) to improve the well-being, permanency, and safety outcomes of children, who are in, or at-risk of out-of-home placement as a result of a parental methamphetamine or other substance abuse.

Mental Health Service Providers

- Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
- GBQ Inc. (Gayle B. Quick, private counselor)
- Reach Inc.
- McNeil and Associates
- Porter Center for Behavioral Health

Performance Indicators

CAM grantees are measuring their performance on outcomes for children, adults and families. **The CAMDEN Project** bi-annually provides data on the following 18 performance indicators.

Child/Youth Indicators

- Children remain at home
- Occurrence of child maltreatment
- Average length of stay in foster care
- Re-entries to foster care placement
- Timeliness of reunification
- Timeliness of permanency
- Prevention of substance-exposed newborn
- Connected to supportive services
- Improved child well-being

Adult Indicators

- Access to substance abuse treatment
- Retention in treatment
- Substance use
- Connected to supportive services
- Employment
- Criminal behavior

Family/Relationship Indicators

- Improved parenting
- Family relationships and functioning
- Risk and protective factors