



In-Depth Technical Assistance Program (IDTA)

What is IDTA?

- An 18-24 month technical assistance program designed to strengthen collaboration and coordination across child welfare, substance abuse, mental health, family courts and other key stakeholders.

We developed new programs and services and made positive changes in the major systems that help the families, caregivers and children we serve. Samuel Moy, President and CEO of Advanced Behavioral Health, Connecticut

How will IDTA help me?

- Agencies and courts can obtain key positive outcomes for child welfare-involved families affected by substance use disorders, such as: more children remaining at home
 - Reductions in out of home care costs
 - Increase in parental recovery
 - Timely and coordinated screening, assessment and treatment
 - Greater substance abuse treatment completion
 - More successful completion of child welfare case plans
 - Ensuring that interventions and treatment address the needs of parent, child and entire family.

How is IDTA conducted?

- A senior-level consultant provides substantial support and expertise using a combination of proven change management strategies and tools, relationship-building and individual coaching to:
 - Engage and retain essential partners
 - Establish a set of cross-system values and guiding principles
 - Identify mutual priorities and shared outcomes
 - Identify and achieve program, practice and/or policy changes
 - Develop protocols or guidelines for implementation and collaborative practice
 - Implement data sharing agreements for measuring client and systems level progress
 - Develop protocols or guidelines for implementation and collaborative practice

The IDTA model is based on the premise that significant and lasting policy and practice changes are more likely to occur by providing training and technical assistance in sufficient depth and duration and through **strategic implementation phases**:

Phase 1

Exploration and Adoption

- **Assessment of Need and Readiness for Change**—Clearly defining needs and issues and engaging critical partners

Phase 2

Installation and Initial Implementation

- **Strategic Planning and Capacity Building**—Using the data and information to develop mutual priorities for practice and policy changes

Phase 3

Full Operation

- **Implementation and Evaluation (Up to 6 months)**—Pilot testing, evaluating and making adaptations

Phase 4

Innovation

- **Dissemination, Evaluation and Sustainability Planning**—Developing concrete steps for broad-based dissemination, institutionalization and sustainability

Phase 5

Sustainability

- **Follow up, Monitoring and Aftercare (up to 6 months post-IDTA)**—Periodic check-ins with the sites are to reinforce and assist in sustaining change and addressing remaining or emerging challenges

IDTA Lessons Learned

NCSACW has drawn four key lessons from the successes and challenges of prior sites over the last decade. IDTA offers coaching and assistance to address these issues, among others, to lead to lasting cross-systems change and positive outcomes for families.

- 1. Engaging and sustaining partners is essential, but challenging.** Ensure that the expectations of each partner are clear; recognize each partner's investments and intentions, have discussions of key values and how they impact the project, enlist a champion, and plan for challenging changes in leadership.
- 2. Identify opportunities for change—be problem focused and data driven.** Sites should utilize emerging issues and crises as opportunities for change, gather and analyze baseline data, employ diagnostic tools to clarify the problem and identify opportunities for change, and conducting pilot tests to adjust one issue at a time.
- 3. Establish shared outcomes and joint accountability early in the process.** It is crucial to agree on short-term and long-term outcomes, determine how to share data to measure client and system-level progress and plan for unintended consequences and misconceptions. Systems must engage all levels of each organization in achieving the outcomes.
- 4. Plan for implementing, institutionalizing and sustaining system-level changes.** To promote system-level sustainability, sites must leverage resources across all systems, connect to related collaborative efforts, document and disseminate outcomes, and maintain a high level of community visibility.

We continue to work together with a shared vision of the problem as we meet...to craft a uniform protocol that will inform and support the work of professionals in all systems.
Vicky Weisz, Nebraska Court Improvement Director

IDTA Information, Examples and Products

- Check out the **IDTA Final Report 2007-2012** for a comprehensive summary of the successes and lessons learned of the 17 IDTA sites. Found online at:
http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/files/IDTA_Final_Report_2007_2012_508.pdf
- Browse through examples of tools and products developed by past IDTA sites, such as:

Data and
Information
Sharing
Protocols

Screening and
Assessment
Protocols for
Parental
Substance Use

Interagency
Agreements and
Memorandums
of Agreement

Cross-Systems
Training
Protocols

- Visit the website: <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/technical/idta.aspx>
- Contact the NCSACW: ncsacw@cffutures.org or (866) 493-2758