



CHILDREN AFFECTED BY METHAMPHETAMINE PROJECT SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Lead Agency:
San Luis Obispo
County Behavioral
Health, Drug and
Alcohol Services

**Geographic Area and
Congressional
District Served:**
San Luis Obispo
County;
Congressional
District 24

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: 240
Adults: 196

Project Description

The San Luis Obispo Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) Project expands services to children and families participating in Dependency Drug Court. The CAM Project focuses on case management, in-home and outpatient behavioral health treatment services, and parent education. Key service elements include the following:

- ***Celebrating Families*** – a 16-week evidence-based interactive parenting program that helps families recover from the effects of substance abuse and child neglect; every family member from ages 3 through adulthood, participates in structured educational groups and activities;
- ***Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)*** – provides children a mentor relationship, which may include tutoring supports, incentives, and supportive activities; every CAM child is referred to CASA for possible matching with a CASA volunteer;
- ***Martha's Place Assessment Center*** – provides assessment and treatment strategies for children ages 0–5 at high risk for health and behavioral health problems; using a comprehensive array of tools and procedures to identify, assess, refer and treat children who have been prenatally exposed to alcohol and other drugs and/or who are exhibiting behaviors that may interfere with normal development;
- ***Theraplay*** – is a trauma-informed therapy modality focused on building and enhancing attachment, self-esteem, trust in others, and meaningful engagement.

Target Population

Services are provided to children ages 0–17 and their families participating in the Dependency Drug Court (DDC), with a particular focus on school-aged children. San Luis Obispo County is located in the Central Coast of California with a total population of 269,600. It is marked by low population density and is more rural and agricultural than many other coastal regions in California.

Major Project Goals

- Help DDC child participants to improve the quality of their lives, to reduce the impacts of family methamphetamine addiction, and to increase overall health and well-being of children;
- Continue to support DDC parent participants in establishing healthy family functioning, healthy environmental supports, improve the quality of family communications, and to break the intergenerational cycle of addiction in families;
- Increase the DDC's capacity for services to children and families affected by methamphetamine.

Partner Agencies and Organizations

The San Luis Obispo CAM Project include the following partners:

Child Welfare

- Department of Social Services

Substance Abuse

- San Luis Obispo County Health Agency – Drug and Alcohol Services Division

Courts

- Superior Court of San Luis Obispo

Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Legal and Related Organizations

- Family Attorneys
- Probation Department
- Court Appointed Special Advocates

Health and Development

- Martha's Place Assessment Center

CAM Program Description

Children Affected by Methamphetamine 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 parental methamphetamine or other substance abuse.

Performance Indicators

CAM grantees are measuring their performance on outcomes for children and adults. **The San Luis Obispo CAM Project** bi-annually provides data on the following 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
- Connection to supportive services
- Improved child well-being

Adult Indicators

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

Family/Relationship Indicators

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