

Kentucky Safe Families in Recovery

Operating Values and Principles for Collaboration and Service Coordination

Focus: The Kentucky Safe Families in Recovery Partnership focuses on families with child maltreatment and parental substance use and related behavioral health disorders. It seeks to improve collaboration and coordination of efforts between the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), and the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS).

Operating Values and Principles

The three participating agencies: AOC, DBHDID, and DCBS recognize that they provide essential leadership in the larger systems of care for these families. These agencies then seek to maximize child safety, permanency, well-being and parental capacity, progress towards sobriety, and maintained recovery for this population by agreeing to the following shared operating values and principles for collaboration and service coordination:

We will strive for coordinated policies, training, service delivery and consistent expectations among child welfare, the courts, and behavioral health services systems of care.

We believe that the best approach to expanding and coordinating funding for substance abuse treatment and family services is through a common voice and plan among the three agencies.

We believe that leadership to improve services for families and communities or to improve state practices and policies is a shared responsibility between the three agencies and their related systems.

We value and will strive for creating, measuring and improving common outcomes between the three agencies.

We believe that substance use disorders are conditions needing treatment and recovery supports.

We value expanding and enhancing opportunities for local treatment and recovery services that allow families and children greater opportunities for contact, bonding and development of parental capacity.

We value the experience and input of parents and individuals who are in long-term recovery from addiction.

We agree that decisions about the child and family are complex and require examining risk and protective factors with shared input and collaboration from all three agencies.

We believe that graduated consequences and parental accountability are best paired with supports to reduce barriers to change with thoughtful responses to lapses and low-risk relapses.

Development Process: The values and principles outlined here are based on results of a Collaborative Values Inventory (CVI) completed in 2010 by professionals from the AOC, DBHDID, and DCBS. From the CVI responses, a draft list of common values and principles was developed, reviewed and edited twice by the IDTA (In-Depth Technical Assistance) Advisory Board. Additional input obtained during 15 Statewide Regional Forums conducted between August 2011 and January 2012 was incorporated into the document. State and regional leaders reviewed, edited and finalized this document. Completion date: 2/28/2012.