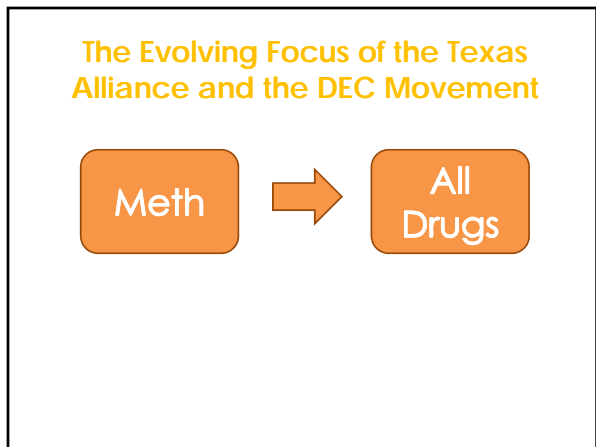




History of the Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

- **THE BEGINNING.** In Spring 2004, the first informational meeting is held in Irving, TX with audience of multi-disciplinary professionals.
- **THE MOBILIZATION.** A 2-day Conference is held in Grapevine, TX and attended by over 400 Texas professionals in April 2005.
- **THE CONTINUATION.** Since January 2006, the Children's Justice Act has funded trainings and DEC alliance development statewide.



Legislation

Senate Bill 758
SECTION 26. Section 40.071, Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 40.071. **DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILD INITIATIVE.**

The department shall establish a drug- endangered child initiative aimed at protecting children who are exposed to **heroin, cocaine or any of its forms, or methamphetamine** or to chemicals and other hazardous materials used in the illicit manufacture of Methamphetamine.

Our Mission

TADEC advocates for intervention on behalf of children in volatile drug environments and assists communities in building collaborative, multidisciplinary Drug Endangered Children (DEC) alliances.

Happy and Safe Children



Happy and Safe Children

• Our Goal

100%

Drug Endangered Children

Children who suffer physical or emotional **risk** as a result of illegal drug **use, manufacturing, cultivation or distribution.**



DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN
MAGNITUDE OF THE ISSUE

Drugs & Children

11.9% of children live with at least one parent who abuses alcohol or illicit drugs.

(National Survey on Drug Use and Health, April 2009)

Drugs & Children

802,000 children in Texas live in homes where a parent abuses alcohol or illicit drugs.

(National Survey on Drug Use and Health, April 2009)

Drugs & Children

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) estimates that substance abuse is a factor in **70% of all reported cases of child maltreatment.**

(National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, March 2005)

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

IMPACTS ON CHILDREN

Impact on Children



Erratic Discipline Drug Exposed Infant Increased Irritability Irrational Rage

Irrational Rage

Father charged in east Houston beating death of son

Anita Hassan / Houston Chronicle – July 12, 2010, 12:17AM

HOUSTON – Police charged 34-year-old Alex McGowen Duncan with murder Sunday, accusing him of beating his 6-year-old to death because the boy would not fall asleep.

Duncan shared the one-room efficiency apartment with his girlfriend, 30-year-old Tammyra Sampson, and her 11-year-old daughter. Houston Police Department Homicide Division detective Sgt. Brian Harris said the beating continued until 3 a.m. with Sampson and her daughter witnessing the entire event.

Initially, Duncan, who has a history of drug charges dating to 1995, told police that the bruising was from attempting to revive the child from the seizure by slapping him and giving him chest thrusts.

Duncan is scheduled to appear in court Tuesday. Sampson, who has a criminal history and history with Child Protective Services, has also been charged with injury to a child causing serious bodily injury by omission.

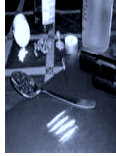
Impact on Children



Lack of Supervision



Lack of Necessities

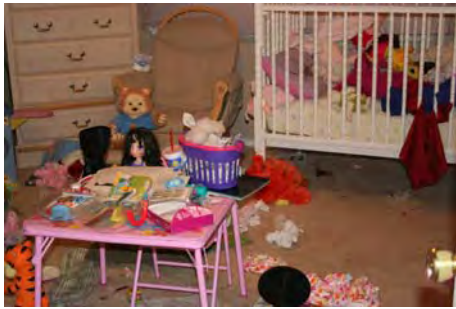


Dangerous Home



Incapacitated Caretaker

Lack of Supervision



Lack of Necessities



Dangerous Home



Incapacitated Caretaker

Toddler boy found wandering street alone

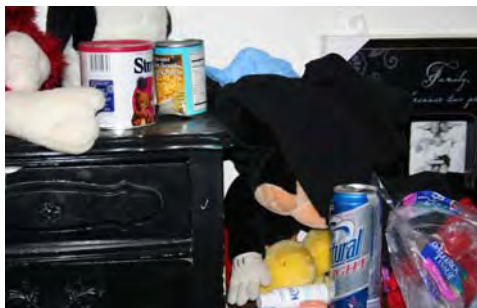
Crystal Mazza / WOAI TV – May 27, 2010, 9:02 AM

SAN ANTONIO — **A toddler was found alone wandering a San Antonio street late Wednesday night. Police say the three-year-old and his one-year-old brother were left alone at a house while their babysitter went for a beer run.**

Police arrived and tracked down the man who was supposed to be babysitting the two boys. Officers say he was **drunk and belligerent. They arrested and charged him with public intoxication.**

Police tell News 4 WOAI they also tried charging the man with endangering a child. However, a judge rejected the charge, claiming there was no proof the man was responsible for the children.

Incapacitated Caretaker



Impact on Children



Property Crimes



Drug Transporting



Drug Dealing



Ongoing Use

Drug Transporting



Drug Dealing



Ongoing Use



Impact on Children



Domestic Violence



Drug Deal Violence



Kidnapping



Home Invasions

Domestic Violence

Man shook 5-year-old boy, pushed him into traffic

Domingo Ramirez / Fort Worth Star-Telegram – July 12, 2010

GRAPEVINE — A Fort Worth man was in custody Monday on charges that he violently shook his girlfriend's 5-year-old son on the side of a Grapevine highway and then pushed him into a lane of traffic.

Before Grapevine police arrived, the 22-year-old man is accused of punching his girlfriend and threatening to kill her in front of the boy.

Motorists told police that the man shook the boy violently, but the youngster managed to escape him. The man is then accused of pushing the boy into a lane of traffic. At about the same time, a vehicle crashed into the girlfriend's car which was in the middle of the highway, according to police reports.

Authorities believe that the man had been drinking.

Drug Deal Violence



Home Invasions

Group kills man inside San Juan home; 2 arrested

Jared Taylor / The Monitor – May 27, 2010, 8:38 AM

SAN JUAN — Several hit men killed a 21-year-old man in front of his wife and young son during an apparent drug-related home invasion Wednesday, police said.

At least three men barged into the home of Roberto "Bobby" Hinojosa, 21, about 1 a.m., looking for several pounds of marijuana police later found inside.

Hinojosa, 21, was in bed with his wife at the time, while their 3-year-old son was watching television in another room, said Lalo Hinojosa, the victim's 63-year-old father.

At least one of the gunshots appeared to have gone through the bedroom wall and through the front garage door.

Home Invasions



Impact on Children



Overlay Deaths



Exposure & Ingestion



Out of Home Placement



Respiratory & Other Illness

Exposure



Exposure



Spoon with heroin is located under where 2 year old boy had been seated.

Ingestion

Life Sentence for Child's Accidental Drug Death
June 19, 2008

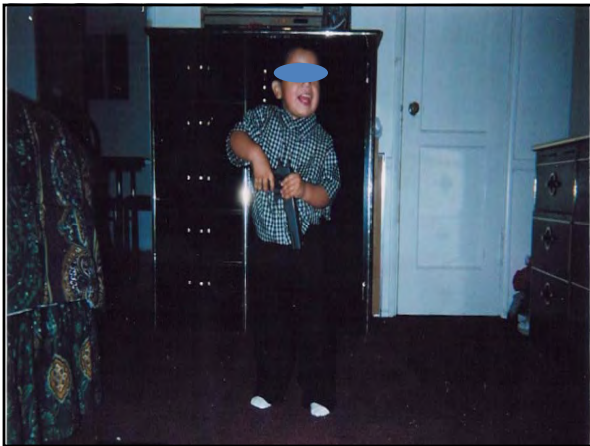
HOUSTON - A man whose **teething infant died after apparently sucking on his father's cocaine-tainted fingers** has been sentenced to life in prison.

Dennis Ray Driver, 26, was convicted Wednesday of felony murder for the overdose death of his **8-month-old son, Dennis Jr.** The jury also fined Driver \$10,000.

Driver said he **fell asleep at his apartment on Dec. 28 with his son lying on his chest.** When he awoke, **the baby wasn't breathing.** The infant died the next day at a hospital.

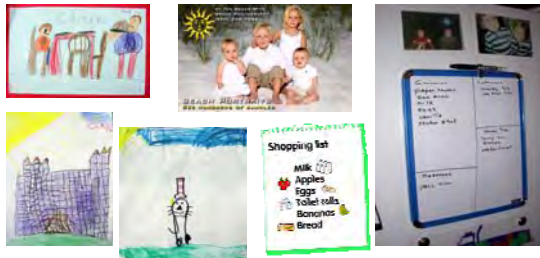
DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

MODELING BEHAVIOR



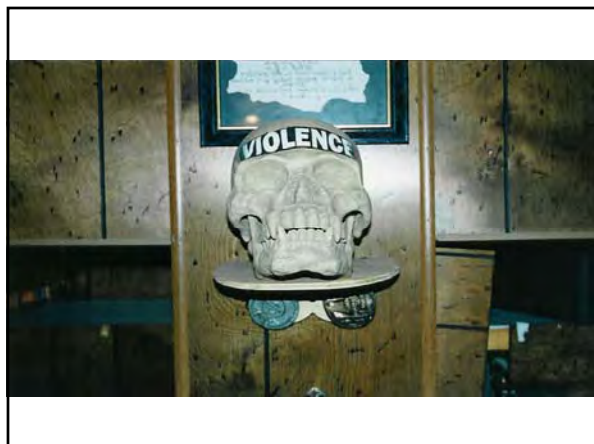
Modeling Behaviors

- What is posted on your refrigerator right now?


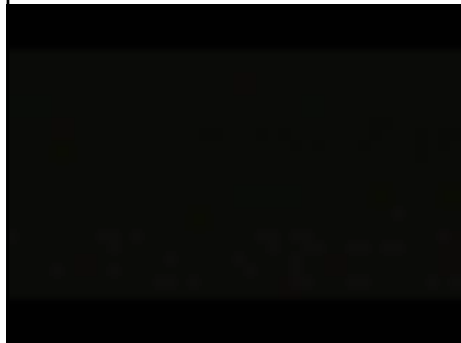




- This photo was on the refrigerator in the home of a **Drug Endangered Child.**



Modeling



DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

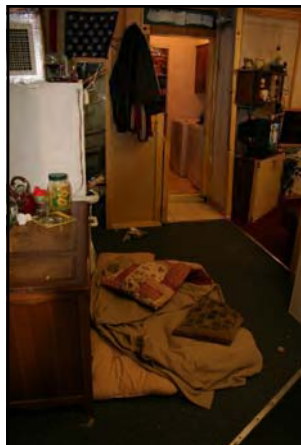
CHILD RISK ASSESSMENT CASE STUDY

Child Risk Assessment

- Condition of the home environment
- Health of the children
 - Access to nutritious food
 - Hygiene
 - Medical condition
- Addicted Parents
- Deviant behaviors
- Ability to provide safe environment for children
- Other adults in the home



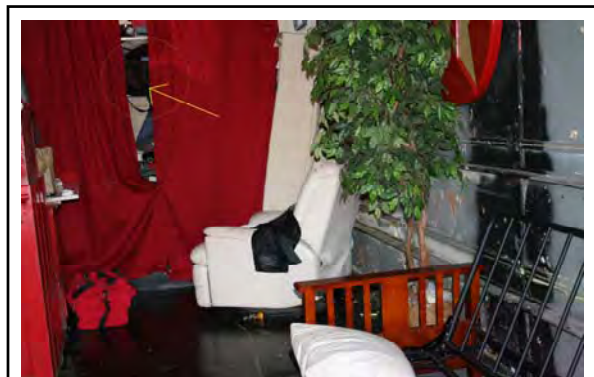
- **Mother would take her 3 year old daughter to boyfriends house, where she would nap on blankets laid on the floor.**



- **When police made entry, mom was having oral sex with her boyfriend on the couch approximately 10 feet from where the child was sleeping.**



- **This is the side table next to the couch where mother and boyfriend were.**



In an adjacent room, another male was seated in this chair. Notice also the low-hanging strap in the closet.



- A loaded model 1911 was found in the bag.

Child Risk Assessment

- Condition of the home environment
- Health of the children
 - Access to nutritious food
 - Hygiene
 - Medical condition
- Addicted Parents
- Deviant behaviors
- Ability to provide safe environment for children
- Other adults in the home

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY
CONSIDERATIONS**

Medical Considerations

- **Child Versus Adult Physiology**
 - Different diet and nutritional needs
 - Growing and developing (brain, kidneys, liver, lungs); still vulnerable to damage
 - Higher metabolic rate: absorb and metabolize toxins at a higher rate
 - Developing nervous system
 - Unusual habits (i.e. hand to mouth behaviors, eating strange things, close to ground/floor, unknowingly imitating, etc.)

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, <http://www.nationaldec.org>

Medical Considerations

- **Risks Associated with Neglect**
 - Poor hygiene and infectious skin conditions (scabies, impetigo)
 - Medical neglect of chronic medical problems (asthma, epilepsy)
 - Little to no well child care
 - Immunization delay
 - Lack of insurance in some cases
 - Inadequate medical care

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, <http://www.nationaldec.org>

Medical Considerations

- Pre-Natal Exposure Risks
 - Prematurity
 - Low birth weight
 - Growth retardation
 - Congenital malformations
 - Possible heart and urinary tract defects
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - Challenges in brain formation
 - Learning and behavioral difficulties

Plessinger. Ob/Gyn Clinics, March 1998; Chang Psychiatry Res 2004 vol 15.

Medical Considerations

- Post-Natal Exposure Risks
 - Lower arousal
 - Pitch is unstable (increased incidence of abuse)
 - Excessive sleep
 - Disinterest in feeding
 - Lack of attachment
 - Impaired growth development
 - Impaired cognitive development
 - Failure to thrive

Psychosocial Considerations

- Behavioral Concerns
 - Interpersonal Problems
 - Poor communication skills
 - Aggression
 - Oppositional/Conduct behaviors
 - State Regulation/Arousal
 - Low threshold for Stimulation
 - Impulsivity
 - Hyper-vigilance
 - Attention issues

Psychosocial Considerations

- Emotional Concerns
 - Attachment disorders
 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Lower self-esteem
 - Mistrust and fear
 - Guilt and shame

Children feel responsible for their parent's drinking and/or drug abuse.



Children equate substance abuse use with not being loved.



Children never know what to expect.



The drawing shows a man in a striped shirt and pants standing in a jail cell. Above the cell, the words "Dad in Jail" are written in a simple, hand-drawn font.

Psychosocial Considerations

- Cognitive Concerns
 - Developmental Trauma Disorders
 - Language and memory
 - Repeated grades
 - Frequent absences
 - Several schools (transient population)
 - Delinquency Behaviors/Perfectionistic Behaviors

Prevention Considerations

- Child maltreatment is the leading cause of trauma-related death for children under the age of five, 66% of which occurs at the hands of parents under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Children of substance abusing parents are the most vulnerable and endangered individuals in America. They are:
 - 2.7 times more likely to be physically abused;
 - 4.2 times more likely to be neglected;
- Significantly more likely to be abused by others.

No Safe Haven: Children of Substance-Abusing Parents, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), January 1999

Prevention Considerations

- The detrimental effects and consequences of substance abuse and addiction cost federal, state and local governments at least \$467.7 billion in 2005
- One substance-exposed child can cost a community in excess of \$1.5 million over his/her lifespan
- Every \$1 spent on prevention saves society \$10

Showing Up II: The Impact of Substance Abuse on Federal, State and Local Budgets, National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASAA), May 2009
Embry, D., "Cost Effective Prevention, Intervention and Treatment" Presentation, August 2004
Spoth, R. & Guyll, M., "Prevention's Cost Effectiveness: Illustrative Economic Benefits of General Population Interventions and Prevention of Substance-related Problems: Effectiveness of Family-focused Prevention"

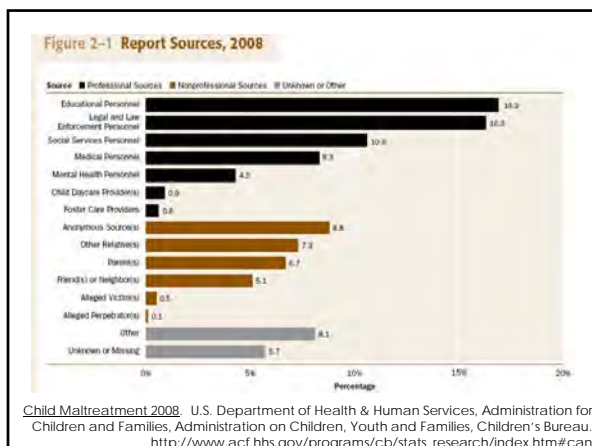
Ending the Cycle

Children of addicted parents are the group of children most at risk of becoming alcohol and drug abusers due to both genetic and family environment factors.

(Children of Alcoholics: A kit for educators National Association for Children of Alcoholics, 2001)

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY
COLLABORATION**



- DEC efforts are about collaborative

INTERVENTION

Perceptions

What our senses tell us about a situation based on individual characteristics and experiences – which may not always be correct or complete.

Perceptions



Perceptions



Perceptions



Assumptions and Perceptions

- When we collaborate, **we gain access to others' perceptions** in addition to our own.
- This, in turn, greatly increases our chances of making the **best judgment** and choosing the **best course of action**.
- This likewise greatly increases our chances of **making the best decision** on behalf of child victims that are facing such a **multi-faceted risk** as drug endangered children are.

Perceptions



Why is a DEC Program Necessary?

- Agencies and disciplines often work largely in their own insulated "silos"
- Different disciplines can be unaware of the services available to them from others in the community
- Children fall through the cracks in service between these silos
- Children in or coming from volatile drug environments require a multitude of services from a variety of disciplines
- Children who fail to be recognized as DEC are up to five times more likely to be the next generation of drug users

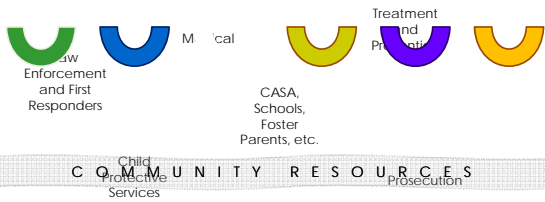
DEC Alliances

- A DEC Alliance exists to:
 - **identify** children living in or exposed to drug environments
 - **intervene** on behalf of drug endangered children
 - **unite and build relationships** between the multitude of community resources available
 - **share information, education and training** throughout the community
 - **stop the cycle of addiction and substance abuse** within a community

A DEC Alliance must incorporate all of these aspects to effectively rescue, defend, shelter and support Drug Endangered Children in a community.

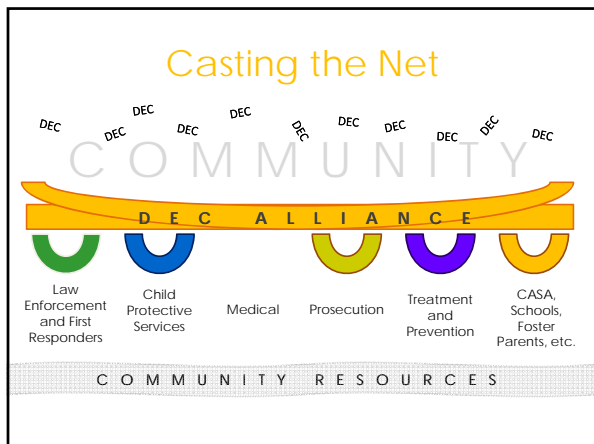
DEC in the Community

What resources are available in the community to help drug endangered children?



DEC in the Community







Questions to Consider

- When do we take action to protect children?
- What if we wait too long?
- How much is “enough?”

Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children



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