



MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT INSTITUTE

**It Takes a Village – Professional Engagement in Developing
Strategies for Achieving Permanency –
Navigating Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Abuse
Cases**

**National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
and
Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children**

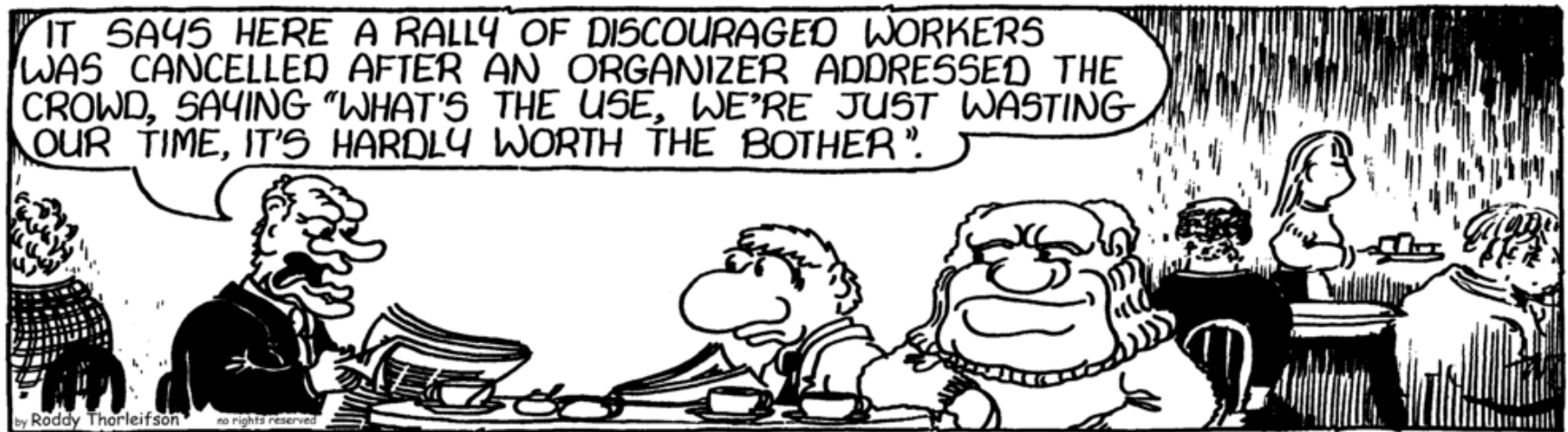


**Georgia
2019**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:



- Understand the foundation of good case planning
- Collaborating to develop winning strategies
- Best practices – Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Intimate Partner Violence
- Compliance vs. progress
- Ethical considerations/challenges



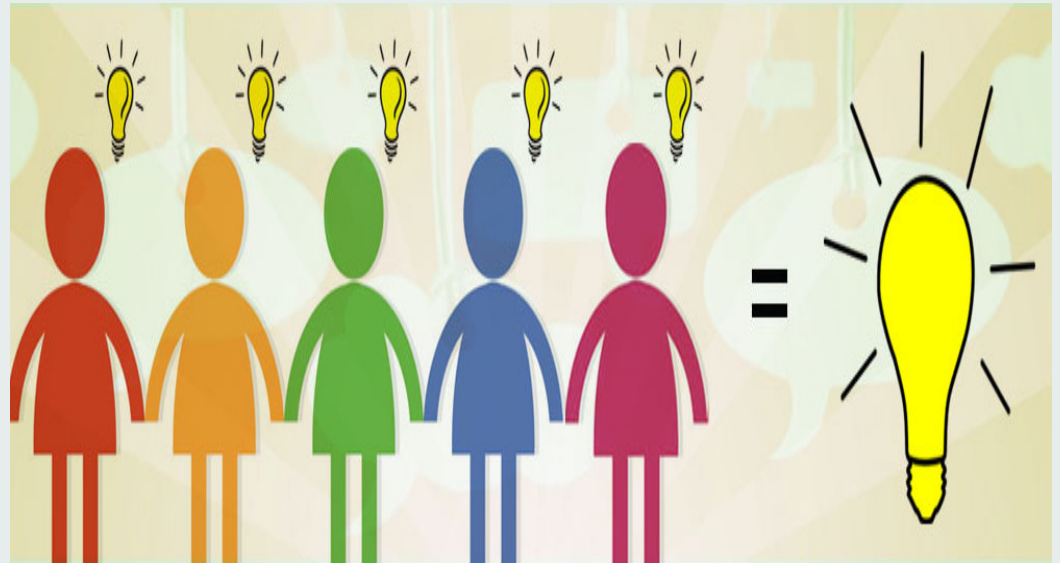
BUILD A SOLID FOUNDATION

- Review CPS history from current and prior states
- Review prior assessments
- Review prior case plans
- Review the Genogram
- Thoroughly track the problem over time
- Consider what has already been tried, what worked in the past

What are the “non-negotiables?”

COLLABORATE

- Parents
- DFCS
- Children
- Providers –
current/potential
- Informal Supports
- CASA
- Caregivers
- Attorneys



BUILD ON THE CONSENSUS

- Getting some agreement about what needs to change
- Acknowledges past efforts to change

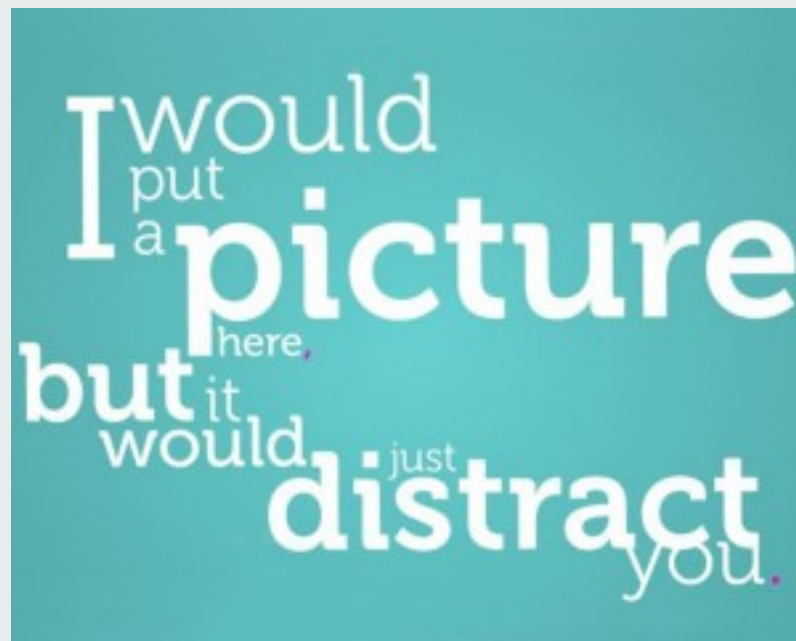
DEVELOP OUTCOMES

- Outcome = What will be happening to create safety
- FLO vs. ILO



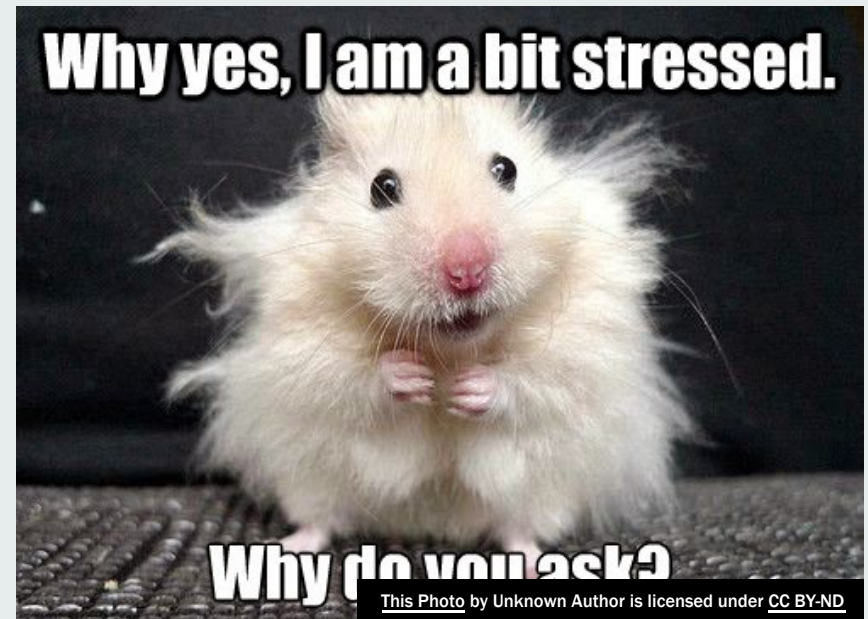
OUTCOME DRIFT

Outcome Drift – losing focus on the safety priorities



QUIZ TIME – FILL IN THE BLANKS

- Get a psychological and
.....
- Get a substance abuse
assessment and
.....
- Get a domestic violence
assessment and
.....
- Get a parental fitness
exam and
.....



TASKS

- What will be done to achieve the Outcome?
- SMART
- Include only those tasks relevant to achieving the Outcome
- Address transportation
- Update the case plan with the family and provider upon receipt of recommendations from providers

CHOOSE THE RIGHT TOOLS

SCREENING:

- Brief/Informal questions or instruments
- At risk for issues
- Whether more formal testing is needed



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CHOOSE THE RIGHT TOOLS

ASSESSMENTS:

- More comprehensive
- Instruments and interviews used to create a picture of how person is functioning, typically in a particular area
- Can be used to determine best services



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CHOOSE THE RIGHT TOOLS

EVALUATIONS:

- The most comprehensive
- More formal testing
- Most likely done by licensed clinicians (psychiatrist, psychologists, etc)



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CHARACTERISTICS OF QUALITY

- Collaboration prior to assessments
- Testing used is highly reliable with inter-rater reliability
- Addresses bio-psycho-social issues
- Administered by someone with the proper credentials/training – must understand the procedures for the testing
- Clear/easy interpretation of the raw data that was used for testing
- Provides specific recommendations & the order of services

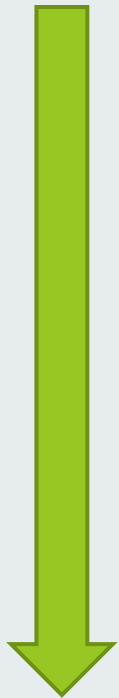


REASONABLE EFFORTS

The psychologist recommended in the psychological that Mr. Brown should receive a particular type of therapy. This was included in the case plan. The therapist, after meeting with Mr. Brown several times, decided that Mr. Brown needed a different type of therapy. At a review hearing, the therapist testified about Mr. Brown's lack of progress. Judge Lock made a "no reasonable efforts" finding because Mr. Brown was not receiving services that were identified as necessary by the psychologist and court ordered.



COMMUNICATION IS CRITICAL



- Evaluation
- Qualified provider develops treatment plan based on the recommendations in the evaluation
- Services provided
- Provider begins to feel that a different course of treatment is needed
- Provider consults treatment team
- Provider collaborates with child welfare team
- Case plan is updated with the family

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Indicators you may be working with a person who has a substance use disorder:

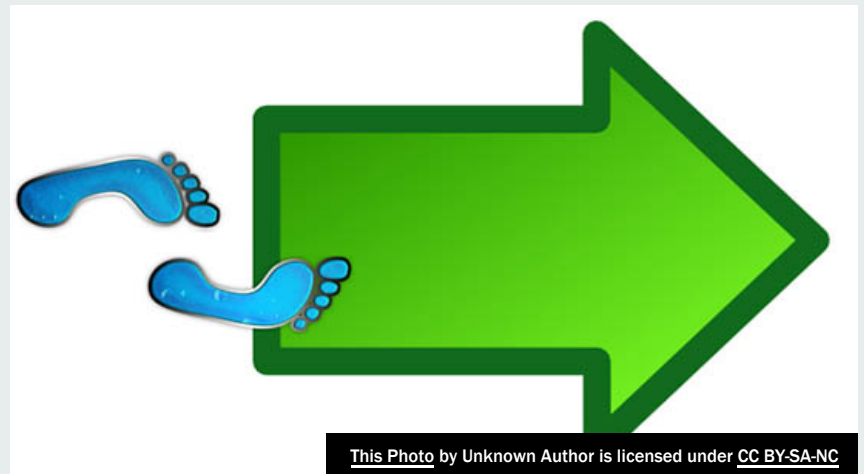
- Drastic changes in mood
- Declining hygiene
- Money issues – cannot account for spending
- Hanging out with others who use drugs
- Criminal activity
- Frequent changes in housing
- Prior history of substance use
- Positive drug test

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT LEVELS

- Detoxification
- Outpatient Services
 - Early Intervention
 - Level I
 - Level II.1
 - Level II.2
- Residential Treatment
 - Level III
 - Level IV

INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

- Stays engaged in treatment or aftercare
- Achieves a period of abstinence
- Relapse plan in place
- Achieving parenting goals
- Visiting consistently
- Developing a network of sober friends/family
- No new reports of criminal activity/abuse or neglect
- Taking prescribed medication correctly
- Others?



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PRACTICE

Read scenario

FLO – The family will use their plan to meet the day to day well-being needs of Lucy so that Lucy is safe from harm.

ILO – Ms. Brock will use her plan to stop her drug use so she can meet the day-to-day needs of Lucy and keep her safe from harm.

At your table, develop likely tasks to meet the **ILO**:

LAPSE VS. RELAPSE

- Lapse = A temporary slip into an old behavior – to be expected
- Relapse = Full blown return to a pattern of behavior that one has been trying to moderate or quit altogether



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Indicators you may be working with someone who is a victim of domestic violence:

- Infrequent contact with family, social habits being curbed
- Frequent injures, excuses inconsistent
- Evasiveness, change the subject
- Making excuses, blaming self

Indicators you may be working with someone who batters:

- Coercive, controlling behaviors
- Insults
- Excessive jealousy or possessiveness
- Sabotage of work or education
- Withholding financial resources

DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:

- Get experts involved early on
- Separate FTM's
- Include expert at FTM
- Separate case plans
- Get victim's input to avoid mimicking control
- Include ways to protect victim
- Use culturally competent resources
- Question recommendations for couple's therapy
- Look at history rather than just at recent incidents
- Be patient

DON'T:

- Force non-offender to get TPO
- Confuse Anger Management with Family Violence Intervention Programs/Batterer Intervention
- Involve the batterer in the FLO until there has been substantial progress on ILO
- Forget that children can be harmed out of revenge
- Forget barrier issues
- Forget personal biases

SIGNS OF PROGRESS - VICTIM

- Follows through with safety planning for self
- Utilizes services and support
- Understands that own safety and safety of child are connected
- Recognizes tactics being used by offender
- Has sense of self worth
- Addresses past trauma



SIGNS OF PROGRESS - BATTERER

- Ceasing to use tactics of coercive control, including violence if that is part of the pattern.
- Accepting responsibility for the choice to use tactics of coercive control and/or to be violent and saying that clearly to the adult non-offending caregiver and children.
- Accepting the responsibility for choosing to expose the children to domestic violence.
- Agreeing to and following through with safe levels of contact.
- Supporting the non-offending caregiver's parenting and relationship with the child.
- Demonstrating an understanding of the effect the domestic violence has on the children by supporting their participation in counseling.
- Accepting responsibility participating in a Family Violence Intervention Program.
- Demonstrating equal responsibility for the children's safety and well-being including meeting the children's basic needs, such as financial and emotional support, without manipulation.

PRACTICE

- Review scenario
- FLO – The family will use their plan to ensure the children are living in a home free from domestic violence so the children are safe from physical and emotional harm.
- ILO – Mr. Winters will use his plan to prevent his need to control others through violence or intimidation so he can keep his children safe from emotional and physical harm.
- ILO – Mrs. Winters will use her plan to deal with personal hurdles that make it hard to protect her children from DV so she can keep her children safe from harm.
- Develop tasks to support achievement of FLO, ILO (father) or ILO (mother)

MENTAL HEALTH

Indicators you are working with a person that is struggling with a mental health issue:

- Similar to those who are struggling with SUD
- Prior diagnoses
- Mood changes
- Withdrawal
- Drop in functioning
- Problems thinking
- Increased sensitivity
- Apathy
- Feeling disconnected
- Illogical thinking
- Nervousness
- Unusual behavior
- Impulsiveness
- History of trauma



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COMMON TREATMENT MODALITIES

- **EMDR: Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)**
- **TF-CBT Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy**
- **Individual Psychotherapy**
- **Behavioral or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)**
- **Group therapy**
- **Medication**

CHOOSING A TREATMENT PROVIDER

Ask about the therapist/counselors training and experience in the field of traumatic stress, etc including:

- What is your formal training background?
- What specific training have you had in the area of trauma?
- How long have you been doing this work and with how many people?
- How will we know when we are finished?
- What is your treatment philosophy and approach (methods)?
- Which evidence-based interventions are you trained to use?

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

- More supportive relationships
- Finding a niche in the community
- Commitment to treatment
- Managing symptoms
- Recognizes impact on their children.



PRACTICE

- Read scenario
- ILO – Tara will use her plan to manage her emotions and frustration so she can provide Johnny with stability and keep him safe from physical and emotional harm.
- What are the likely tasks?

What can be done first to get the work moving?

Assessment > Tx Plan > Psychological > Update Tx Plan

CALIFORNIA EVIDENCE-BASED CLEARINGHOUSE

- Interventions are rated based on the strength of the research evidence supporting a practice or program:

- 1 – Well Supported by Research Evidence
- 2 – Supported by Research Evidence
- 3 – Promising Research Evidence

<https://www.cebc4cw.org/>

The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC) offers various ways to locate programs. Please select one of the following options:

Search for a Program:

Go

- [Alphabetical List of Programs](#)
- [List of Topic Areas](#)
- [Advanced Search](#)

In the Advanced Search, you can search for programs using one or all of the following criteria:

- CEBC Scientific Rating
- Child Welfare System Relevance Level
- Child Welfare Outcomes
- Topic Areas
- Age of Child

to just click search, you would get all the programs in our database. Any other settings you choose narrow down the selection.

▶ Keyword

▼ Scientific Rating

Learn more about the [Scientific Rating Scale](#).

1 - Well-Supported by Research Evidence

2 - Supported by Research Evidence

3 - Promising Research Evidence

4 - Evidence Fails to Demonstrate Effect

5 - Concerning Practice

NR - Not able to be Rated

▶ Child Welfare System Relevance Level

- Child Welfare Workforce Development and Support Programs
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents: Services for Victims
- Depression Treatment (Adult)
- Depression Treatment (Child & Adolescent)
- Disruptive Behavior Treatment (Child & Adolescent)
- Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence: Batterer Intervention Programs
- Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence: Services for Victims and their Children
- Educational Interventions for Children and Adolescents in Child Welfare
- Family Stabilization Programs
- Father Involvement Interventions
- Higher Levels of Placement
- Home Visiting Programs for Child Well-Being
- Home Visiting Programs for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Infant and Toddler Mental Health Programs (Birth to 3)
- Interventions for Abusive Behavior

Search Results

9 results — listed alphabetically below // [search again?](#)

Search Criteria

[Hide search result descriptions](#)

[compare \(?\)](#)

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)

Adults with depression; has also been used with adults with a variety of other mental health disorders and behavioral problems

Scientific Rating: 1 — Well-Supported by Research Evidence • Welfare Relevance: Medium

Topic: Depression Treatment (Adult)



Behavioral Activation Treatment for Depression (BATD)

Depressed adults including those with substance abuse problems

Scientific Rating: 3 — Promising Research Evidence • Welfare Relevance: Medium

Topic: Depression Treatment (Adult)



Cognitive Behavioral Analysis System of Psychotherapy (CBASP)



WHAT'S NEW?



CONTRIBUTORS

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- **Childwelfare.gov**
- **<https://odis.dhs.ga.gov>**
- **Adjudicating Domestic Violence Custody Cases: What Judges Must Know Jun 16, 2017 huffpost.com**