The Big Seven – Key Ingredients for an Effective Family Dependency Treatment Court

Abstract:
With over 300 FDCs now in operation across the nation, FDC outcomes have shown significantly higher rates of parents’ participation in substance use disorder treatment, longer stays in treatment, higher rates of family reunification, less time for children in foster care, and decreased incidence of repeat maltreatment and return to out-of-home care compared to non-family drug court participants (Marlowe & Carey, 2012). FDCs are able to achieve these outcomes through several common practices or ingredients. This workshop will explore the Big Seven – system of identifying families; timely access to assessment and treatment services; enhanced case management and recovery support; improved family services and focus on parent-child relationships; increased judicial oversight, contingency management, and collaborative approach and efficient information sharing. This presentation will explore the barriers and challenges that FDC teams have encountered in implementing these ingredients as well as the innovative solutions that were formulated to ensure effective practice. This workshop will be the “nuts and bolts” that hold effective FDCs together. Technical assistance and training resources through the National FDC Training and Technical Assistance Program will also be provided to support implementation.

Learning Objectives:
1. Gain an overview of the FDC model and national outcomes, and the key common practice ingredients to ensure effective practice
2. Learn the challenges, barriers, and solutions that have supported effective implementation of each of the Big Seven
3. Find out how to access training and technical assistance resources to equip you and your team – “You can do it, we can help!”

Presenter Biography and Contact Information

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Mr. Breitenbucher is a nationally recognized expert, author and speaker on family drugs courts. He currently is a Director at Children and Family Futures where he manages multiple programs and initiatives. Mr. Breitenbucher currently serves as the Program Director of the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s National Family Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Program and as Program Director for the Prevention and Family Recovery Initiative supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Duke Endowment. He has nearly 20 years of experience in the management of public child welfare and community-based prevention services, including the implementation and management of three Family Drug Court programs, four Family Resource Centers as well as various prevention, diversion and early intervention programs for children and families. He co-directed the Children Affected by Methamphetamine program supported by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He managed the design and implementation of an effective national training model, utilizing a wide range of computer-based and communications technologies. He directed the development and co-authored the Family Drug Court
Guidelines publication and created the nation’s first Family Drug Court Mentor sites. He serves as a consultant to states and local jurisdictions at the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. He is the Vice-President and co-Founder of the California Collaborative Justice Courts Foundation.

Mr. Breitenbucher received his Master of Social Work from California State University, San Bernardino, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California Baptist University and his certificate in Addiction and Recovery from Light University.