Supporting the Parent-Child Relationship

Putting Knowledge into Practice:
Simulated Family Treatment Court Staffing and
Status Review Hearing

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Key Takeaways

Recovery occurs in the context of relationships

Frequent, quality parenting time increases the likelihood of reunification

Evidence-based services can strengthen the parent-child relationship

Recovery Occurs in the Context of Relationships

- SUD is a brain disease that affects the family
- Adults (who have children) primarily identify themselves as parents
- The parenting role and parent-child relationship cannot be separated from treatment
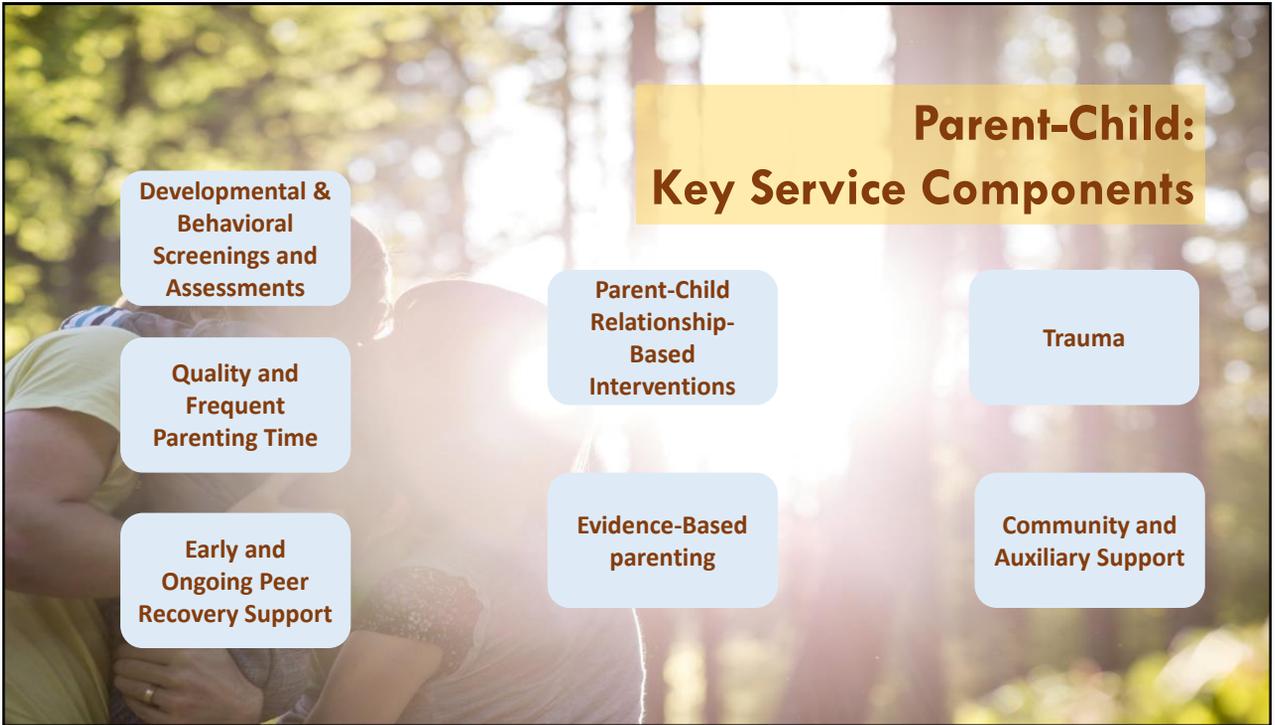- Adult recovery should have a parent-child component including prevention for the child

Services that strengthen families and support parent-child relationships HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

The Importance of the Parent–Child Relationship

For young children in the Dependency system, **early relationships may have been the cause of harm or neglect**, with potential negative consequences on their developmental trajectories if we don't **intercede early**.

Strengthening parent-child relationships can be **the foundation needed to repair** the harm and improve family functioning.

The challenge for FTCs is to **create partnerships** with child welfare, treatment providers and family members and to **provide family focused evidence-based interventions** to strengthen the bonds between parents and their children.

Parent–Child: Key Service Components

Developmental & Behavioral Screenings and Assessments

Quality and Frequent Parenting Time

Early and Ongoing Peer Recovery Support

Parent-Child Relationship-Based Interventions

Evidence-Based parenting

Trauma

Community and Auxiliary Support

Impact of Parenting Time on Reunification Outcomes

- Children and youth who have **regular, frequent contact** with their families are **more likely to reunify and less likely to reenter foster care** after reunification (Mallon, 2011)

- Visits provide an important **opportunity to gather information** about a parent's capacity to appropriately address and provide for their child's needs, as well as the family's overall readiness for reunification

- Parent-Child Contact (Visitation): Research shows **frequent visitation increases the likelihood** of reunification, **reduces time** in out-of-home care (Hess, 2003), and **promotes healthy attachment** and **reduces negative effects** of separation (Dougherty, 2004)

Elements of Successful Parenting Time Plans

Parenting time should occur:

- Frequently
- For an appropriate period of time
- In a comfortable and safe setting
- With therapeutic supervision when appropriate
- Allow parents to practice "real life" parenting experiences with support

Interventions that Include Parent–Child Component

- Do the services of partner providers have parent-child components?
- Can you do more and expand your services array?
- How do providers document progress in strengthening the parent-child relationship?
- What will the parenting reports look like to include the parent-child piece?
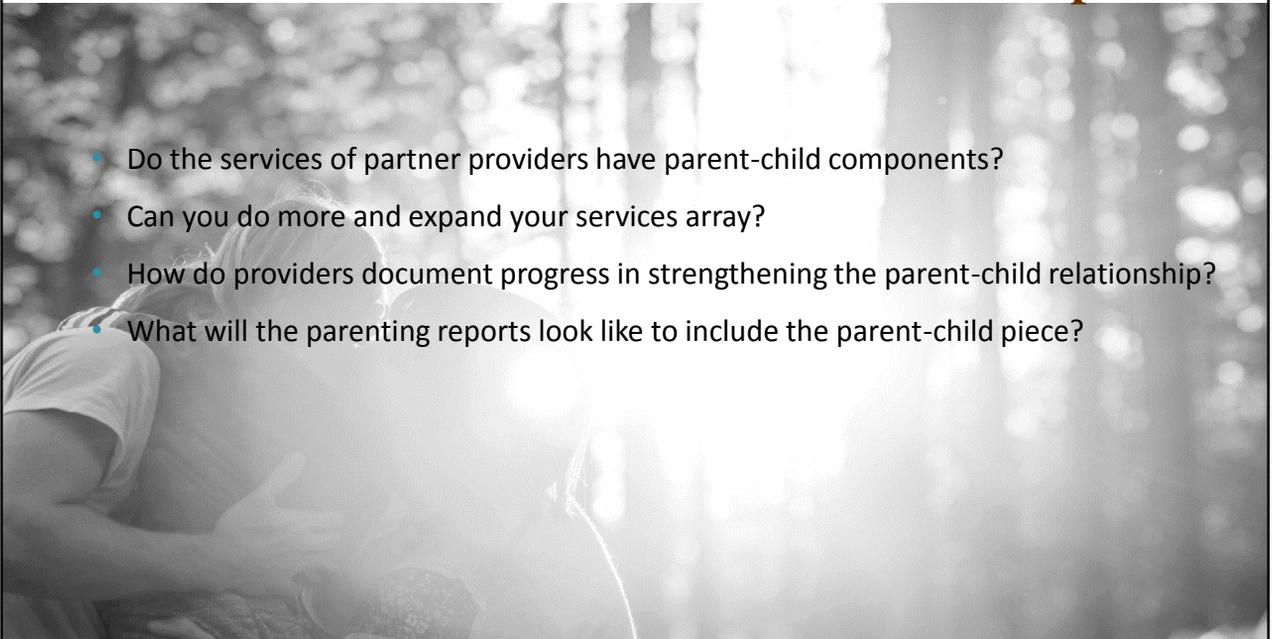
Parenting Programs Specific to Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders

- **Celebrating Families -** http://www.celebratingfamilies.net/
- **Strengthening Families -** http://www.strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org/
- **Nurturing Program for Families in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery -** http://www.healthrecovery.org/publications/detail.php?p=28

Please visit:

- **California Evidence-Based Clearing House -** www.cebc4cw.org
- **National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices -** www.nrepp.samhsa.gov

Grantee	EBPs Identified and/or Selected
Grantee A	• Baby Smarts (existing) • Positive Indian Parenting (new)
Grantee B	• Child-Parent Psychotherapy (existing) • Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (existing) • Alternatives for Families: A Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (existing) • SafeCare (existing) • Celebrating Families! (new)
Grantee C	• Nurturing Families (existing) • Strengthening Families Program (existing) • Incredible Years (existing) • Triple P (existing)
Grantee D	• Celebrating Families! (existing) • Early Pathways (existing) • Parents Interacting with Infants (existing) • Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (new) • Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma (new)

"Existing" – leveraging existing EBP community resource; "New" – implementing new EBP