

# Opiate Epidemic Symposium

## Developing Local Strategies and Solutions

### STARS Program Grant



### Key Principles

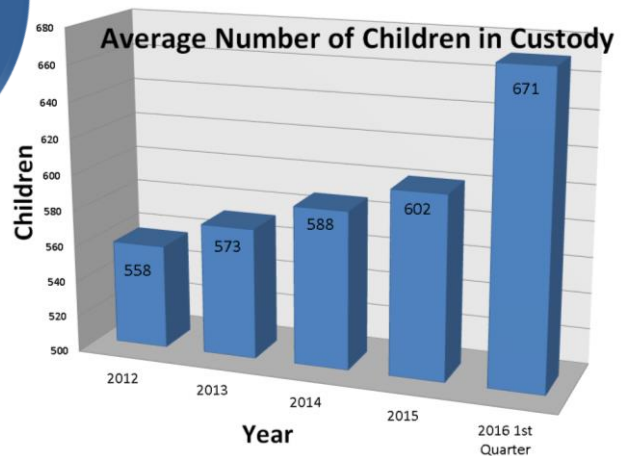
- There is no time to waste. Child maltreatment linked to AoD concerns requires swift action to ensure success.
- The problems are complex and require collaboration in order to experience success.
- The families are reluctant and intentions must focus on active engagement.

### What effect has the Opiate Epidemic had on Child Welfare?

- In 2012 Drugs and Alcohol were a presenting factor in approximately 30% of referrals to SCCS; in 2015 that percentage increased to around 60%.
- The number of children in custody rose from 551 in January 2014 to 702 in April 2016.
- The Blazey Family Interaction Center scheduled 501 visits for families in January 2014; the center scheduled 723 visits in March 2016.
- Monthly Intake Investigations increased from 161 in January 2014 to 217 in March 2016.

### What is the Goal?

Early identification of AoD concerns in order to plan timely and effective interventions.



**Please Note:** No one agency or provider can tackle this alone. Collaboration is hard work; it requires trust, innovation, creativity, and respect.

### Barriers for Consideration and Discussion:

- Wait time for assessments and/or services
- Appropriate and affordable housing when released from treatment
- Increased custody numbers and strain on placement resources for kids
- Conflicting timelines between child welfare and AoD recovery
- Cross-system training and collaboration
- Relapse often causes re-entry of children into care and prolongs reunification

### STARS Positive Efforts toward Engagement:

- In-home AoD assessment
- Outreach Specialist assists with housing, food, insurance and other services
- **Recovery Coaches**
- Nurturing Parenting Classes
- Transportation
- Motivational Interviewing Training for all staff



\*AoD-Alcohol and Drugs