



NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

3rd Annual National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference Sustainability: Building Your State DEC Alliance to Last Preliminary Conference Agenda

In order to build the framework necessary to provide sustainability for the Drug Endangered Children initiatives, we must evaluate current responses and identify existing structures to help us understand our needs. Additionally, we must look past the emotional response, to the identified problem and see the steps necessary for building a strong organization. This year's conference will look at the history of the Drug Endangered Children efforts, explore "missed opportunities" for intervention and learn the steps that are necessary in creating strategic alliances in the community that result in effective collaboration. Anyone interested in the Drug Endangered Children efforts is encouraged to attend this conference. In order to create stability, we must ask everyone to help solve the problem.

DAY 1 - Monday, November 27, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM *Introductions*

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM *Dignitary Guest Speakers*

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM *The History of Substance Abuse and "Missed Opportunities"*

Presenter: Sgt. Jim Gerhardt

This presentation will provide an overview of the history of substance abuse and explore the "missed opportunities" for identifying children living in dangerous drug environments. Meth labs were a critical turning point in recognizing children as victims of abuse; however, it is not the only illegal substance causing a problem. Identifying children in all dangerous drug environments can lead to opportunities for intervention.

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM *BREAK*

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM *The History and Basic Awareness of the Drug Endangered Children Efforts*

Presenters: Sue Webber-Brown and Members of the National Alliance for DEC

This presentation will provide a basic overview of the Drug Endangered Children program to include an understanding of its inception, the evolution over the years, the lessons learned from experience in the field and the growth that has occurred as a result.

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM *What the Future Holds for the Drug Endangered Children Efforts*

Presenters: Members of the National Alliance for DEC

This presentation will provide an overview of the structure of the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children to include the importance of leveraging our resources, developing partnerships to strengthen our efforts, collecting data to define the problem and the importance of having State DEC Alliances to support local initiatives.

DAY 2 - Tuesday, November 28 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM *Announcements*

8:15 AM - 8:45 AM *Dignitary Guest Speakers*

3rd Annual Drug Endangered Children Conference

Preliminary Agenda Continued



DAY 2 – Tuesday, November 28 8:00 AM – 4:45 PM Continued

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM Renewing Our Commitment: Seeing the Hard Work with New Eyes

Keynote Speaker: Naomi Haines Griffith

Naomi Griffith, a well-known storyteller and family systems specialist, uses humor and her own experiences to challenge and inspire audiences in business, education, juvenile justice, mental health, child abuse prevention, and family violence systems.

With the demands of increasing reports, more seriously impaired families, shrinking resources, and “doing more with less”, it is necessary to examine our work and ourselves with a different perspective, indeed a different standard. This keynote will be an encouragement to all personnel, regardless of area of responsibility, to redefine their personal goals and recommit themselves to the work.

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM BREAK

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Thinking about an Integrated, Sustainable DEC Response

Presenter: Dr. Brian Mattson

This presentation will look at the importance of developing an integrated, sustainable Drug Endangered Children response. We will explore how we can learn from our history, understand the importance of vision, develop a common philosophy and create interagency processes that will help us improve existing practices.

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM BREAK Set Up For Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM LUNCH Keynote Speaker to be Announced

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM How Baseline Data Can Guide Future Efforts

Presenter: Dr. Kiti Freier

This presentation will outline a study taking place in Colorado designed to evaluate the status of the Drug Endangered Children efforts and obtain basic information on current practices. Early data shows that existing structures, systems, and organizations have fractured efforts and the procedures for data collection, formalized tracking, and alignment of resources are inadequate. Additionally, methods of evaluating success and areas of improvement are absent. This study has served as a guide for the Drug Endangered Children efforts in Colorado.

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM BREAK

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM Presentations From Two of the Four Selected State DEC Alliances

Presenters: Representatives from Selected States Across the Nation

Several states submitted information in reference to their Drug Endangered Children efforts to include the structure of their State Alliance, how their State Alliance is funded, what professions, agencies, organizations, etc. are associated with the DEC Alliance and in what capacity they are associated. The selected states were asked to develop a presentation outlining their efforts so others could learn from their experiences.

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Hosted Reception

Networking Opportunities for all Conference Attendees

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Preliminary Agenda Continued



DAY 3– Wednesday, November 29 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM The Next Step Is the Challenge

Keynote Speaker: Naomi Haines Griffith

As concerned and conscientious professionals we see and hear about problems. In many cases, the problem is an unmet need, a gap in vital services for children which compromises the health or welfare of a vulnerable population. More often than not it is an emotional voice that brings the problem to our attention. This voice may belong to an advocate or a frustrated consumer, but this voice demands action.

There are others in the field who are also concerned, and this group coalesces around the problem and they begin to step up and ask for action. Out of this first step, a community begins the process of addressing the problem. The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children was born from the concern and commitment of such an effort.

However, the creation of an organization is only the first step. Certainly it is an important step, but there are four other steps that must occur in an ongoing process if NADEC is to achieve sustainability. After the initial blush of success, the emotion of the early years, there is a need to examine the issue of, “How do we create stability?” This presentation will focus on four on-going organizational steps as a process that is always in progress and ensures the **sustainability** of the organization. The strategic plan of NADEC will include goals and objectives that become a framework for supporting this process.

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM BREAK

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM The Next Step Is the Challenge with Naomi Haines Griffith Continued

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00 PM – 2:45 PM State DEC Data Collection Activities Survey

Presenter: Members of the National DEC Data Collection Working Group

The National DEC Data Collection Group has been reaching out to representatives from across the nation who are involved in the Drug Endangered Children efforts in their state to determine the structure of their State DEC Alliance. This presentation will outline the results of the survey to include how Drug Endangered Children are defined, identified, tracked, and what challenges states are facing in their Drug Endangered Children efforts. Additionally, this working group asked state representatives to describe their expectations of the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM BREAK

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM Presentations From Two of the Four State DEC Alliances

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4:30 PM – 5:00 PM Closing Comments