



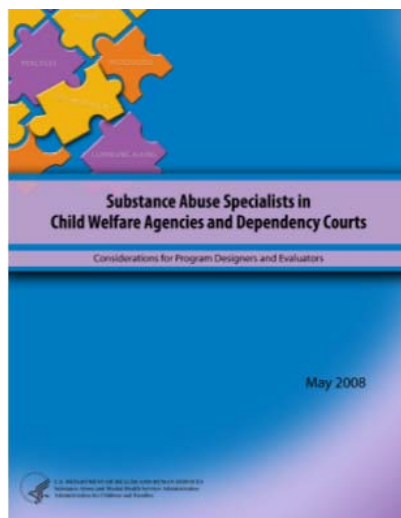
Substance Abuse Specialists in Child Welfare Agencies and Dependency Courts: Considerations for Program Designers and Evaluators

This paper focuses on one particular model of collaboration, the placing of substance abuse specialists in either child welfare offices or dependency courts. The purpose of co-locating substance abuse specialists is to ensure that parents are assessed as quickly as possible, to improve parent engagement and retention in treatment, to streamline entry into treatment, and to provide consultation to child welfare and dependency court workers.

- Includes findings from eight qualitative interviews of programs that place substance abuse specialists in child welfare offices or dependency courts.
- Highlights ways in which early decisions about the program's collaborative structure influence other design decisions.
- Offers valuable data on programmatic and collaborative structures, lessons learned about program design, problems or challenges faced by these programs, and how the issues were resolved.

Substance Abuse Specialists:

- Reduce costs of out-of-home placements and/or reduce time of children in foster care
- Remove barriers and improve linkages between CWS and treatment to better serve clients
- Improve the capacity of CWS to serve parents with substance use disorders
- Increase collaboration between agencies



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