



**TEXAS ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN**

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.

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TADEC INSIDER

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Greater Dallas Council Assumes TADEC Leadership

The Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has been awarded a Criminal Justice Act (CJA) grant to coordinate statewide TADEC training and consultation activities in 2008. The grant, which is subcontracted by the Texas Center for the Judiciary, supports the following services: (1) drug endangered children regional training institutes for multidisciplinary professionals in Houston, El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas, and Lufkin; (2) protocol updates and stakeholder trainings; (3) faculty train the trainer sessions; (4) Children's Program Kit trainings; (5) technical support and case consultation services; (6) the TADEC web site; and (7) an on-line newsletter.

Founded in 1946, The Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse focuses on reducing the incidence and impact of alcohol and other drug use by attracting financial and other support from local, state and national sources, and by implementing quality substance abuse prevention and intervention programs. With the help of the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, the Texas Department of State Health Services, individuals, corporations and foundations, the Council has grown to reach tens of thousands of youth, parents, professionals and other individuals and groups annually through an extensive network of supported services. Current programs include Information and Referral, a Prevention Resource Center, Juvenile Diversion, Community Coordination and Mobilization, Conferences and Workshops, Tobacco Prevention, School-Based Prevention, HIV Outreach and Prevention, and HIV Early Intervention.

For the past few years, The Council has played a strong leadership role in the Dallas County Drug Endangered Children Alliance. "We're proud to play a role in expanding DEC programs throughout the State of Texas," says Debbie Meripolski, Executive Director at the Council. "We are receiving a positive response from communities that are eager to start new alliances or build stronger collaborative teams that support innocent children exposed to dangerous drug environments."

Operation Bear Hugs

Lufkin – During the months of September and October 2007, Drug Endangered Children Angelina County (DEC) teamed up with The Coalition, a local drug prevention agency, and Memorial Health System of East Texas to create “Operation Bear Hugs.” We collected supplies and personal items for drug endangered children who are removed from their homes and cannot take their personal belongings with them. The Coalition accepted donations of new items such as toys, bags, blankets, clothes toiletries and especially teddy bears through October. Numerous items were received and will benefit drug endangered children.

Janet Taylor, executive director of The Coalition, said, “When we were made aware that there are children in our county who could not return to their homes for their personal belongings because of the dangers of harmful drugs like meth, our hearts went out. We want to help these children have a positive transfer to a new home and a safe place to live by providing them with toys, new clothes, and especially a teddy bear. They’ve already been through so much, and to lose everything is devastating.”

Yana Ogletree, Marketing Director of Memorial Health System of East Texas, said “We want to make the community aware that this is a problem in our county, and that they can make a difference by providing these much needed supplies for these children.”

Our community response was overwhelming and it also brought awareness to Angelina County residents that there are children in this county affected by drugs. Angelina County DEC meets quarterly at the Angelina Alliance for Children’s Advocacy Center.



Upcoming TADEC Trainings

January 16, 2008
Train the Trainer

February 29, 2008
Houston Regional Training

March 6, 2008
El Paso Regional Training

To Be Announced
Lufkin Regional Training

June - TBA
San Antonio Regional Training

July 11, 2008
Dallas/Ft. Worth Regional Training

For more information, please call Justin Mazzeo at 214-522-8600 or visit www.texasdec.org

Dallas DEC Works to Spread the Word

As part of our continued efforts to support children in volatile drug environments, The Dallas County Drug Endangered Children Alliance produced cards and distributed them to approximately 10,000 local Dallas County law enforcement officers. Through a partnership with The Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Dallas DEC was able to laminate small cards with vital information and protocols on what to do when a drug endangered child is encountered.

These cards include a direct line to CPS staff, as well as detailed instructions on how to best handle these children. Hopefully, these cards will serve as another tool that can be utilized by first responders to ensure the safety and well-being of these children. The Dallas DEC Alliance continues bringing together professionals from across the large county and hopes to begin working on tracking data on these children.

About the Regional Trainings

Topics during this all-day training will include:

- Safety & Awareness in Volatile Drug Environments
- Investigating Drug Endangered Child Cases
- The Role of Child Protective Services in DEC Cases
- Sustaining Local DEC Alliances
- Medial Issues for Drug Endangered Children
- Prosecuting Drug Endangered Child Cases
- Psychosocial Issues for Drug Endangered Children
- Data Collection Related to DEC Cases

The curriculum this year has been significantly updated from last, so be sure to register!

LCDC, Social Work and LPC credits are provided for this free conference. CLE and TCLEOSE are pending.

