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T A D E C

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Bexar County Establishes DEC Alliance

A multitude of government and civic organizations attended a January 23 news conference at San Antonio's Child Protective Services Headquarters, represented by San Antonio Police Chief William McManus, Bexar County District Attorney Susan Reed, and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Special Agent Thomas Hinojosa. They joined CPS, members of ChildSafe and the Children's Shelter. The groups held a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding for Drug Endangered Children month.

The groups now comprise the Bexar County Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. Substance Abuse Specialist Pat Keebaugh and Lead Child Safety Specialist Miriam Ybarra were instrumental in pulling the DEC alliance together. Getting to this point, they said, took well over a year.

With their signatures, the participating groups vowed to rescue, defend, shelter and support the innocent children who suffer collateral damage because of drug abusing parents or caregivers. Under the new agreement, Region 8 Regional Director Sherry Gomez explained, "Law enforcement officials will notify us of planned raids. If children are located in a home during a raid, or are believed to live in a home but are not present during the raid, CPS will be notified immediately through a designated DEC pager."

"That way," Gomez continued, "CPS can take care of children at the scene, or locate those who may be at school or other places. CPS will also arrange for decontamination of the child and ensure medical care."

"Today, we've come together to say 'no more'," declared Gomez. "As a result of today's signing ceremony, drug endangered children will have a powerful force behind them - ranging from law enforcement and criminal justice officials to medical experts and child advocates."

Submitted by Mary Walker, Region 8 Public Information Officer

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (NADEC) is building an online resource center, which will launch in June 2008. The answers you provide on the survey below will help fill the website with information that is important to you.

The survey is brief. It will only take 10-15 minutes to complete. The deadline to complete the survey is **Friday, May 2, 2008**. We appreciate you taking the time to fill it out.

<https://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/1775g31f4e>

Have questions about the survey or NADEC? Feel free to contact Susannah Carroll, Resource Center Manager at 303-413-3063 or scarroll@nationaldec.org.

TADEC Quick Hits

- This year, the Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TADEC) has trained over 650 professionals and concerned community members state-wide. With three more regional trainings scheduled in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Lufkin, and San Antonio and several more Children's Program Kit trainings, this number is sure to grow along with local drug endangered children (DEC) efforts across the state.
- Interested in forming a local alliance but unable to attend one of the regional trainings? Our trainers are located across the state and can present a one-to-two hour general DEC presentation that provides a background of TADEC, safety and awareness in volatile drug environments, the role of law enforcement, CPS, the medical profession and prosecution in DEC cases, and psychosocial issues with which drug endangered children struggle.
- Whether you're looking for a DEC alliance in your area, would like additional training on DEC related issues, or simply require additional assistance, we can be contacted for technical support and case consultation at any time using the webform on the TADEC site (<http://www.texasdec.org/contact.html>), e-mail (jmazzo@gdcada.org) or telephone (214-522-4999 ext 256).



Upcoming Events

May 8, 2008

Quarterly DEC Alliance Meeting
*GDCADA Office
Dallas, TX*

May 21, 2008

Children's Program Kit Training
*East Texas Workforce Center
Longview, TX*

July 11, 2008

DFW Regional Training
*Dr. Pepper StarCenter
Farmer's Branch, TX*

July 15, 2008

Lufkin Regional Training
*Lufkin Civic Center
Lufkin, TX*

July 21, 2008

San Antonio Regional Training
*St. Paul Community Center
San Antonio, TX*

Children's Program Kit

The Children's Program Kit curriculum is a tool developed by SAMHSA and NACoA (National Association for Children of Alcoholics) for treatment providers and other helping professionals to utilize when working with children of addicted parents. The curriculum is designed to provide children with age-appropriate education about addiction, assist them in the identification and healthy expression of emotions, and to empower them with new coping skills.

TADEC feels very strongly that all children removed from volatile drug environments must receive support services to address their psychosocial needs.

The next training will be in Longview, TX on May 21 from 9am-4pm. There is no cost for this training, which includes training materials, a boxed lunch, and CEUs (LPC & LMSW).

Please contact Justin Mazzeo at 214-522-4999 ext. 256 or jmazzo@gdcada.org to register. Space is limited to 30 participants.

Quarterly Meeting FAQ

The TADEC state-wide quarterly meeting will be May 8, 2008, at the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse office.

What will be discussed?

The focus of the meeting will be to bring local DEC alliances together to discuss unique issues teams are facing and share problem solving ideas, discuss ideas to better build DEC alliances, and update members as to the latest research and data available.

Who should attend?

Representatives of currently established DEC alliances as well as anyone looking to start their own local DEC alliances and would benefit from interacting with those who have had success doing so in the past are encouraged to attend.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Justin Mazzeo at 214-522-4999 ext. 256 or jmazzo@gdcada.org.

