



**TEXAS ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN**

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.

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T A D E C I N S I D E R

Winter 2011



2011 Train the Trainer Combines New and Familiar

The Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children hosted its annual "Train the Trainer" session on March 11, 2011 in Dallas, TX. The training was initially planned for the first week in February, but was postponed due to a week of severe weather that struck North Texas.

The training was attended by 35 professionals from a variety of different organizations and disciplines, including the Department of Family and Protective Services, Dallas Independent School District, Nexus Recovery Center, Plano Police Department, and Catholic Charities of Fort Worth. In addition to some familiar faces, TADEC was happy to have several trainers new to DEC efforts in attendance as well.

The training was an all-day event, with an in-depth presentation and discussion of the current "DEC 101" curriculum during the first half of the day and instruction on Building and Sustaining DEC Efforts in the afternoon. Those in attendance were provided flash drives with all of the current DEC curriculum materials as well as tools related to protocol development and alliance building.

With the brand new set of multidisciplinary trainers, TADEC is excited to be able to offer even more trainings across the state by request. If you would like to inquire about hosting trainings in your area, please contact Justin Mazzeo at jmazzeo@dallascouncil.org.

Bi-Monthly Statewide Conference Call

As part of our continuing effort to encourage communication and the sharing of resources among local DEC alliances, TADEC has instituted a monthly conference call.

The monthly call will offer the opportunity for local DEC leaders to share challenges, ideas and insights from their own experiences. It will also allow local DEC alliances to stay apprised of any and all DEC-related developments on the state and national levels.

The next call is scheduled for **Monday, April 25 at 10:00 AM.**

If you plan to be on the call, please e-mail to jmazzeo@dallascouncil.org to receive the call information.

TADEC Reaches Out to Foster Parents Across Texas

The Texas Foster Family Association held its "Winter Growth" Conference in Corpus Christi, TX on January 27-28, 2011. TADEC was honored to be able to conduct several presentations at the Conference.

TADEC Presentations included:

- "Drug Endangered Children 101" on two occasions on January 28.
- "Drugs of Abuse and Drug Endangered Children" also on January 28.

As foster families so often come into contact with children coming from a variety of volatile drug environments, TADEC has made a commitment to educate and connect foster parents with all of the resources they require both locally and at the state level. For more information on the Texas Foster Family Association, whose mission is to motivate,

educate and support foster and adoptive families in Texas, visit their website at www.tffa.org.



DEC Case Studies Still Needed

When it comes to the plight of Drug Endangered Children in Texas, nothing is more heart-wrenching than the multitude of individual stories we hear about, read about and experience on a daily basis.

These same stories are also among the most effective tools to educate a community on the dangers of drug environments and the importance of DEC alliances and multidisciplinary collaboration.

As such, TADEC is attempting to capture and archive as many of these individual case stories as possible to use as case studies in trainings, consultations and as a resource on the TADEC website.

To this end, we ask that you send any DEC-related news stories, reports and videos to jmazzeo@dallascouncil.org.

Online Post-Collaboration Assessment Form

As anyone part of a local DEC alliance will attest to, one of the biggest challenges is data collection, or more simply, "how do we know if what we're doing is working?"

In order to curtail this problem, TADEC developed a simple one-page tool called the "Post-Collaboration Assessment," which collects basic non-identifying information about an incident and then feedback on the collaboration: positive, negative, and suggestions for change.

In attempt to make data collection even easier and quicker for DEC alliance members, we've developed an online means of submitting DEC case collaboration assessments. This data will be collected, analyzed and presented to the local alliance in whichever format is easiest for them. And the best part - no more forms lying around and no more filling out by hand! The link is included below.

<http://tinyurl.com/tadec-pca>

Trainings Available by Request

As always, we would like to remind you that trainings and technical support are available upon request.

Our most commonly-requested training is our General DEC awareness training. This training defines what Drug Endangered Children and volatile drug environments are, describes various drugs and paraphernalia and their various signs and symptoms, describes a basic law enforcement / CPS joint investigation and the difference in their roles, describes medical, prosecution, prevention and treatment considerations regarding Drug Endangered Children, and describes the psychosocial implications for Drug Endangered Children and strategies of dealing with children removed from Volatile Drug Environments.

We will tailor DEC trainings for your specific circumstances regardless of audience, time constraints, or the status of your local DEC alliance. From getting local leadership interested to training front-line workers to going through concrete steps to sustain an alliance, we are available to help you every step of the way as you build your local DEC alliance.

