



The Youngest Victims of the Opioid Epidemic: Law Enforcement's Role in the Response

TASC's Center for Health and Justice
National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

October 22, 2020



OVC-BJA National Stakeholder Partnership (NSP)

The content provided by this resource is made possible through participation in the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) **National Stakeholder Partnership (NSP)**.

This **Partnership**, comprised of seven national organizations, leverages expertise on child and youth impacted and victimized by the nation's opioid and broader substance use crisis, with an emphasis on multidisciplinary collaborations, research, and promotion of training and education.

Members of the NSP dedicate time and resources to inform the planning, development, and implementation of OVC and BJA initiatives designed to respond to, treat, and support those impacted by the opioid epidemic, specifically young victims. In addition, members participate in informative, national conversations regarding children and youth impact and best-practice models that focus on innovative strategies and force-multiplying partnerships.

The overarching goals of this work are to *advance awareness and knowledge to help mitigate the traumatization of children and youth and to advance dissemination of innovative practices throughout the field.*



BJA/OVC National Stakeholder Partnership Membership

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Welcome & Introductions

Bureau of Justice Assistance & TASC's Center for Health and Justice



Bureau of Justice Assistance

Kathy Browning

Senior Policy Advisor

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Office of Justice Programs



Center for Health & Justice COSSAP Team

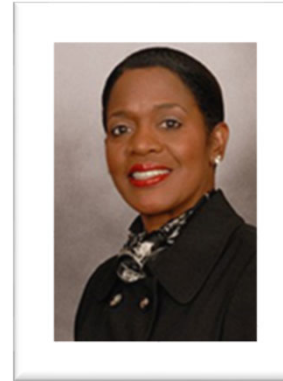
TTA provider for COSSAP FRD grantees since 2017



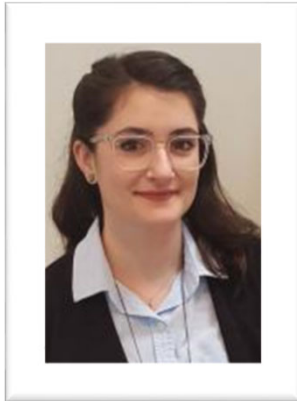
Jac Charlier,
Executive Director-
Project Executive Lead



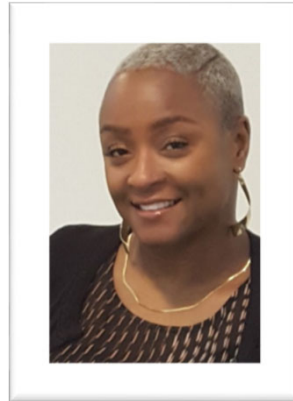
Ben Ekelund,
Director
Project Lead



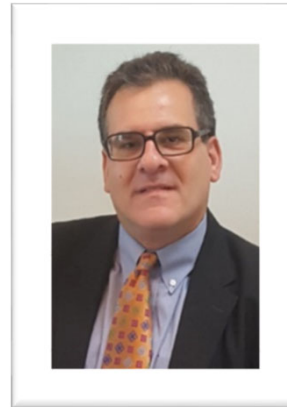
Angelia Turner,
Director



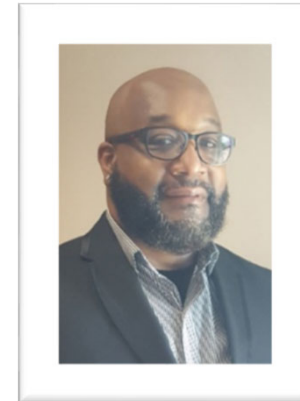
Hope Fiori,
Administrator-
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Nikki Muñoz,
Administrator-
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Jon Ross
Technical Writer



Chico Tillman
Administrator



Center for Health and Justice (CHJ)

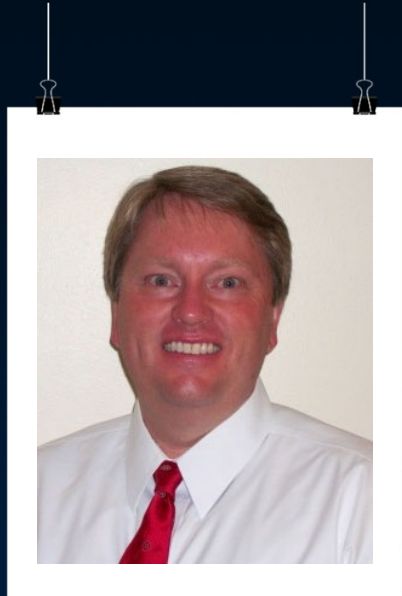
- Grounded in TASC's 45+ years of *operational experience* providing specialized case management to individuals with an SUD and MH across the justice system
- International/national TTA leadership and expertise in areas of deflection, pre-arrest diversion, first-responder diversion (FRD), diversion along the justice continuum – with a focus on courts and jails, alternatives to incarceration, and best reentry practices for individuals with a SUD
- Perform treatment capacity, sustainability, and specialized case management TTA with sites



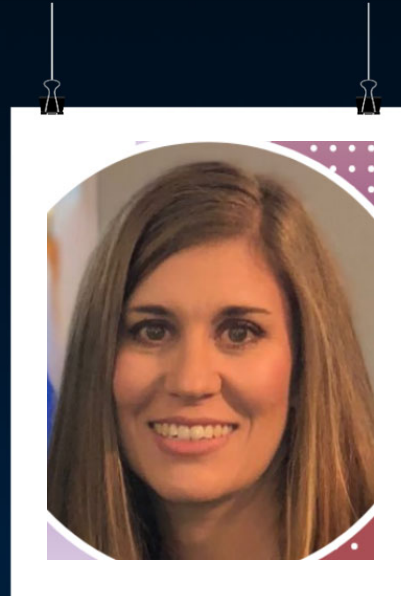
CENTER FOR
HEALTH & JUSTICE
AT TASC

 @TASC_CHJ

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children



Scott Henderson
Executive Director
National DEC



Stacey Read, BA, MSW,
Director
DEC Network Development
Child Welfare
National DEC



Lt. Eric Nation, (Ret.)
Director
Training Development
Law Enforcement Expert
National DEC



National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC) exists to help make a difference in the lives of children who are being impacted by their caregiver's substance misuse or addiction by bringing professionals and communities together to address the issue in unprecedented ways.

National DEC was formalized in 2002; DEC efforts were informal prior to 2002. Initially, law enforcement focused and reactive.

Where DEC is today

- Includes law enforcement and ALL disciplines
- Is a community-based mission
- Proactive approach
- Includes early identification of children, response and intervention, and services and support to children and families

www.nationaldec.org



Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Learning objectives
3. Define drug endangered children and describe the impact of the opioid crisis on drug endangered children and their families
4. Discuss the three ways law enforcement can play a role:
Interview with Chief Mike Yaniero (Jacksonville, NC) and Lt. Eric Nation (NDEC)
5. The DEC approach and available resources
6. Open discussion

Let us know your thoughts!

- Enter comments in the chat box at any time
- We want to *hear from you* about what your agency has in place to address drug endangered children
- If we can't get to all questions in Q&A – we will follow up!
- Please email questions, comments, suggestions: hfiori@tasc.org

Learning Objectives

1. Define “drug endangered children” and associated risk factors.
2. Describe the impact of the opioid crisis on drug endangered children and their families.
3. Identify three ways law enforcement and community-based organizations can collaborate in their response to drug endangered children.

Audience Poll

What agency type do you represent?

- Law enforcement
- Non-law enforcement first responder (Fire/EMS)
- Child/family services agency
- Community based support (advocacy, treatment, case management, etc.)
- Individual or family member affected by substance use
- Other (judicial staff, school personnel, medical, etc.)

Defining Drug Endangered Children (DEC)

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution.

They may also be children whose caretaker's substance use interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.



Understanding



RISK

Children whose parents use alcohol or other substances are:

- 3 times more likely to be verbally, physically or sexually abused
- 4 times more likely to be neglected

Children of parents with substance use disorders are likelier to develop SUDs.

Children + Drugs = RISK

What are some risks of substance use and related drug activity?

Environmental chaos

Lack of necessities

Violence/domestic violence

Ingestion and exposure

Human/sex trafficking

Lack of supervision

Lack of attachment

Overlay deaths

Loss



Every household in America has been impacted in some way:



The Causes:

- Opioids / other substances
- Stay-at-home orders
- School cancellations
- Social distancing
- Positive virus test
- Exposure to a person with a positive virus test
- Stay at home and isolation
- Unemployment / layoff / furlough
- Lack of services

How are children impacted?

- Limited or no eyes on children
- Decrease or cancellation of services and treatment
- Children not seeing friends
- Increase in stressors in the home (unemployment, e-learning, children at home, spouse at home, lack of support)
- Liquor and marijuana stores remain open and easily accessible
- Substance abuse in the home
- Child abuse and neglect
- Decrease in reports

Racial/Ethnic Disparity and Risk Factors

- Greater exposure to maltreatment/associated risks:
 - Poverty
 - Parental incarceration
 - Crime
 - Lack of adequate housing/employment
- Addressing these factors can help prevent incidences of child abuse and neglect
- Cultural competence matters

Audience Poll

In which of these locations does your organization encounter drug endangered children? (Check all that apply)

- School
- Home
- Justice system
- Public spaces/community (libraries, parks, etc.)
- Health system
- Other

Deflection: The Role of Law Enforcement in Responding to Children and Families

**PRE-ARREST DIVERSION: PATHWAYS TO COMMUNITY
POLICE, TREATMENT AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE**



Opportunity 1: Turn every encounter into an opportunity

- Up to 80% of encounters between police and citizens involve no cause for arrest.
- Police can translate these into opportunities to protect the youngest drug endangered victims by recognizing indicators of possible risk.
- Address racial and ethnic disparities by:
 - Overcoming barriers to accessing treatment
 - Establishing partnerships to build relationships between law enforcement and communities of color

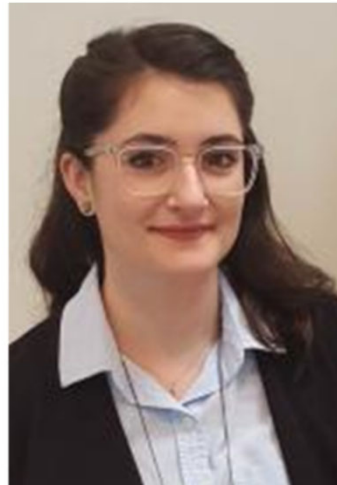
Q&A



Chief Mike Yaniero
Jacksonville Police
Department (NC)



Lt. Eric Nation (Ret.)
National DEC



Hope Fiori, CHJ
COSSAP Project Lead



Nikki Munoz, CHJ
COSSAP Project Lead

Opportunity 2: Prioritize early identification and intervention

- Early recognition of issues affecting at-risk children is critical
 - Law enforcement and first responders- an early warning system
 - Think treatment and services over justice system
 - Focus is on the child and family over arrest
- Addresses racial and ethnic disparities by:
 - Directing services where they are most needed (i.e., children entering care, regardless of race or ethnicity)
- Many law enforcement organizations are involved in such initiatives

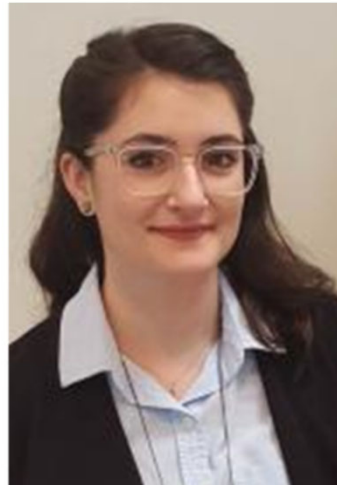
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Opportunity 3: Addiction is not just about an individual but a family

- Shift focus from the individual with a substance use disorder to how the situation affects children in the home.
- Address racial and ethnic disparities by:
 - Working collaboratively with other agencies and service providers
 - Child welfare agencies can implement preventive measures, build family support, and offer services to vulnerable children and families

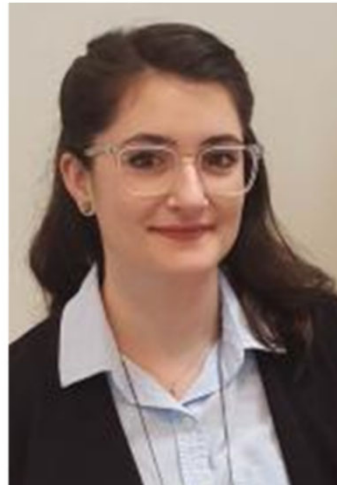
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Chief Mike Yaniero
Jacksonville Police
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National DEC



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Audience Poll

Please select the response that best describes your organization's efforts to respond to the impact of substance use on drug endangered children.

Specific measures have been taken to address the increased number of DEC in our community (e.g., partnerships between law enforcement/first responders and community organizations)

Planning a response to DEC has begun, but is in early stages

No specialized response is currently in place

Not applicable

Include examples of your efforts in the chat box.

Open Discussion

Questions for Chief Yaniero and Lieutenant Nation



The DEC Approach and Other Resources



Action

The DEC Approach is a multidisciplinary strategy to change the trajectory of a drug endangered child's life through a common vision, ongoing collaboration, and ongoing change, which increases the likelihood of better outcomes for drug endangered children.

The DEC Approach

provides a foundation for deflection efforts by:

- Training and educating officers on how to identify and drug endangered children
- Developing collaboration across disciplines to connect families to services
- Training officers to respond to drug endangered children and families in different ways
- Helping drug endangered children and families at risk before a crisis occurs



National DEC Info:

- ❖ National non-profit organization
- ❖ Training, technical assistance, and resource center
- ❖ Works with federal, state, local, and tribal partners
- ❖ Works to institutionalize DEC efforts from early identification to response and intervention to services and support
- ❖ Develops resources and information
- ❖ Develops curriculum, videos, mobile apps, podcasts, online training, etc.
- ❖ Provides a DEC Roadmap and Toolkit to assist in building and strengthening multidisciplinary alliances/efforts
- ❖ Provides real life examples and experiences
- ❖ Provides knowledgeable multidisciplinary network of professionals



More Resources

❖ Sesame Street in Communities

Parental Addiction: Responding With Care

<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/professional-development/webinars/>

You are not alone.



Police, Treatment, & Community Collaborative (PTACC): Children & Families Strategy Area

<https://ptaccollaborative.org>

National Association for Children of Addiction (NACoA)

<https://nacoa.org/>



Deflection: A Call to Action

- **Internal review:** assess how your agency addresses the needs of drug endangered children and families.
- **Establish partnerships:** leverage trusted relationships with treatment and services providers to enhance your program's reach and credibility.
- **Identify gaps:** define and pursue areas of opportunity to connect children and families to community-based services.

Questions and Answers

Have More Questions?

To **request training and technical assistance** for law enforcement and first responder diversion, or for other requests, contact CHJ:

Hope Fiori
Center for Health and Justice at TASC
(312) 573-8204
hfiori@tasc.org

or visit the TTA request page on the COSSAP website:
<https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA/Request>

To **request training and technical assistance** for law enforcement and other professionals on DEC or other substance abuse issues, contact National DEC:

Eric Nation, National DEC
(641) 521-7220
enation@nationaldec.org or at
info@nationaldec.org

or visit National DEC's website for more information at
www.nationaldec.org



Thank You

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