INTRODUCTION & LESSON 1:
History and Evolution of the DEC Movement

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• The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.
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Training Outline
• History and Evolution of the DEC Movement
• Children at Risk
• Understanding and Responding to the Long-term Needs of Drug Endangered Children
• Collaborative Mindset as the Ideal Solution
• National DEC and State DEC Alliances
• Empowerment to Engage
A Look Back

How the Movement Started

The actions of two women launched the DEC movement

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A Look Back

- Sue Webber-Brown, Butte County (CA) DA Investigator
  - Recognized the connection between child abuse cases and illicit drugs
  - Developed a DEC program in Butte County in 1993 with a new approach to rescuing these children that were living in dangerous drug environments
  - The approach involved forming DEC teams comprising personnel from the District Attorney’s Office, Child Services, and Law Enforcement

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Kathey James

A&E Investigative Reports
A Look Back

- Kathey Lynn James:
  - December 26, 1995
  - Riverside, California
  - 3 children died in meth lab explosion
  - Sentenced in January 1997 to 45 years to life in prison – 15 years for each murder count

A Look Back

- The DEC Team Model:
  - Included representatives from:
    - District Attorney’s Office
    - Children’s Services
    - Law Enforcement
  - Ensured:
    - Full investigation of child endangerment
    - Prosecution of all appropriate charges
    - Immediate intervention
    - Medical assistance
    - Appropriate placement

A Look Forward

Moving From Teams to Social Change

- National DEC was formed in 2003 by state leaders to help provide leadership and coordination for the growing DEC movement
- National DEC’s approach for addressing the needs of children in dangerous drug environments is unique. It promotes social change through proactive collaboration between systems
A Look Forward

Moving From Teams to Social Change

- Promoting social change through proactive collaboration:
  - The expertise of the National DEC Leaders Network informs practice in the field
  - Through the state DEC alliances, National DEC leverages resources and provides training and technical assistance to professionals in the field

Moving From Teams to Social Change

- Benefits:
  - Does not rely on grant funding for sustainability
  - Does not rely on individual champions for sustainability
  - Builds broad community support
  - Makes DEC everyone’s job function
  - Allows for comprehensive intervention to address the long-term needs of children

Lesson 1 Rewind

- The actions of two women launched the DEC movement
- Early response was based on the DEC Team Model
  - Pro: Improved outcomes for children
  - Con: Not sustainable
- The current model promotes broad social change
  - Pro: Proactive (vs. Reactive)
  - Pro: Sustainable
  - Pro: Promotes community awareness, appropriate and accessible treatment intervention, and prevention
  - Pro: Facilitates collaborative, coordinated efforts between individuals, agencies, and whole communities
  - Con: We’ll address challenges of collaboration in Lesson 4 ☺