



**CORE DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN
TRAINING PROGRAM**

A COMMUNITY AWARENESS TRAINING

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

Acknowledgements

- This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 2007CKWX0005, awarded by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice.
- 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.
- References to specific companies, products, or services should not be considered an endorsement of the product by the author(s) or the U.S. Department of Justice. Rather, the references are illustrations to supplement discussion of the issues.



CDPS

Division of Criminal Justice

Regional Community Policing Institute



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

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

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 ©
