

Drug/Alcohol Issues

Background Notes

Many of the clients that DHS comes into contact with abuse drugs and/or alcohol. Most branches in the state have specialized teams called ART teams (Addiction Recovery Teams) to assist in assessing clients with drug and alcohol issues and to assist case workers with case planning. Large percentages of people who abuse drugs/alcohol have low self-esteem, and may have a history of trauma. People, who abuse drugs/alcohol, may be in denial about the amount they use. They may also feel guilt and shame about their usage, which makes it even more difficult to admit that they use. The children in these homes have experienced chaos, inconsistent parenting, neglect, frequently witness domestic violence and often have experienced abuse themselves.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Find out if your office has an ART team. If so, who are the members of the team and how do you access their services.
- Talk to an experienced worker with experience with substance abusing clients about what clues he/she uses to determine whether a client is under the influence of a substance when they meet with the client and how they handle it. What questions or observations does the worker make to determine how the parent's drug use is affecting their children?
- Make a list of at least three strategies for interviewing a person who is under the influence drugs/alcohol or who has a recent history of abusing drugs/alcohol.

Discoveries:

See next page.

Drug/Alcohol Issues continued...

Tasks / Assignments:

- What services are available in your community for people who are having problems with drugs/alcohol?
- What services are available in your community for children whose parents are addicted to drugs/alcohol?

Discoveries:

- *Add the list of providers to your list of resources for future reference.*
- *What did you learn that will increase your success with families with substance abuse issues?*

