



CHILDREN AFFECTED BY METHAMPHETAMINE PROJECT SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Lead Agency:
County of Santa
Barbara Alcohol and
Drug Program

**Geographic Area and
Congressional
District Served:**
Santa Barbara
County;
Congressional
Districts 23–24

Federal Grant:
\$1.48 million/4 years

**Evaluation Design,
Comparison Group
Type and
Treatment Received:**
Pre–post design,
treatment group only

**Proposed Number
Served (4 years):**
Children: 200
Adults: 120

Project Description

The Santa Barbara County Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) Project serves children and families participating in the Family Treatment Drug Court (FTDC). The CAM Project utilizes a family-centered and trauma-focused approach to treatment by focusing on specific issues to parents, the parent-child dyad, support reunification, and meet the needs of the child. Key elements of the CAM Project include:

- ***Seeking Safety*** – an evidence-based therapy to help people attain safety from trauma/Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse;
- ***Nurturing Parenting Program*** – a 16-week evidence-based parenting program using parent modeling and coaching strategies; involves the entire family with parents and children participating together to learn skills to prevent future child abuse and neglect;
- ***Great Beginnings*** – offered through a partnership with Child Abuse Listening and Meditation (CALM) it provides a continuum of services to promote the well-being, health, social-emotional and cognitive development of children ages 0–5 in the Project; services include home visitation and early childhood mental health services.

Target Population

Services are provided to children ages 0–17 and their families participating in the Santa Barbara FTDC. The northern portions of the County include the Santa Maria and Lompoc communities, which are the target areas of the Project. Both areas are diverse working-class communities with higher rates of child maltreatment compared to other portions of the County. Santa Barbara County is located in the central coast portion of California with a total population of 423,900.

Major Project Goals

- Provide rapid access and engagement in services for children with intensive supervision for families affected by methamphetamine and other drugs
- Provide comprehensive, culturally competent, and trauma-sensitive system of services for children and their families in treatment;
- Reduce substance use and related problems of parents;
- Strengthen the confidence and competence as parents/caregivers;
- Improve physical, developmental, and mental health of the children.

Partner Agencies and Organizations

The Santa Barbara County CAM Project includes the following partners:

Child Welfare

- County of Santa Barbara Department of Social Services– Child Welfare, CalWORKs
- Child Abuse Listening and Meditation (CALM)

Substance Abuse

- Santa Barbara County Department of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services
- Good Samaritan Shelter, Inc.

Courts

- Superior Court of Santa Barbara

Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Legal and Related Organizations

- Therapeutic Justice Policy Council

Health

- Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

Behavioral Health

- Transitions Mental Health
- Contracted psychotherapists and psychiatrists

Research and Evaluation

- University of California, Santa Barbara

CAM Program Description

Children Affected by Methamphetamine is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded grant program focused on expanding and/or enhancing services to children and their families who are affected by methamphetamine use and abuse. The Public Health Service Act of 2000 Section 509 provided funding over a four-year period to 12 Family Treatment Drug Courts (FTDC) to improve the well-being, permanency, and safety outcomes of children, who are in, or at-risk of out-of-home placement as a result of parental methamphetamine or other substance abuse.

Other Community and Child and Family Services

- Community Action Commission (CAC)
- Family Services Agency
- Housing Authority

Performance Indicators

CAM grantees are measuring their performance on outcomes for children and adults. **The Santa Barbara County CAM Project** bi-annually provides data on the following performance indicators.

Child/Youth Indicators

- Children remain at home
- Occurrence of child maltreatment
- Average length of stay in foster care
- Re-entries to foster care placement
- Timeliness of reunification
- Timeliness of permanency
- Prevention of substance-exposed newborn
- Connection to supportive services
- Improved child well-being

Adult Indicators

- Access to substance abuse treatment
- Retention in treatment
- Substance use
- Connection to supportive services
- Employment
- Criminal behavior

Family/Relationship Indicators

- Improved parenting
- Family relationships and functioning
- Risk and protective factors