

SOBRIETY TREATMENT AND RECOVERY TEAMS (START)

Who We Are

START is a collaborative child welfare-led intervention for families, with Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement and children 0-5 years of age, who are impacted by parental substance use. The overall goals of START are to keep children safely with their parents whenever possible and to promote parental recovery and capacity to care for their children. Families work collaboratively with a child welfare case worker and family mentor dyad to receive support and help break down barriers along the road to recovery.



START Overview:

- ★ Receive specialized family preservation services from a caseworker and family mentor team
- ★ Support timely access to treatment
- ★ Help parents achieve and maintain recovery while keeping children in the home with the family
- ★ Focus on individual and family need
- ★ Improve parent-child interactions to promote positive and healthy bonds

What is Unique about START?

- ★ Families referred to START receive a team approach to their child welfare case, working with a caseworker and family mentor. The family mentor is a person in long term recovery who helps families navigate the child welfare system from a place of compassion and lived experience. Family mentors often increase the family's sense of empowerment and satisfaction with services.
- ★ The case management team (supervisor, caseworker, and family mentor) has received specialized training specifically designed to help families affected by substance use.
- ★ Cross-system collaboration with community providers, substance use disorder treatment providers, early childhood interventions, and the child welfare system focused on recovery support for families.
- ★ Facilitates timely access to quality substance use disorder treatment and frequent supportive services address barriers to service connection.

START Goals:

- ★ Child safety and family preservation.
- ★ Parent involvement in treatment, community recovery supports, and long-term well-being.
- ★ Families become engaged in long term recovery and improve recovery outcomes with reduced recidivism or relapse.
- ★ Enhance child development and emotional well-being.
- ★ Fewer children enter into state custody and out-of-home placements.
- ★ Build comprehensive social, community, and peer support networks that address the needs of families affected by substance use and other challenges.
- ★ Improve family functioning to prevent foster care placement and reduce Child Protective Services referrals.

Contact Us

