

TITLE: Early Intervention, Lasting Change: A Family-Centered Cross-Systems Approach to Domestic Violence, Substance Use, and Child Welfare Involvement

ABSTRACT: In the U.S., domestic violence hotlines receive over 20,000 calls each day—an alarming indicator of a widespread crisis affecting millions of adults and children. This session will delve into the complex intersection of domestic violence and substance use, highlighting how these co-occurring issues create compounding barriers to safety, treatment engagement, and long-term family healing. Participants will gain insights into the latest research and site examples that illustrate actionable strategies for professionals working with affected families. Attendees will leave equipped with tools to foster resilience, support recovery, and improve safety outcomes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe the risks and barriers faced by domestic violence survivors and how language barriers, trauma, and other factors may influence if and how survivors access services
2. Identify the connection between domestic violence, maternal health, and substance use and how these intersecting challenges affect families and child safety across demographic and community contexts
3. Identify core elements of trauma-informed, family-centered, and cross-systems approaches that support survivors of domestic violence
4. Apply strategies for cross-systems collaboration to improve safety, recovery, and long-term outcomes for children, parents, and families affected by domestic violence and substance use

Alexis Balkey is a Program Director at Children and Family Futures, working with the National Family Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Program. She mentors Associates and Specialists, supports project management and reporting, and has provided TTA to FTCs nationwide, responding to more than 1,600 requests over fourteen years. She served as a Change Leader for statewide system-improvement efforts and for the Prevention and Family Recovery initiative, helping jurisdictions strengthen family-centered care for families affected by substance use disorders. Before joining CFF, she managed the Riverside County Family Preservation Court and oversaw multiple funding streams,

including a SAMHSA CAM grant. She is a certified addictive disorder counselor and holds a B.A. in Psychology, a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Temple University, and an MPA from California State University, San Bernardino.

Marissa Colliflower serves with the National Family Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Program and the Regional Partnership Grant (RPG), providing tailored technical assistance to individual requesters and RPG grant recipients to strengthen practice, implementation, and outcomes.

Ms. Colliflower holds a B.S. in family and human development from Arizona State University. She trained as an emotional first responder with the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP), and a suicide prevention facilitator for HeartLine Oklahoma. She's passionate about working with communities who have experienced trauma, as well as supporting individuals and families with substance use disorders and mental health issues.