

TITLE: From Missed to Managed: Helping FTCs Resolve Co-Occurring Disorders Effectively

ABSTRACT:

Family treatment courts (FTCs) are on the front lines of supporting parents in crisis—but when substance use and mental health disorders co-exist, the challenge becomes even greater. Nearly half of adults with substance use disorder (SUD) also experience mental health issues, yet these co-occurring disorders (CODs) often go undetected or untreated due to their complexity. The result? Increased risk of unemployment, homelessness, child welfare involvement, incarceration, and even suicide.

This session tackles a critical problem: how FTCs can better identify and support parents with CODs to improve outcomes for families. You'll gain practical tools and strategies to move from missed opportunities to managed care—ensuring that no parent falls through the cracks.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Learn definitions and prevalence rates of CODs while exploring theories of how and why substance use and mental health disorders often occur together
2. Discover ways to better identify parents with CODs through effective screening and assessment techniques
3. Gain insights from successful collaborations on using evidence-based treatments to support parents with CODs

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.