

No one system has everything necessary to help families with substance use and child maltreatment. It takes all of us working together to keep children safe.

START is a child welfare-based model that creates needed collaborative partners that may be appropriate for your jurisdiction.

START can be used to help families with any type of substance use including opioids, methamphetamine, and cocaine.

Technical Assistance

- ★ Children and Family Futures (CFF) is the national home for START and provides technical assistance, training, and consultation to implement START. CFF can assist with readiness assessment, introductory training, phased rollout planning, webinars, and ongoing implementation technical assistance.
- ★ Support for the development and evaluation of START has been provided for over twenty years by several collaborative partners and funders. A complete list of partners can be found on our website.



"START is one of the best collaborative efforts I have ever been involved in during my 35 years in the addiction treatment field. We have Child Protective Services, hospital social work departments, many different addiction treatment programs with different approaches all working together for the purpose of keeping families together and children safe in an alcohol and drug free home."

- START Treatment Provider, Louisville, Kentucky

Please see our website for a complete list of START-related publications.

For more information or to request technical assistance, contact us:

Visit: www.cffutures.org/START

Call: 866.493.2758



Children and Family Futures
Strengthening Partnerships. Improving Family Outcomes



PREVENTION | PERMANENCY | PROVEN RESULTS



Preventing Out-of-Home Placement

Children in START are 50% less likely to enter out-of-home placement than children from a matched comparison group.



Permanency for Children

At case closure, more than 75% of children in START remained with or were reunified with their parent.

START prevented repeat child abuse or neglect within 6 months for 96.8% of children served, 2.1 percentage points higher than the federal standard.



Parental Recovery and Capacity

Mothers in START have higher rates of sobriety and early recovery than non-START child welfare-involved counterparts (66% vs. 36%).

At case closure, 60% of families were rated as adequate to strong on parental capacity to care for their children.



Improved Systems Outcome

START leads to cross-system transformation toward a family-centered service delivery model.

Listed on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC) as a promising practice.

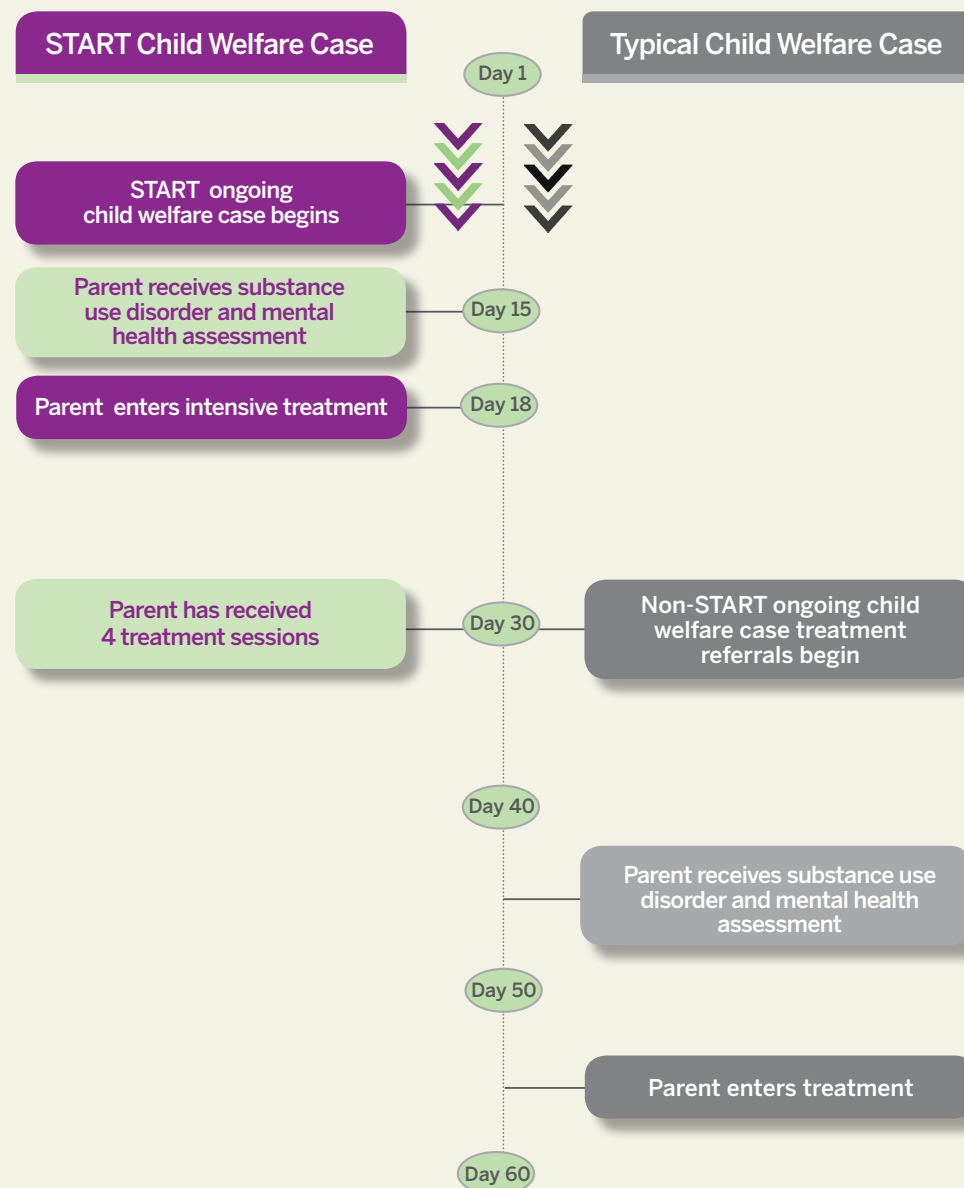
<http://www.cebc4cw.org/program/sobriety-treatment-and-recovery-teams/detailed>

PREVENTION | PERMANENCY | PROVEN RESULTS

How Does the START Model Work?

- ★ Serves families with parental substance use disorders and child welfare involvement
- ★ Helps parents achieve recovery, improve parental capacity, and keep children in the home when it is safe and possible
- ★ Seeks to transform the system of care for child welfare and treatment

START uses an accelerated timeline to intensive services. Stronger adherence to the START timeline is associated with higher rates of parental sobriety and children remaining with parents.



START embeds effective strategies:

- ★ Built on a foundation of collaboration among multiple health, social service, and court partners
- ★ Employs a powerful dyad between peer recovery support specialist, called a family mentor, and a child welfare caseworker to help families
- ★ Family mentors have “lived” child welfare and recovery experience; they help parents navigate the health, social service and court systems
- ★ START worker and family mentor dyad share a capped caseload allowing them to provide intensive case management and weekly home visits
- ★ Shared decision making with families and agency partners at critical decision points
- ★ Intensive recovery supports to build parental capacity and recovery skills
- ★ Rigorous program evaluation and use of data for continuous quality improvement



START prevents child placement and promotes parental recovery by supporting quick access to treatment.