



0-5 Reunification for

## PARENTS WITH ADDICTIONS



Between 2009 and 2012, placement due to parental addiction increased 20% nationally. Research shows that these children stay in placement longer and experience more placements than other children in care. YAP's 0-5 Reunification Program has found that over 60% of children in the program have at least one parent receiving treatment for substance abuse. Frequently, these parents struggle with other issues, such as mental health disorders, trauma, poverty, domestic violence and others. These co-occurring issues may contribute to both the substance use and the child maltreatment (Testa & Smith, 2009). Evidence increasingly points to the critical role that stress and reactions within the brain to stress may play in terms of both drug-seeking activity and inappropriate caregiving (Chaplin & Sinha, 2013). Effective programming must address all these needs, which is where YAP helps.

### Program Description

YAP's intervention model for parents with substance abuse and addiction issues builds upon our traditional Reunification model with relentless aftercare and recovery support for parents struggling with addictions. YAP carefully matches a Recovery Advocate with each parent.

The Recovery Advocate (RA) spends up to 25 hours a week in face to face contact with the parent(s), addressing the primary needs and issues related to both the addiction and parenting skills for an average of six months.

The RA also promotes the development of protective factors, such as parenting knowledge, social connections and concrete supports in key life domain areas, such as housing and employment, to support families and buffer risks, while working closely with the parent's broader treatment team.

The program approach is rooted in the Community Reinforcement Approach, helping parents' understand their substance-using pattern of behavior through functional analyses and then working collaboratively to build behavioral and other skills and positive connections to replace the needs previously met through substance-seeking behavior.

### Elements of YAP's Substance Abuse and Addiction Intervention

- *Specialized, intensive training for staff on understanding substance abuse and addiction and supporting recovery*
- *Close collaboration with drug treatment and mental health providers*
- *A Stages of Change Approach to tailoring interventions and activities based on the SOCRATESv8 screening tool*
- *Evidence-Based parenting curriculum "Families in Substance Abuse Treatment & Recovery"*
- *Safety Planning and ongoing assessment of recovery*
- *Access to a "Recovery Mentor", a parent in recovery, to support treatment, recovery and parenting*
- *Gender Specific Programming and Trauma Informed Care*
- *24/7 Crisis Response*