

Guiding Principles for Developing an Integrated CWS-AOD Approach

- Address both the problem of AOD use and child maltreatment.
- Assess the interaction between AOD use, abuse, or dependence, and child maltreatment, and what it means for risk to the child.
- Establish standards for intervention that relate explicitly to assessment(s), including appropriate level of AOD intervention(s).
- Include assessment of the strengths inherent in the family, which leads to an appropriate service/treatment plan for the family as a whole.
- Conduct assessments in the broader context of overall family functioning and behavior (e.g., use and availability of support systems and community resources, desire, and capacity to parent, child's attachment to the family, child's special medical/developmental needs).
- Develop assessment protocols that are sensitive to cultural, ethnic, and gender related concerns.
- View any assessment instrument as a tool to enhance – not substitute for – professional clinical judgment.
- Consider family violence, mental health, and job readiness assessments as part of the related systems that affect CWS-AOD outcomes.
- Link assessments to workload and budgeting – supervisors, managers, policymakers, budget analysts, and others should use assessment information about the levels of clients' needs to help manage agency resources. Net increases in paperwork within either system should be avoided.