

Innovations in Early Intervention, Community Collaboration & Partnerships

‘Point of Engagement’

Drug & Alcohol Services SA

Child Aware Conference Melbourne 2015

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Overview

- Point of Engagement Program (PoE)
- Social Return on Investment Analysis (SROI)
- PoE Results from this report :
 - Cost Effectiveness
 - Reunification & or family/preservation
 - Sustained reduction in substance use/abstinence
 - Effective Engagement & Stakeholder Collaboration
 - Increase in Attachment Relationships
 - Improved long term outcomes for children
 - Immediate emergency housing needs met

Development of Point of Engagement

- PoE in operation since 2007
- Early Intervention home visiting program
- Collaboration is the key to continued success
- In collaboration with Drug & Alcohol Services SA - DASSA
- Early Links – High Risk Pregnancy Clinic - Flinders Medical Centre
- CHN – referrals, priority access for counselling, joint home visits

Program Criteria

Eligibility & for early intervention:

- Pregnant or new parents
- Youngest child < 18 months of age
- Current illicit substance/alcohol misuse
- Recent significant use/history of/ and risk or relapse
 - Including multiple issues - child protection, psychological problems, housing, relationship conflict, domestic violence, legal, financial issues, etc.

Above Risk factors - place children at risk of neglect, maltreatment, isolation, attachment problems, developmental delay

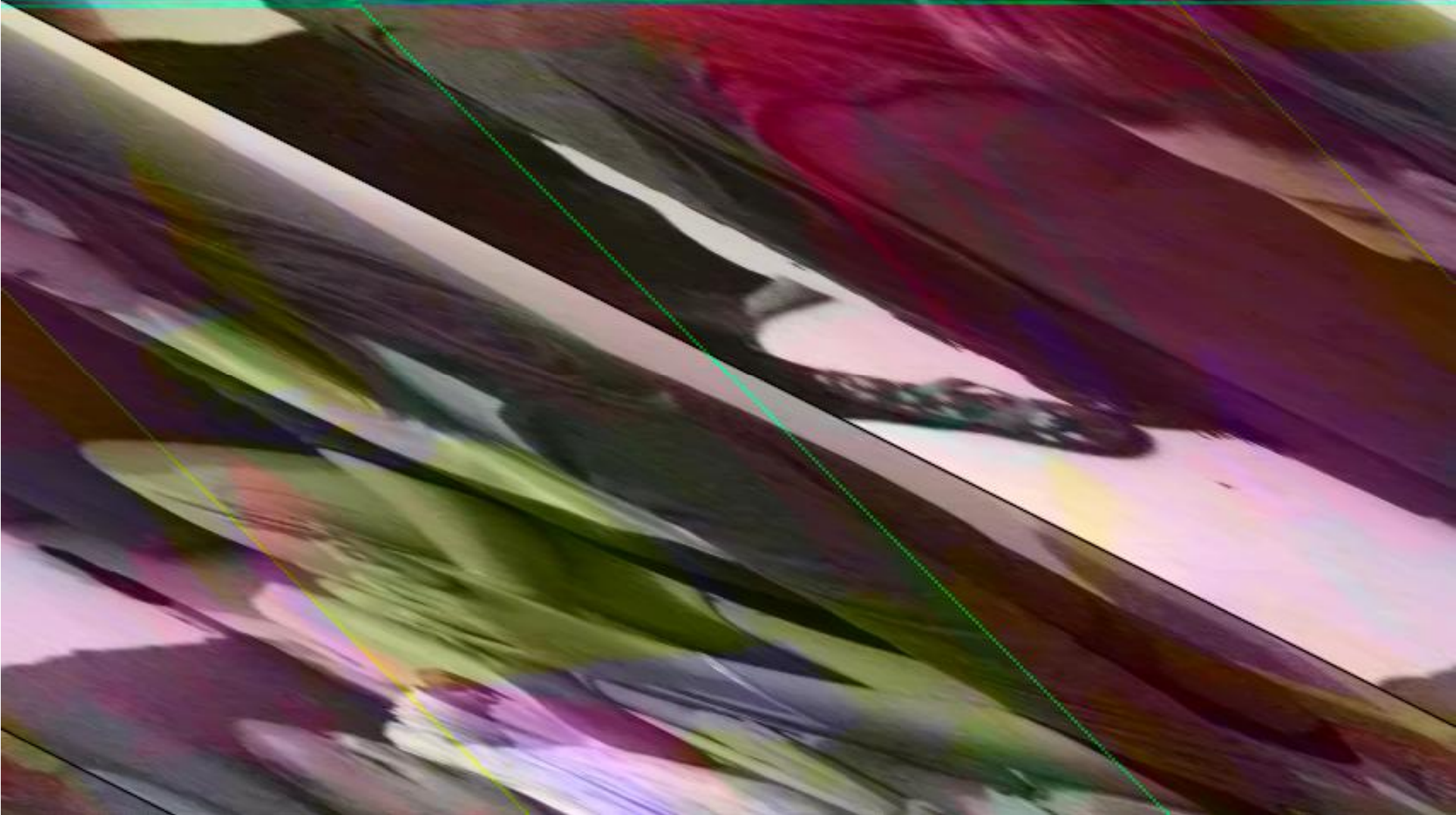
Referral Process and Tracking or identifying potential clients

Collaboration is the key

- Example of Innovative Early Intervention, Community Collaboration & Partnerships
- Video of Taylor & Mali - Infant massage
- Referral in pregnancy - DASSA
- Attachment based therapy/group – Social Worker
- Relationships Australia –Infant Massage
- First Touch Program - IAIM







Social Return on Investment Analysis

- Undertaken in 2014 by SVA Consulting
- Found that PoE delivered an estimated \$498k of social and economic value for stakeholders over 2012/2013 – that is **\$2.50 created for every \$1 invested in PoE**
- Other major positive outcomes for stakeholders (primarily clients and their children) noted

Cost Effectiveness

- Supports and compliments other agencies
- Service providers have more time to focus on core activities
- Joint case management leads to more efficient service delivery
- Information sharing - engagement approach and regular updates reduced their own monitoring and information gathering costs.

'..... it can free us up to focus on the more pointy end of our work.'
-Senior Social Worker, Child Protection

Cost Effectiveness

- Most valuable outcome created is the reunification and family preservation
- Substantial cost savings for Government
- Improving the effectiveness of service delivery within the sector.

“If we look at the families that PoE has worked with we would see that they are less likely to have had their children taken away.” – Child Protection Worker

Reunification and Family Preservation

“... Before we were all over the place in supporting her.... PoE helped us put some boundaries in place, her child definitely benefits he now spends 90% of his time with us ... we can make sure he is being properly cared for ”

– Family Member of Client

“The program helped me to rebuild my relationships with my older children. I have now come to accept that they will never be in my care, but they know that I am their mother, and that I love them and will be there for them” - Mother

Sustained Reduced Substance Usage/Abstinence

- Promote review of parental substance use
- Sharing of parenting information, impact of trauma on early brain development
- Motivational style interviewing – ATOP Assessment
- Child Safety Plans – managing emotions/relationship conflict
- Involve other appropriate family members/child care

“Knowing that we (partner) couldn't both be using at the same time, making sure that one of us was ok to look after our child”

- Client

Sustained Reduced Substance Usage/Abstinence

“The program improved my ability to say 'no'. I was always surrounded by it being around my family”

- Client

“Because I had so many concerns about drinking in early pregnancy, she would bring round materials help me understand that he was developing normally. Being caught in shame, grief is exactly where relapse occurs. I believe that was why I saw her and DASSA together, it gave me more insight.”

- Client

Engagement Strategy

Report evidenced a high attendance rate of engagement

- Difficult to engage – service resistant, voluntary
- Holistic strength based, solution focused
- Multi complex issues – needs multi-dimensional approach
- No “one size fits all’

“Great thing about it is that it is not just about substance abuse, it’s able to address many other issues i.e. accommodation, community links, education . There are not really any other services providing holistic type services.” - Flinders Medical Centre - Social Worker

Engagement Strategy

By building a stronger relationship with their child and community the risks are reduced and safety & stability is increased

- Allow client to lead the process
- Early successes – increases confidence

“PoE has developed into a strong program, where the clinician is not afraid to say what is needed to be said. PoE works towards educating and supporting clients, builds relationships based on mutual respect. The worker has staying power; she understands that behaviour driven from substance issues is emotional”

- Senior Child Protection Worker

Increase in Parenting Attachment Reflective Functioning & Capacity

- Home visiting – using evidence based interventions
- Combine PoE and Parents Under Pressure (PUP) Model
- Infant Massage – First Touch Program (IAIM)
- Benefits – attachment, communication, parent responsiveness & sensitivity, infant health and physiological & neurological developmental benefits
- Promotes healthy, respectful touch

“I liked watching the connection between my son and his mother during infant massage” – Father

Increase in Parenting Attachment Reflective Functioning & Capacity

- Increased Self Esteem/Confidence
- Manage Emotions under pressure increasing mindful awareness

"I used to get really stressed out and angry - I had problems dealing with my anger. I learnt how not to take my anger out on my children. How being calm, also means a calm baby."

-Client

"PoE helped me recover and gain confidence; I learnt how to be responsive to my child, he now has a mum who is more in tune with him, and I can listen more."

- Past Client

Results of Stakeholder Collaboration

- Build strong collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders families/friends & services
- Work closely and transparently with other services/agencies
- Increase in trust and client engagement with other services – increase safety for child/ren
- Facilitate external service access to a ‘hard to reach’ population

“Thanks to PoE, the services have been working more closely together. I’ve been more open to them sharing information. PoE has helped me to turn around my relationship with Families SA, they now have more trust in me.”

- Client

Improved long term outcomes for children

- Children cognitive, social and physical development
- Access to continuum of care
- Flow on effect – parents sharing techniques with others close to them

“I was also scared of going to a playgroup... but PoE helped to get me there, and I’ve been going ever since, my boy loves it”

“The changes I experienced, and the things that I have learnt will stay with me through my life”

Immediate/Emergency Needs Met: Housing, Childcare etc.

- Identify their needs – address what they highlight as a priority – emergency needs, housing etc.
- Links to JA housing programs and other complimenting services

“Having a permanent home helped me to develop a routine and structure in my life. My son has developed really well, and he has a secure and safe place to live” – Client

*“Because of my positive experience with PoE, I am more comfortable seeking support and finding the right kind of help”
– Client*

Share the knowledge



- Winners of State Award for 2014 Play your Part – Inspiring Prevention Initiates Award – NAPCAN
- Social Work Placements
- Research paper – in progress

And a word on funding

- Currently funded by JA Southern Family Benefit Fund & various philanthropic funding
- Seeking ongoing funding to further develop and implement broader family initiatives across locations, continue to provide innovative service.....

References

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