



Foundation *for*
Opioid Response Efforts

01/28/2025

Supporting Children and Families Impacted by Addiction

Launching Sesame Workshop's New Educational Course for Healthcare and Social Services Providers

SESAME STREET

Hand in Hand:
Supporting Children and Families Impacted by Addiction

Foundation *for*
Opioid Response Efforts



DENVER HEALTH
FOUNDATION™



MORGAN COUNTY
PARTNERSHIP

ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

Introduction



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Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH
President
Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts



Agenda

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1. Introduction and Webinar Logistics

Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH
President, FORE

2. Sesame Workshop: Parental Addiction Initiative & the Hand-in-Hand Course

Jeanette Betancourt, EdD, SVP
US Social Impact, Sesame Workshop

3. Denver Health: Implementing Sesame Resources in Healthcare Settings

Lisa Asbill, PhD, IECMH-E®
Clinical Psychologist, Denver Health

4. Morgan County Partnership: Implementing Sesame Resources in Community Settings

Kristen Gingery, MA, EdD,
Executive Director, Morgan County Partnership

5. Question and Answer Session

Alison Sutter, LMSW, MPH
Senior Program Officer, FORE

Webinar Logistics

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1. The webinar is being recorded and will be available on www.ForeFdn.org shortly after the session ends.
2. Presentation slides will be made available for download on our website.
3. Please use the “Q&A” found at the bottom of your Zoom screen.
 - If you have a similar question, please upvote using the thumbs up button on the question.
 - We will read as many questions live as time permits.
4. There will be a brief survey immediately following the webinar. Please provide us with feedback!

About FORE

Founded in 2018, the **Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE)** is a 501(c)(3) private, national, grantmaking foundation focused on one urgent public health emergency – **the opioid crisis**.

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Vision

To inspire and accelerate action to end the opioid crisis

Mission

To convene and support partners advancing patient-centered, **evidence-based solutions** addressing the opioid crisis

Focus

With **patients at the center**, our focus includes:



Professional
education



Payer & Provider
strategies



Policy initiatives



Public awareness



FORE

FORE Grantee Portfolio

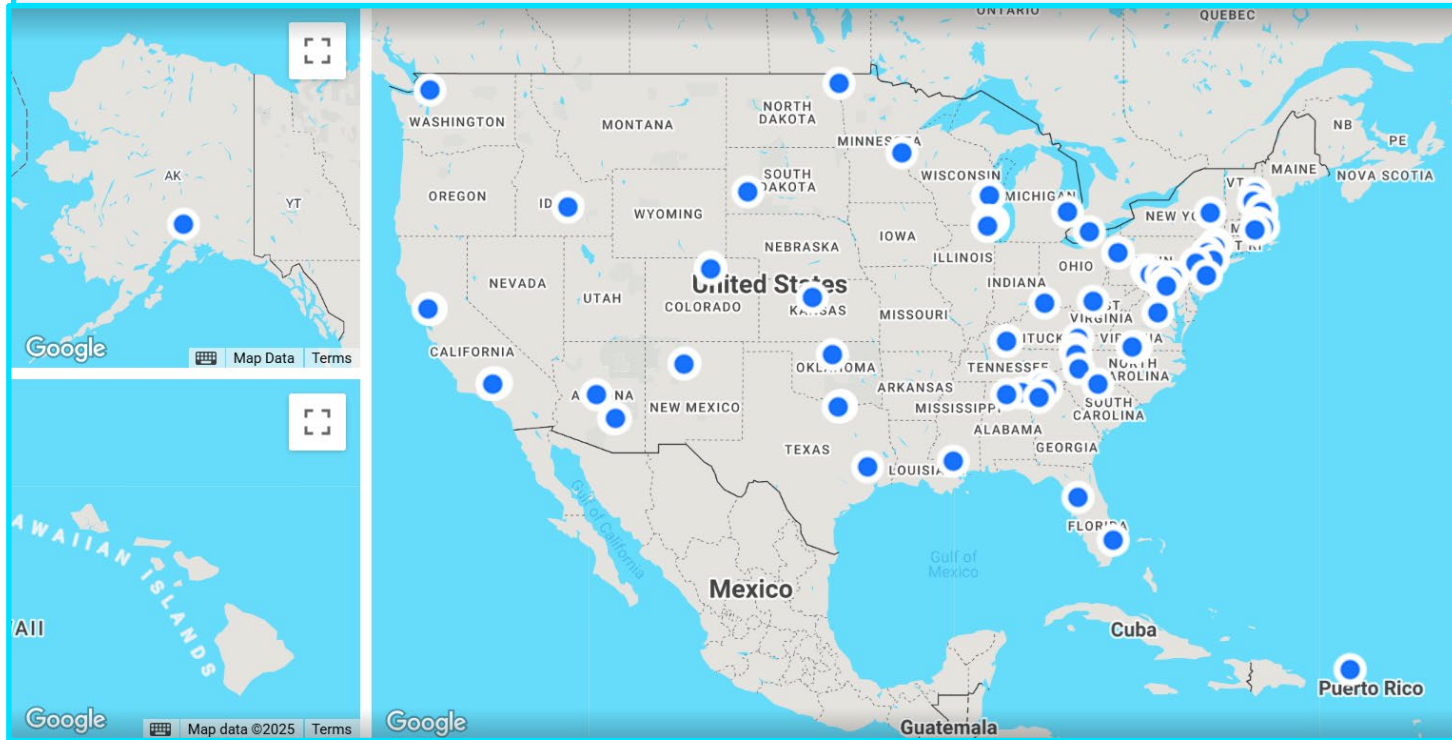
Grants to date:

113

Amount awarded:

\$45.3M

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See all FORE Grantees on our website:
<https://www.ForeFdn.org/Our-Grantees/>

FORE's Family- and Community-Based Prevention Program

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- Expand access to prevention, treatment, and community services for children and families who are affected by substance use
- Address the upstream determinants of substance use disorder by fostering family resiliency
- Mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) for children impacted by caregiver substance use with a multi-generational, whole-family approach
- Support youth and adolescents who are at risk of developing an opioid use disorder or experiencing an overdose
- Develop interventions that are community-based and culturally-informed
- Advance evidence-based training for providers working with pregnant people, children, and families impacted by opioid use



Family- and Community-Based Prevention Program Grantees



American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMPAIGN



LEGAL AID SERVICES
OF OKLAHOMA, INC.



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The National Academies of SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE



OPPORTUNITY LABS



University of California
San Francisco



Webinar Speakers



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Jeanette Betancourt, EdD
Senior Vice President, US Social Impact
Sesame Workshop
FORE Project: Parental Addiction Initiative to Improve Adult-Child Relationships and Family Resilience



Lisa Asbill, PhD, IECMH-E
Clinical Psychologist
Denver Health
FORE Project: Denver Health's Multi-Generational Approach to Prevention and Recovery: A Hub-and-Spoke Model for Families with Opioid Use Disorder



Kristen Gingery, MA, EdD
Executive Director
Morgan County Partnership
FORE Project: Project Resilience: Addressing ACEs in Appalachia



Jeanette Betancourt, EdD

**Senior Vice President, US Social Impact
Sesame Workshop**

*FORE Project: Parental Addiction Initiative to Improve
Adult-Child Relationships and Family Resilience*

Supporting Children and Families Impacted by Addiction



SESAME WORKSHOP

Jeanette Betancourt, Ed. D.
Senior Vice President
Sesame Workshop



Foundation *for*
Opioid Response
Efforts





The Mission

Help children grow
smarter, stronger,
and kinder

The Vision

To empower each
generation to build
a better world



Parental Addiction



The Reason

- 5.7 million children under 11 (**1 in 8 children**) live in households with a parent with substance use disorder.¹
- **1 in 3 children** enter foster care because of parental addiction (a 53% increase over 10 years).²
- The trauma of parental addiction may increase children's **exposure** to overindulgence, neglect, physical or psychologic impact, or potential risk of increased experimentation with substances.³

¹ HHS/SAMSHA, 2017. National Surveys on Drug Use and Health ² State of America's Children report, 2017 ³ Pediatrics (2016) 138 (2): e20161575



Initial Research Findings

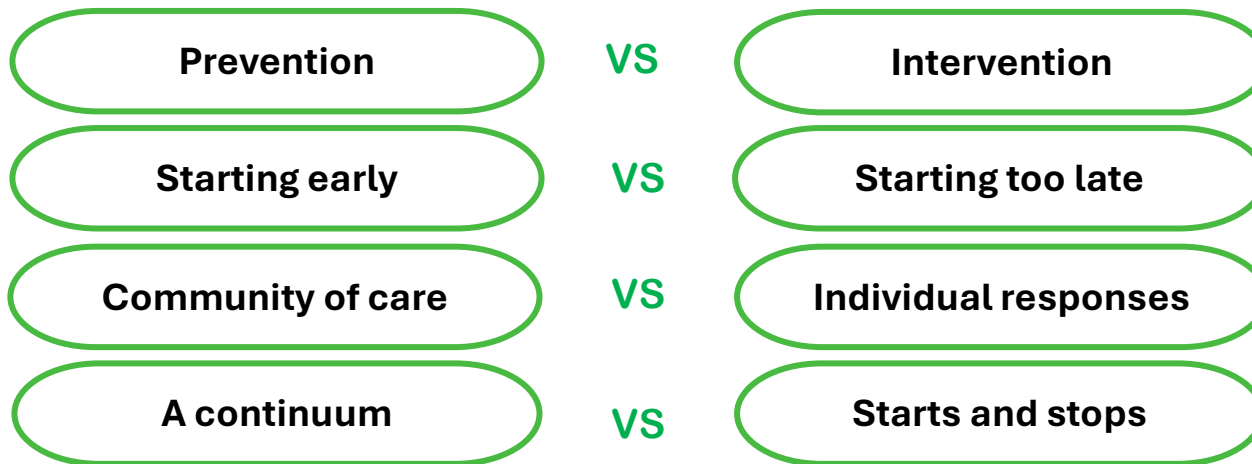
Parents, providers, and communities need:

- To understand the significant impact parental addiction has on young children and that they are not alone
- That substance abuse disorders are a grown-up problem, and a disease, or sickness
- Specific language to explain substance abuse disorders appropriate for young children, including terms such as addiction, drugs, alcohol, treatment, and recovery
- To understand the impact of shame and guilt on addicted parents; many acknowledged they may cause their children irreparable harm and/or result in them “going down the same path” as them, and children not forgiving them
- To know for children, families, and impacted parents, they are not alone, there is hope for getting better, and blame is not appropriate



Our Approach

To reduce stigma, increase wellbeing and engagement, we need to highlight awareness on prevention.





Parental Addiction

Resources and support for families struggling with a parent's addiction.

Explore

Karli and Parental Addiction

Karli is a young Sesame friend who loves pizza and playing monster ball. Right now, her mom is having a tough time dealing with substance abuse. These resources can help the children in your life know that—like Karli—they are not alone.

Lending a Hand
Chris, Elmo, and Karli discuss the benefits of asking for, getting, and giving help.

Parental Addiction Ages 1-6

It's Not Your Fault
Elmo and Karli's pretend play helps Karli talk through a tough feeling.

Parental Addiction Ages 1-6

Monster Music
Abby and Karli sing songs about being with the people they love.

Family Connections Ages 1-6

We're Special and So Are You
Muppets celebrate the qualities that make them special.

Parental Addiction Ages 1-6

Explaining addiction video



We Needed to Learn More

Impact research revealed we needed to do more, especially in how providers can use our resources. We engaged in additional on the ground research to find out how to respond.

Approach

- An online discussion board to answer pre-posted questions as well as follow up questions
- Individual in-depth interviews with organizational leaders and senior providers that serve families impacted by parental addiction
- Advisory with key experts serving families



Provider Experiences and Challenges

Providers strive to:

- Connect families with professional services and resources
- Address feelings of shame
- Offer skills for self-care, family communication, and emotion regulation
- Facilitate difficult conversations between children and parents or caretakers
- Help strengthen frayed family relationships



Provider Experiences and Challenges

Providers report challenges:

- Lack of funds, transportation, stable housing, etc.
- Limited informational resources for families
- Building the trust necessary takes time
- Need training, language, and resources for
 - Emotional and self-care challenges
 - Interacting with children around addiction
 - Helping parents and caregivers interact with children





Suggestions for Resources

Providers want professional development and training around:

- Developmentally appropriate and honest language, techniques, and activities to use with children when talking about parental addiction and treatment
- Relationship building between caregivers, parents, and children
- Emotional regulation for both adults and children
- Nurturing parenting ideas/skills to share with parents and caregivers (especially older grandparents tasked with caregiving)



Hand in Hand:

Supporting Children and Families
Impacted by Addiction



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Unit 1: It Takes a Village - This unit guides providers in fostering safety, trust, and connection while emphasizing empathy, reflection, and self-care.

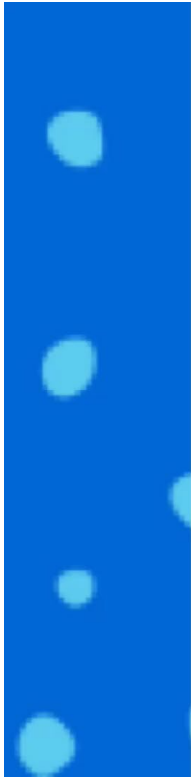
Unit 2: The Impact of Addiction - This unit offers insights on early childhood development, experiences of children of addiction, and support strategies.

Unit 3: Supporting Children with L.O.V.E.E. - In this unit, we are introducing the acronym LOVEE as means of supporting children through: **L**istening. **O**bservation. **V**alidation. **E**ducation. **E**mpowerment.

Unit 4: Supporting the Whole Family - This unit highlights the importance of routines, supports providers in helping families strengthen their relationships, and offers resources for all family members, including adults.

Unit 5: Hope and Healing - In this unit, we focus on building hope and healing – through celebrating the good, practicing healthy habits, and building resilience.

The Prime Recommendations



What do children impacted by parental addiction need to hear?



Get Involved!

- Register for the course and access the resources!
- Share these resources with your community and other providers.
- Create your own “comfy-space” by finding child-friendly materials and resources for the families you work with.
- Questions for the Sesame Workshop team? Email us at communities@sesame.org.

Scan me to go straight to the
Hand in Hand course!





Lisa Asbill, PhD, IECMH-E

Clinical Psychologist

Denver Health

FORE Project: Denver Health's Multi-Generational Approach to Prevention and Recovery: A Hub-and-Spoke Model for Families with Opioid Use Disorder



DENVER HEALTH™

est. 1860

FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY

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Denver Health has been serving the Denver community and state of Colorado since 1860. During more than 160 years of serving, Denver Health has grown to become a complete health care system serving the whole lifespan.

- Primary care
- Emergency care
- Over 150 specialties

Comprehensive care at Denver Health includes access to substance use and mental health services for both adults and children

- Multiple substance abuse programs for adolescents and adults
- Behavioral health services for the lifespan



Overview of Denver Health Services

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Family-Oriented Resilience, Growth, and Empowerment (FORGE) Program

- The FORGE program serves children ages 0-17 and their families.
- The focus of the FORGE program is supporting families impacted by parental substance misuse, intimate partner violence, parental incarceration, and housing instability or homelessness
- Grant funding from FORE has allowed the FORGE program to expand, develop, and study services/service infrastructure at Denver Health for children impacted by parental substance misuse



Collaboration with Sesame Street in Communities

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The importance of incorporating resources for young children into treatment and recovery services for caregivers

- Children learn about themselves, relationships, and the world around them from their primary caregivers. It is critical that we support those relationships so that they are as strong and healthy as possible.
- These resources support caregivers in understanding how to talk with young children about parental addiction and help children understand that they are not alone.



Collaboration with Sesame Street in Communities

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Sesame Street in Communities materials are being used to help de-stigmatize tough topics like addiction at Denver Health

- Sesame resources, including the Karli and Me Activity booklet, are being shared with families and providers
- Comfy cozy spaces are being set up





Kristen Gingery, M.A., Ed.D.

Executive Director

Morgan County Partnership

FORE Project: Project Resilience: Addressing ACEs in Appalachia

Overview of Morgan County Partnership Services



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Overview of Morgan County Partnership

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- **501(c)3 in rural West Virginia**
- **Serving 2,300 students and their families**
- **Program Services:**
 - School-based Mental Health Services
 - Character Education & Social Emotional Learning curricula
 - Implement Juvenile Justice Diversion, and Violence and Substance Use Prevention Programming



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Overview of Current FORE Grant: Project RESILIENCE



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- > Mitigate the negative impacts of trauma associated with ACEs
- > Create an evidence-based initiative to address generational and root causes of trauma
 - > Build family-centered, community-based interventions
- > Present trauma-informed programming to youth in school and after school settings
 - > Provide parent psychoeducation
 - > Offer therapeutic supports
- > Implement family navigation service for justice-involved families

How are we using the Karli/Sesame materials in our work with families?

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- We are using the *Karli & Me Activities for Children Coping with Parental Addiction* workbook with WV-based youth
- We are using the Sesame Workshop's Parental Addiction online resources with youth and families
- Ordering Sesame Street Comfy-Cozy Spaces for our local community



What has been the response to the resources from families and providers?

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- Our MCP Team Members participated in Formative Research and Content Advisement
- Educators, Social Workers, and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Staff participated in the development of Sesame Workshop Parental Addiction Professional Development Courses
- Our MCP Team Members helped pilot the implementation of digital courses with providers
- Getting Ready to set up Comfy-Cozy “Sesamatized” Spaces in Morgan County, WV



Why is it important to incorporate resources for young children into treatment and recovery services for caregivers?

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Children in rural Appalachian communities are at an increased risk for Adverse Childhood Experiences including witnessing/experiencing parental/caregiver substance use.

- Addressing Developmental Needs
- Promoting Emotional Resilience
- Breaking the Cycle of Trauma
- Strengthening the Caregiver-Child Bond
- Raising Awareness and Reducing Stigma



Contact Information



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Question and Answer Session



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Alison Sutter, LMSW, MPH

Senior Program Officer
Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts



Follow ongoing updates on our website:
<https://www.ForeFdn.org>



Thank you for joining us!

General inquiries: info@ForeFdn.org



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