The first promising practice we want to highlight is the **State, Tribal, and Provincial DEC Alliance Development Guidelines**. This chart of stages of DEC Alliance development was created by the National DEC Leaders Network, which is a group of professionals from multiple disciplines across the nation, committed to the evolution of the drug endangered children efforts. The Guidelines identify key phases in establishing a DEC Alliance: Start-up, Operational, Effective, and Sustainable. Each phase then highlights key components that act as a guide for State, Tribal, and Provincial DEC Alliances to help measure their progress over time. You will find examples of many of these key components in this guide as well as on our website in the A-Z Resource Library at www.nationaldec.org

State, Tribal, and Provincial DEC Alliance Development Guidelines

Start-Up	Operational	Effective	Sustainable
Awareness of the problem	Organizational structure completed (Board of Directors/Advisory Board/Steering Committee)	Able to gather/track statistics/data	Performance measures/ effectiveness, returns on investment
Identified leadership	Multi-disciplinary support	Business plan completed	Continued funding and support
Identified shareholders	Government/ Policymakers participation	Has success stories	Flexibility and ability to change and grow as needs change
Stakeholders (multiple disciplines) who are interested and committed	Goals and objectives defined	Strong relationships with state, tribal, community leaders	Recognition, leader in the field
Regularly organized meetings	MOUs, protocols, guidelines	Promising practices developed and shared	Cannot be champion dependent
Identifying goals and objectives	Dedicated staff (i.e., FTE, Coordinator)	Utilizing marketing tools to gain awareness/website	Institutionalized DEC philosophy and practice
Basic awareness training	Increased awareness training	Multi-agency DEC training offered	Training/TA for local efforts
Needs and Resources Assessment	Promising practices in development	Local DEC programs in development	Local DEC programs established
Organizational structure in development (Bylaws/Sample MOUs)	Budget/Funding	Anchored/Continuity, formalized to some degree	DEC in Statute / Code / Official documents
Business plan/action plan in development	National DEC Connection	Diversity; people being served are represented	National DEC connection
National DEC connection		National DEC connection	

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC)

And

The South Carolina Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (South Carolina DEC)

The Purpose of this MOU is to:

1) Recognize the establishment of the South Carolina Drug Endangered Children Alliance;
2) Formalize the inclusion of South Carolina DEC as a National DEC affiliated State DEC Alliance; and
3) Acknowledge the on-going partnership between National DEC and South Carolina DEC.

Whereas:

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC) defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker's substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

The mission of National DEC is to break the cycle of abuse and neglect by empowering practitioners who work to transform the lives of children and families living in drug environments. National DEC works to strengthen community capacity to help drug endangered children by working to establish a national network of Local, State, and Tribal DEC alliances, and coordinating with these alliances on the provision of training and technical assistance and other resources.

National DEC provides training and technical assistance to all those in the community who assist and care for drug endangered children. By working together and leveraging resources, we can provide drug endangered children opportunities to live in safe and nurturing environments free from abuse and neglect.

Key to this effort is the growing number of State Drug Endangered Children Alliances. These alliances provide DEC training and conferences, help establish local DEC alliances, develop protocols and guidelines, and bring practitioners together to create effective collaboration that changes how cases involving drugs and children are handled in our communities.

And, Whereas:

Dedicated individuals and key members of Local, State, and Federal agencies and entities in South Carolina:

- have worked diligently to raise awareness about the problem of drug endangered children;
- have identified leadership for a statewide DEC effort;
- have established multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional support;
- have gained participation of policy-makers;
- have developed an organizational structure;
- have established a working partnership with National DEC and both parties desire an on-going joint effort; and,
- are committed to furthering the DEC mission throughout South Carolina to the benefit of drug endangered children and families.

Now, Therefore, the parties to this MOU agree as follows:

- The South Carolina Drug Endangered Children Alliance is established as a functioning statewide alliance;
- The South Carolina Drug Endangered Children Alliance is a National DEC affiliated State DEC Alliance; and
- National DEC and South Carolina DEC will work in partnership to advance the DEC mission within South Carolina and throughout the nation.

Furthermore, the parties to this MOU agree that:

They will support each other in every way possible, including but not limited to the following:

- South Carolina DEC will be listed with contact information on National DEC's website as an established State DEC Alliance;
- National DEC will provide training and technical assistance to help the development of South Carolina DEC as with other State DEC Alliances;
- South Carolina DEC will share promising DEC practices with National DEC's network, grantors, and affiliated State, Tribal, and Local DEC alliances;
- National DEC will share promising DEC practices, potential funding sources, DEC resources, and staff expertise with South Carolina DEC;
- South Carolina DEC will participate in National DEC's monthly "DEC Connect" calls and, as resources allow, DEC Leaders' Summit meetings to help develop a national network of DEC professionals and alliances;
- South Carolina DEC will submit information to National DEC annually for inclusion in a "State DEC Alliance Annual Report";
- National DEC will share the accomplishments of South Carolina DEC with our DEC Network, potential grantors, and national partners;

Further, the parties to this MOU agree that:

Nothing in this MOU will be construed as limiting or affecting in any way the authority or legal responsibility of either party, or as binding a party to perform beyond its available resources. Each party retains the sole discretion to determine its ability to comply with the terms of this MOU. This MOU is not a contractual agreement and does not impose any liability on either party for non-compliance.

This MOU shall be effective when signed by both parties and may be formally terminated by either party following 30 days written notice to the undersigned representative or successor representative of the other party.

Agreed to and accepted by:

For the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children:

_____ Chuck Noerenberg, President

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

_____

Date

For the South Carolina Alliance for Drug Endangered Children:

_____ Candice Lively, Leader

South Carolina Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

_____

Date