



DEC INITIATIVE

What is DEC?

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children defines drug endangered children [DEC] as children who are at risk of suffering physical, mental or emotional harm as a result of legal and/or illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker's legal and/or illegal substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to provide a safe and nurturing environment. - <https://nationaldec.org/>

What is the DEC Initiative?

In 2018, the DEC Initiative was established by the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office with federal funding from the Department of Justice to support outreach and awareness efforts to help children (under the age of 18) and caregivers get connected with information, referrals, and resources.

Through our partnerships and collaboration, we can enhance services for children and families, community connections, and trainings. Our trainings cover identification and trauma-informed practices for community members and partners such as school personnel, service providers, medical providers, law enforcement, and first responders.

What we do?

United Way of Greater Plymouth (UWGP) County Family Resource Center: The Clinical and Peer Advocates can provide supportive case management and advocacy services at no cost that include information and referral services, food and nutrition assistance, housing advocacy, legal assistance, transportation assistance, support groups, parenting classes, and other basic needs assistance.

Plymouth County District Attorney's Office: The Coordinators provide National DEC trainings and organize other trainings such as, Balance4Kids' *Balance Workshop Facilitator Training*, Trauma Learning Policy Initiative's *Helping Traumatized Children Learn Training* and Calmer Choice's *Mindfulness Training* for schools. Also, they oversee the Plymouth County DEC Alliance Task Force and the Plymouth County "Handle with Care" Program. For more information about our programs, please visit: <https://hwc.plymouthda.com/handle-with-care/>

How to help?

For referrals and services for children and families, please contact:

Hafsatu Stevens, MSW
Clinical Advocate
UWGP Family Resource Center
(508) 436-4152
Hafsatu.stevens@ccbrockton.org

For trainings, resources, and/or materials, please contact:

Jerrica Harmon
Project Coordinator
Plymouth County District Attorney's Office
(508) 894-2550
Jerrica.harmon@mass.gov

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