A Training & Technical Assistance Resource Guide

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

A program of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau.

The materials and resources in this guide are available at no cost and can be accessed at www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov

Please contact NCSACW if you have any questions or need further assistance at ncsacw@cffutures.org or 1-(866)-493-2758

Updated May 2018
About Us

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. NCSACW provides no-cost consultation, training, and technical assistance to child welfare agencies, substance use disorder treatment agencies, courts, healthcare, and early childhood providers. NCSACW supports these systems to make policy and practice changes to improve outcomes for families affected by substance use disorders.

Improving Cross-System Collaboration

Compared to efforts by individual agencies, collaboration across multiple systems leads to better outcomes for children and families. These resources will help you increase your understanding of your collaborative partners and build a foundation for effective cross-system collaboration.

Access free online training

These free tutorials focus on substance use disorders and child welfare and promote cross-systems collaboration among child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, and the courts. Continuing Education Units are available upon completion. Nearly 40,000 people have completed these tutorials.

Tutorial 1: A Guide for Substance Abuse Treatment Professionals - Understanding Child Welfare and the Dependency Court


Tutorial 3: A Guide for Legal Professionals - Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment, and Family Recovery

Increase knowledge of cross-system partners

Understanding Substance Abuse and Facilitating Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare Workers - A valuable tool for new child welfare professionals, this publication explains how to recognize substance use disorders, motivate families to seek treatment, and facilitate cross-system collaboration.

Facilitating Cross-System Collaboration: A Primer on Child Welfare, Alcohol and Other Drug Services and Courts - Helps professionals become familiar with the operations of the child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, and court systems.

Introduction to Cross-System Data Sources in Child Welfare, Alcohol and other Drug Services, and Courts - Provides an overview of the primary data reporting systems across the three agencies.
Responding to the Opioid Crisis

As the rate of opioid misuse and dependence has escalated across communities, a coordinated, multi-system approach is needed to meet the needs of pregnant women with opioid use disorders and their infants and families. These resources will support your collaborative planning and implementation efforts to improve outcomes for families.

Improve collaboration to serve pregnant women with opioid use disorders and their families

A Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders: Practice and Policy Considerations for Child Welfare, Collaborating Medical, and Service Providers - Provides an overview of the extent of opioid use by pregnant women and the effects on the infant. It provides evidence-based recommendations for treatment approaches from leading professional organizations and an in-depth case study. It also offers guidance tools to help facilitate a careful, in-depth analysis of a community’s current policies, practices, resources, and training needs as related to working with pregnant women with opioid use disorders.

Clinical Guidance for Treating Pregnant and Parenting Women With Opioid Use Disorder and Their Infants - Provides comprehensive, national guidance for optimal management of pregnant and parenting women with opioid use disorder and their infants. The Clinical Guide helps healthcare professionals and patients determine the most clinically appropriate action for a particular situation and informs individualized treatment decisions.

NCSACW Webinar Series and Web-Based Resource Guide - Visit the NCSACW website for more information and resources on opioid use disorders and medication assisted treatment for pregnant and postpartum women and their families. A webinar series, publications, videos, and training materials are available.

Serving Infants and Their Families & Caregivers

Develop collaborative strategies to support infants with prenatal substance exposure and their families

A Planning Guide: Steps to Support a Comprehensive Approach to Plans of Safe Care - Supports stakeholders to improve outcomes for infants with prenatal substance exposure and their families. It offers steps and suggestions for state and local planners and practitioners to develop a comprehensive approach to Plans of Safe Care. Contact NCSACW for more information and assistance implementing these steps.

Substance-Exposed Infants: State Responses to the Problem - Provides a 5-point intervention framework and policies and practices to address the needs of infants with prenatal substance exposure and their parents and families.
Effective screening, assessment, and referral to treatment and recovery supports are critical processes to support family recovery, safety, and stability. These resources will help strengthen a coordinated and cohesive approach to serving families affected by substance use disorders.

**Identify strategies for engaging families in treatment**

**Screening and Assessment for Family Engagement, Retention and Recovery (SAFERR)** - Provides a framework to strengthen screening and assessment practices while building a collaborative team among the child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, and dependency court systems. Appendixes include sample screening and assessment tools.

**Drug Testing in Child Welfare: Practice and Policy Considerations** - Helps policymakers and program managers incorporate drug testing policies and procedures into their agency's comprehensive family and child welfare assessment protocol. It includes an overview of drug testing methods and a sample drug testing form.

**Family-Centered Treatment for Women with Substance Use Disorders - History, Key Elements, and Challenges** - Provides an introduction to family-centered treatment for women and their families, including treatment modalities and strategies to overcome common barriers.

**Navigating the Pathways: Lessons and Promising Practices in Linking Alcohol and Drug Services with Child Welfare (TAP 27, Revised 2015)** - Provides an overview of the challenges and opportunities that state and county-level jurisdictions experienced while building collaboration across the child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, and dependency court systems. Contact NCSACW for more information.

The materials and resources in this guide are available at no cost and can be accessed at [www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov](http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov)

Please contact NCSACW if you have any questions or need further assistance at [ncsacw@cffutures.org](mailto:ncsacw@cffutures.org) or 1-(866)-493-2758