

# Colorado Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee

May 2019

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## The Steering Committee

The Colorado SEN Steering Committee seeks to identify and implement strategies for reducing the number of families impacted by substance use during pregnancy and for improving outcomes for families across the lifespan. With the generous support of the Attorney General, the committee has continued to advance its priorities.

### Progress to Date:

- The committee has a reaffirmed commitment from 21 members ranging in expertise from medical professionals, SUD treatment providers, child welfare professionals, public health professionals, family and children program providers, and policy experts.
- Using its already identified 2018-2020 priorities and the Spectrum of Prevention as a guide, the SEN Steering Committee developed and refined a draft evaluation framework to guide the work and organize the many kind of activities of the SEN Steering Committee and its six work groups. The group identified the need for both an overarching SEN evaluation framework as well as a framework built around each of the priority area work groups.
- The committee has begun to develop plans for a Family Advisory Committee, comprised of Coloradans with relevant lived experience, which will advise the committee, the work groups, and the statewide effort at large. An FAB Ad-hoc Work Group was formed to plan the formation of the FAB itself. Following Work Group formation, research was conducted to inform Work Group members on FAB best practices. This information was used to develop a project plan, which was then synthesized into a logic model by Illuminate Colorado (Appendix B). The final draft was approved by both the Work Group and the full SEN Steering Committee.
- The FAB Ad-hoc Work Group also developed a recruitment postcard, and treatment providers and patients provided feedback. The postcard went through several iterations, with special attention given to non-stigmatizing language, before distributing the final draft. The postcard has been distributed in five locations: treatment and recovery centers (one inpatient and two outpatient), an OB-GYN practice, and a maternal mental health practice. Social workers at four of these sites are actively recruiting women to join the FAB.

**Opportunity:** With support from Illuminate, SEN Steering Committee Work Groups will develop an evaluation framework specific to each priority area work group. The SEN Steering Committee will review and finalize the overarching SEN evaluation framework and each of the six work groups' evaluation frameworks at their July meeting. After framework finalization, implementation of the frameworks, including the tracking of new process and outcome measures, will begin. In terms of the FAB, continued planning will include logistics discussions regarding the first FAB meeting, which will be held in June. FAB outreach has also expanded to kinship groups, and recruitment of these families will begin in May. The Ad-hoc Work Group and Steering Committee will continue to develop a recruitment expansion plan, with the goal of active recruitment happening in 10 locations by June 1.

## 2018-2020 Priority Area Work Groups

In the period beginning in 2018 and concluding at the end of 2020, the SEN Steering Committee will be convening, supporting, and guiding work groups to advance the six priority areas outlined below.

**The Colorado Hospital SEN (CHoSEN) Collaborative** is working to increase consistency in implementation of best practice approaches in the identification of and response to newborns prenatally exposed to substances and their caregivers at the time of birth across Colorado—through education and formal quality improvement efforts. The CHoSEN Collaborative includes a continuum of ways hospitals, practices, and individual perinatal care providers can engage, including formal quality improvement work led by University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative, continued perinatal provider education and assessments, and events to share practices.

Progress to Date:

- On January 31, the 2019 Winter CHoSEN Forum brought together 84 participants from 15 hospitals to share their practice change efforts and to learn from experts and colleagues.
- Illuminate Colorado is facilitating two additional offerings of the Prenatal Substance Exposure ECHO Series for perinatal providers. Registration is open now. Based on evaluation feedback from 2018, Illuminate also began an ECHO Community of Practice for past participants of the ECHO series. The ECHO Community of Practice met twice and discussed the connection between prenatal substance exposure and maternal mental health as well as considerations for working with pregnant or parenting teens with a substance use disorder.
- The quality improvement work has grown to 18 birth hospitals across the state including representation from the along the Front Range, the Western Slope, and the San Luis Valley.

Opportunity: The CHoSEN Collaborative is continuing to engage and recruit additional perinatal providers to participate and welcomes suggestions and connections for continued outreach.

Next Forum: Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. in Glenwood Springs

**The SEN Data and Research Work Group** is working to increase statewide data and research capacity in order to inform our work and to share successes and challenges.

Progress to Date:

- Have convened core group of representatives from various agencies who house data
- Developed database of potential data sources, including data request policies, contact person, format of information, analytic capacity, and data sharing policies
- Developed data priorities with support from the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab and the Consortium which shaped a proposed data linkage project in Senate Bill 228

Opportunity: The Data and Research Work Group is looking for opportunities to begin a discreet data project linking maternal health records with infant health records.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 P.M.

**The SEN FASD Identification Work Group** is working to assess the needs related to FASD identification capacity in the state and develop an expansion plan. The group intends to begin by conducting a scan of current places and professionals thought to be resources—including an evaluation of their training needs and referral patterns.

Progress to Date:

- Developed a plan to conduct a gap analysis of FASD resources, including the development of key informant participant list and interview questions
- Fifteen key informant interviews conducted

Opportunity: The FASD Identification Work Group will continue to conduct their FASD gap analysis with a report and recommendations planned to be released in September.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from noon-1:30 P.M.

**The SEN Plans of Safe Care Work Group** is working to promote community-based strategies to meeting the CAPTA/CARA requirement regarding plans of safe care for infants and caregivers.

Progress to Date:

- Finalized a Plans of Safe Care Discharge Guidelines and Checklist to guide hospital practice and child welfare practice
- Developed a statewide dissemination plan
- Began a pilot of the dissemination plan with one hospital/county, including hospital and child welfare cross-training

Opportunity: The Plans of Safe Care Work Group will continue its work by focusing on the implementation of their dissemination plan.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4 P.M.

**The SEN Policy Work Group** is working to develop state policy priorities including access to treatment, barriers to engagement, SBIRT promotion, and other issues.

Progress to Date:

- Reorganized the leadership structure to include both policy implementation co-chairs as well as advocacy co-chairs
- Established policy engagement guidelines
- Shared opportunities to coordinate around changes to the Children's Code, the 1136 Stakeholder Process, Special Connections rate review, child care access for those in substance use disorder treatment, and other related priorities

Opportunity: The Policy Work Group, with support from their co-chairs, will be identifying future work group projects such as completing a scan of related policy/coalition spaces, developing a white paper, and/or creating policy education materials.

Next Meeting: Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 P.M.

**The SEN Provider Education Work Group** is working to expand provider education on related issues such as screening every pregnant woman with a validated screening tool in prenatal, hospital and postpartum settings.

Progress to Date:

- Illuminate Colorado secured CDPHE funds for the creation of a provider education platform
- Convened a work group of issue and practice experts, including members of professional associations such as the Colorado Chapters of AAP and ACOG
- Created an in-progress inventory of existing provider education resources
- Reorganized the inventory by developing provider-friendly categories and subcategories and by prioritizing the most useful resources
- Began the online build out of the provider education toolkit using the group's inventory
- Identified opportunities for the creation of in-person provider education modules in collaboration with the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Preventions' Provider Education Work Group

Opportunity: The Provider Education Work Group will be looking for additional dissemination support of the toolkit when it is finalized last summer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4 P.M.

**To join a work group, nominate someone to a work group, or receive more information, contact Jillian Adams at [jadams@illuminatecolorado.org](mailto:jadams@illuminatecolorado.org) or 303.413.3460.**