

# Colorado Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee

November 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's Office, 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.
- Through collaborative efforts of the committee and six work groups, a comprehensive evaluation plan has been developed to monitor and evaluate both the functioning and impact of each work group. Existing evaluation frameworks have been operationalized into process and outcome evaluation strategies, which are currently under review for finalization and implementation. The six evaluation plans were used to inform the development of the SEN Steering Committee evaluation strategy, which was reviewed at the October Steering Committee meeting.
- The committee began 2020 strategic planning by revisiting its vision, mission, values, and priorities during their October meeting.
- The committee has established a Family Advisory Board, comprised of Colorado mothers with relevant lived experience, which will advise the Steering Committee, the work groups, and the statewide effort at large. The FAB Ad-hoc Work Group was formed to plan the formation of the FAB itself, including recruitment and initial agenda and logistics planning
- The first two meetings of the FAB occurred August 12<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup> in Denver, with representation from the Denver area, Pueblo, and Northeast Colorado. There were ten and eight members at each of the meetings, respectively.

Opportunity: With support from Illuminate, SEN Steering Committee will finalize all evaluation plans and 2020 strategic planning by the end of 2019. Upon finalization of the work group and Steering Committee plans, implementation of the comprehensive evaluation strategy will begin in 2020. In terms of the FAB, the next meeting will be held in January 2020. This meeting will serve as a time for FAB members to discuss any changes made by the SEN SC to priority areas, as well as an opportunity to discuss opportunities for story-sharing.

## 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:

- Planning is complete for the 2019 Fall CHoSEN Forum on November 4th, which will bring together over 80 participants from Colorado hospitals to share their practice change efforts and to learn from experts and colleagues.
- Illuminate Colorado is facilitating an additional offering of the Prenatal Substance Exposure ECHO Series for perinatal providers. Illuminate is currently facilitating this series for perinatal support staff, with seven out of eight sessions in this series completed thus far.
- The quality improvement work has grown to 19 birth hospitals across the state including representation from the along the Front Range, the Western Slope, and the San Luis Valley. Additional hospitals from the Rocky Mountain Region have also joined, bringing the total number of hospitals over 20 participating hospitals. Most recent site visits include University Hospital in May (18 participants), Poudre Valley Hospital in August (11 participants), and Montrose Memorial Hospital (3 participants).

Opportunity: The CHoSEN Collaborative is continuing to engage and recruit additional perinatal providers to participate and welcomes suggestions and connections for continued outreach, particularly in rural and frontier regions.

Upcoming Forums: Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. in Glenwood Springs and Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. in the Denver Metro Area

**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:

- Received funding and support for the Perinatal Substance Use Data Linkage Project with the passage of Senate Bill 19-228.
- Secured the leadership of Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab and engaged stakeholders from healthcare, public health, child welfare, and other state agencies to collaboratively inform the project plan and strategy.
- Defined an appropriate and feasible study population and identified the processes for extracting key data points from administrative datasets to support the project analyses.

Opportunity: Shifting to Phase II of this project, the Data and Research Work Group will begin the data linkage process and conduct trend analyses to provide insight into the prevalence and predictors of substance use during pregnancy in Colorado.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-4:30 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 began 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:

- Conducted a gap analysis, using a key informant interview process, in order to understand the needs of families impacted by FASD and family-serving professionals.
- Compiled a written report of key data findings, as well as a set of draft recommendations to address gaps in resources.

Opportunity: The FASD Identification Work Group will continue to finalize recommendations based on Gap Analysis findings, with statewide stakeholder input with additional funding from the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</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:

- Completed a pilot of the dissemination plan for the Plans of Safe Care Guidelines & Checklist with one hospital and county, including hospital and child welfare cross-training.
- Evaluated the needs and comfort-levels of pilot hospital staff in using the Guidelines & Checklist, in order to apply lessons learned to next steps of the dissemination plan.

Opportunity: The Plans of Safe Care Work Group will continue its work by focusing on the implementation of their dissemination plan to hospitals and child welfare staff across the state.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4 P.M.

**The SEN Policy Work Group** is working to discern tangible next steps for each of the identified strategies and accompanying levers across the three policy priority areas.

Progress to Date:

- Identified three policy priorities:
  - Decrease bias and discrimination in screening and testing for prenatal substance exposure.
  - Ensure families with a substance exposed newborn receive support and services appropriate to their family's strengths and needs.
  - Increase access to substance use disorder treatment.
- Had representatives from Nurse-Family Partnership, CDHS' Home Visiting Program, and HCPF's Hospital Transformation Program attend work group meetings as guests for the work group to learn more and build relationships.
- Identified 11 strategies with accompanying levers that fit within the three policy priorities.
- Built a priority matrix overlays the policy priority areas, strategies, levers, and related practice recommendations from ACOG.
- Formally recommended that the SEN Steering Committee create an equity statement to guide each of the work groups.

Opportunity: The Policy Work Group will strive to remain updated on tangential policy/coalition spaces in an intentional and efficient way in order to maintain alignment and prevent the duplication of efforts.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10 A.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:

- Completed the online build-out of the Colorado Perinatal Provider Education Toolkit using the group's organized inventory available at [www.chosencollaborative.org](http://www.chosencollaborative.org).
- Developed a dissemination plan in order to ensure appropriate and widespread circulation of the toolkit to perinatal providers across the state.
- Began outreach to stakeholders in order to implement the dissemination plan.
- Began discussions around expansion of the toolkit, including missing resources and opportunities for adaption and/or creation of new resources.

Opportunity: The Provider Education Work Group will continue to look for additional dissemination support of the toolkit and to develop plans for the expansion of the toolkit and other education modes that compliment the toolkit.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20th 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.**