

Orange County, CA Family Wellness Initiative | August 2024



Valuing their role. Keeping them together. Supporting their recovery.

Initiative Goals

- ✓ **REDUCE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION**
by identifying and implementing methods to establish trust between the community, child welfare, service providers, and the judicial system.
- ✓ **INCREASE CARE COORDINATION**
by implementing Family Wellness Plans and protocols between agencies that formalize how they will interact with, serve, and improve outcomes for families affected by substance use.
- ✓ **INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE**
by cultivating a family-centered focus of treatment and support.
- ✓ **IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION**
with a racial and ethnic equity lens.

Cross-Systems Partnerships

To support and sustain this initiative, Orange County has established the **Orange County Family Support Task Force**. The goal of the task force is to improve and build upon cross-systems linkages between healthcare providers, community-based organizations, public health agencies, mental health, and substance use treatment providers.

Initiative Focus

- Improve outcomes for infants and families affected by prenatal substance exposure
- Support the recovery of pregnant and parenting individuals and their families
- Develop policies and protocols that support intervention during the prenatal period
- Reduce the number of infants removed from their families as a result of parental substance use



Current Initiative Partners

Hospital Association of Southern California
Hoag Hospital
First 5 Orange County
Family Support Network
County of Orange Social Services Agency
Children's Health of Orange County (CHOC)
CalOptima Health



OC Health Care Agency
Office of the Public Defender
Orange County Superior Court
People with Lived Expertise
Providence St. Joseph Hospital, Orange
The Purpose of Recovery
University of California Irvine

Key Accomplishments



To accomplish the goals of this initiative, Orange County has launched implementation-focused workgroups to bring together cross-system partners focused on developing products and an infrastructure to support each of the goals of the initiative. Below is a list of accomplishments of each workgroup so far.

Family Wellness Plan Coordination

- ✓ **Created a Family Wellness Plan Template** to serve as template that providers across Orange County can use as they create the Family Wellness plan to coordinate care for families affected by substance use
- ✓ **Designed a Draft Family Wellness Plan Pathway** that describes who can initiate a Family Wellness Plan, how it can be used to coordinate care, and how it moves with the family throughout their prenatal and postpartum recovery journey
- ✓ **Designed a Draft Notification Portal** that allows Orange County to capture deidentified data to better understand and support infants born prenatally exposed to substances and their families

Data Collection and Exchange

- ✓ **Created a Draft Data Dashboard** that can track the outcomes of the Family Wellness initiative and support data-driven decision making.

Hospital-Focused

- ✓ **Developed a Draft Newborn Risk Assessment Tool** that can be used by hospital systems across Orange County to identify services and supports for the family, and determine whether a report to Orange County Child Protective Services is needed.

Stigma and Discrimination

- ✓ **Created a Training and Education Rollout** aimed at raising awareness on the science of addiction, how stigma impacts service engagement, and the resource that are available to healthcare providers serving pregnant individuals affected by substance use.

Family-Centered Care

- ✓ **Defined "Family-Centered Care" for Orange County** which describes the focus of Family-Centered care, the beliefs that drive this method of service delivery, and the service array that should be available to provide family-centered care



Moving Forward

How Orange County will build upon its accomplishments to improve outcomes for families affected by substance use

Piloting the Family Wellness Plan

Orange County will pilot the Family Wellness Plan with multiple hospital systems including Providence-St. Joseph in an effort to learn how the Family Wellness Plan template, the pathway, and the newborn risk assessment can improve outcomes for families and support service providers and they coordinate services.

Workforce Training and Education

Orange County will implement a series of workforce training and education events tailored to specific sectors (healthcare, substance use treatment, home visiting, etc.) with the aim of equipping providers with the tools and resources to improve outcomes for families they serve that are affected by substance use.

Every Parent OC

EveryParentOC.org/POSC is a key resource for all information related to Family Wellness Plans (formerly known as Plans of Safe Care) for providers and the Orange County community. The goal of Every Parent OC is to equip providers with tools and support the community with information and resources necessary to experience pregnancy and parenting in a safe and healthy way.