

ORANGE COUNTY FAMILY WELLNESS INITIATIVE:

A COMMUNITY UNITING TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN NEED



IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



PLANS OF SAFE CARE

Plans of Safe Care are collaborative, family-centered strategies to support infants exposed to substances and assist their caregivers with recovery.



OUR INCEPTION

- **2016:** Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) codified the requirement for Plans of Safe Care (POSC) for substance-affected infants.



A COLLABORATIVE VISION

- **2016:** Working to End Child Abuse and Neglect (WE CAN) Coalition was formed between the County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA), the Health Care Agency (HCA) and First 5 Orange County.
- **2022/23:** Family Support Task Force (FSTF) received technical assistance from the Policy Academy to strengthen governance and enhance collaboration across healthcare, social services, law enforcement and the judicial systems.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION

- **2022/23:** POSC implementation by public health nurses evolved into the Family Wellness Plan (FWP), shifting from crisis response to whole-family health and recovery.
- **2024:** Providence St. Joseph Hospital in Orange was first to implement the new Family Wellness Plan (FWP).
- **2024/25:** County-wide workflows were standardized and over 3,000 providers were trained.
- **2026:** FWP has been integrated into seven OC birthing hospitals.



FAMILY WELLNESS TEAM

- The Family Wellness Team includes peer support specialists, public health nurses and perinatal substance use treatment coordinators.
- They collaborate to improve outcomes for families affected by prenatal substance exposure; support pregnant individuals in recovery; develop intervention policies and protocols; and reduce infant removals from their families.

PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

In **2025**, First 5 engaged three peer support specialists with lived experience to:

- Connect families to providers while drawing on their firsthand understanding of client needs
- Receive referrals and provide warm handoffs to perinatal SUD services and the Family Wellness Team
- Guide clients in navigating the support systems



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES (PHN)

In **2022**, the PHNs began implementing the Family Wellness Plan and the county-wide standardized workflows to:

- Assess the pregnant person's SUD-related needs and help create Family Wellness Plans by conducting assessments for medical and behavioral health, substance use and child development
- Offer on-going case management, health monitoring and education about infant development and safety



PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT COORDINATORS

In **2025**, the perinatal substance use treatment coordinators collaborated more closely with clients to:

- Provide prevention and harm reduction support
- Suggest outpatient and residential treatment options
- Recommend recovery services (e.g., counseling, parenting education, referrals, transportation and childcare) for pregnant and postpartum clients up to 12 months postpartum



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