



DMHAS WOMEN'S SERVICES INITIATIVES

Update Presented to the SEI-FASD Core Team
on April 6th, 2022



THE DMHAS PROUD PROGRAM

Parents
Recovering from
Opioid
Use
Disorders

PROUD GRANT YEAR 2

Focus remains to increase utilization of program

HES Focus Groups

CHA One Hour Education Modules

FOCUS GROUPS

- CHA contracted with Health Equity Solutions to conduct focus groups to learn about client experience with the healthcare system.
- Questions focused on: prenatal/postpartum care, access/barriers to treatment, medical provider discussion with clients around substance use and trauma, SU/MH supports/resources provided, POSC development, education/employment, and DCF involvement.
- Used social media to recruit participants, over 200 people responded for 50 slots.
- 6 focus groups conducted during February and March (5 in English, 1 in Spanish).
- In all, 42 people participated.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Are you a birthing parent or guardian who has experienced a substance use disorder? We want to hear about your patient experience! Please consider participating in a 90-minute focus group via zoom. Participants will receive a \$30 gift card for their time and participation!

To determine if you are eligible please reach out to Taylor at ttucker@hesct.org or scan the QR Code with a mobile device

**HEALTH
EQUITY
SOLUTIONS**



FOCUS GROUP THEMES (PRELIMINARY DATA)

- **The Majority of participants were:**

- Satisfied overall with the care they received from their medical provider(s).
- Asked about substance use in a 1:1 conversation and felt safe to answer honestly.
- Asked about childhood and adulthood trauma in a respectful way and advised of resources for MH support.
- Felt comfortable asking questions.
- Had a POSC developed with medical providers.
- Appreciate ease of telehealth.

- **Some themes for further consideration/discussion:**

- Transportation concerns were the most discussed barriers to accessing prenatal and postpartum care
- Around half of participants did not have insurance before giving birth or at time of delivery (the majority are employed full time and at some point were advised on options)
- Within the group, clients did not choose to utilize recommended BH supports

| Topic | Speaker | Status | Presentation Date/Time |
|---|--|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Substance Misuse Prevention and Responsible Opioid Prescribing—the Role of the Dentist: Part Two | Elias Mikael Chatah, DMD, PharmB, MS | Completed | October 19, 2021 5:30-6:30 |
| Building Capacity for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder: Example From a Large Urban Primary Care Practice | Erica Li, MD | Completed | January 25, 2022 12:00-1:00 |
| Early Identification and Management of Substance Misuse: Implementing SBIRT Services in Clinical Settings | Bonnie McRee, PhD | Completed | February 3, 2022 12:00-1:00 |
| The Intersection of Housing Instability and Substance Use Disorder | Catherine Hinojosa, DNP; Carol Jones; Catherine Zall | Confirmed | April 26, 2022 12:00-1:00 |
| Adverse Childhood Events and Their Impact on Substance Use Disorder | Elizabeth Swedo, MD, MPH, FAAP | Tentative | TBD |
| Social Justice and Risks for Opioid Use Disorder | Health Equity Solutions | Tentative | TBD |
| Integrative Medicine and Self-care for Women with Opioid Use Disorder | Kathleen Mueller, MD, FAAFP | Tentative | TBD |
| Opioid Use Disorder Recovery and the Impact on Children in the Home | TBD | TBD | TBD |

PREVIOUS TRAININGS

CHA maintains a library of previously recorded trainings that are free and accessible to providers

Materials can be accessed at: [PROUD -
Connecticut Hospital
Association
\(cthosp.org\)](http://PROUD-ConnecticutHospitalAssociation.org)

PROUD
Site Team/
Referral
Contacts

GREATER HARTFORD/ MANCHESTER/ ENFIELD/
WINDHAM AREAS:

INTERCOMMUNITY, INC.

ROSE MAROTTA, LCSW

EMAIL: RMAROTTA@INTERCOMMUNITYCT.ORG

PHONE: 860-569-5900 EXT. 321

GREATER NEW BRITAIN/ BRISTOL / WATERBURY/
MIDDLETOWN AREAS:

WHEELER CLINIC

HEATHER ARDUINI, LMFT

EMAIL: HARDUINI@WHEELERCLINIC.ORG

PHONE: 860-782-2476

REMINDER OF KEY COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)

- DMHAS continues to utilize SAMHSA funding to support the state's Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), increase outreach efforts in vulnerable communities, and disseminate campaigns aimed at increasing access to services through CCADV's 24/7 hotline, Safe Connect
- Training collaborations
- Participation in the DV Fatality Review Task Force, the Preventing Maternal Mortality Due to Violence Advisory Board, & the IPV Offender Treatment Standards Committee

Power to Decide

- Collaboration with Power to Decide and the CT Women's Consortium to develop an interdisciplinary team to support ongoing integration and sustainability of comprehensive, empowering reproductive health care throughout the system of care
- Team comprised of state partners to provide ongoing reproductive health training and technical assistance

Birth Support Education and Beyond (BSEB)

- Empowers positive birth experiences for clients engaged in the DMHAS PPW residential programs, REACH program, and PROUD program
- Connection of expectant moms to Perinatal Support Specialists that provide doula support throughout pregnancy, labor and birth with in-home postpartum doula services in the initial postpartum period

Upcoming Virtual Conferences
(supported by SAMHSA funding):

***Intersectionality and the Gender
Continuum***

June 10, 2022, 9am to 4pm

***Women & the Impact of Substance
Use***

August 24, 2022, 9am to 4pm



ACCESS LINE

- Working in collaboration with Beacon Health Options to develop a new program entitled CT Access Mental Health for MOMS with a tentative launch mid-2022
- Designed to provide consultation services for Connecticut's perinatal practitioners (Obstetricians, Gynecologists, Midwives, Primary Care Providers, MH/SUD Treatment Providers) working with pregnant and post-partum women presenting with mental health and substance use concerns irrespective of insurance coverage
- Aims to:
 - improve access to treatment for perinatal women with mental health and/or substance use concerns
 - provide real-time access to a team of behavioral health experts
 - increase the competencies of front-line medical providers to identify and treat behavioral health disorders in perinatal women and to increase their knowledge/awareness of local resources designed to serve the needs of perinatal women with these disorders and their families
- The service is to be delivered primarily through telephonic communication by members of the ACCESS Mental Health for Moms consulting team
- The website will also act a repository for resources to support women and families during the perinatal period and will interface with other resource pages such as CAPTA/POSC

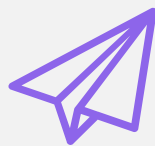
DMHAS WOMEN'S SERVICES CONTACTS



Shelly Nolan, MS, LPC
Shelly.Nolan@ct.gov



Rebecca Petersen, LCSW
Rebecca.Petersen@ct.gov



**Siobhan Feliciano, LPC,
LADC**
Siobhan.Feliciano@ct.gov