

Louisiana RPG Interagency Coordinating Council

Recovery & Wellness

RESOURCES

for Families Affected by Substance Use

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

- ? What you need to know about seeking help
- ? Substance use during pregnancy
- ? Using substances while parenting
- ? What is considered abuse & neglect
- i Agencies that specialize in helping parents who use substances**

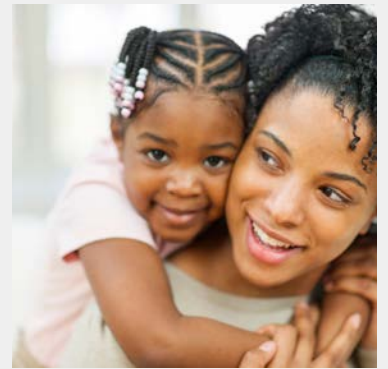
FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SEEKING HELP

You are not alone.

We're here to connect you with information & resources that can assist you & your family to be safe & meet your goals.

THIS GUIDE HAS HELPFUL INFORMATION FIRST, FOLLOWED BY A LIST OF AGENCIES THAT SPECIALIZE IN SUPPORTING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY SUBSTANCE USE



If you have questions, concerns, or want to share your experience with seeking help please contact us at 504-708-1700 or recovery@voasela.org

CRISIS RESOURCES

Orleans Parish: 504-826-2675
Jefferson Parish: 504-823-5123
Florida Parishes: 988 or 211

Guide last updated: October 2024

SUBSTANCE USE DURING PREGNANCY

THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOU & YOUR BABY WHEN YOU'RE PREGNANT IS TO SEE AN OB/GYN OR SEEK SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT

Even if you're using, getting prenatal care is the best thing you can do for you & your baby. All substances can affect your baby, so seeking care & being honest with your doctor is crucial to reducing the risks of substance use to you & your baby.



Your doctor will share different options with you to ensure you & your baby stay healthy.

Your doctor can prescribe you medications that help you through your pregnancy. Your doctor may also refer you to another doctor who specializes in high risk pregnancies.



If you don't like your doctor, or don't feel comfortable with your doctor, you can ask for a referral to a doctor who specializes in working with high-risk patients.

Just because you use substances does not mean your doctor will report you to DCFS.

Please continue reading this guide for information on when doctors or other providers have to report substance use. It's most common to occur right after your baby is born if your baby shows signs of **"prenatal neglect."**

Remember: DCFS's goal is to keep children safe

SUBSTANCE USE WHILE PARENTING

THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOU & YOUR CHILDREN IS TO NOT USE AROUND THEM & MAKE SURE THEY HAVE NO ACCESS OR EXPOSURE TO SUBSTANCES

If you're going to use, do your best to not use around your children.

Find someone safe to watch your children while you use.

We all want better for our children, so always do your best to be your best around them - being under the influence is not you at your best.

It is best not to keep any substances in your home. If you do have substances in your home, make sure your children can **NEVER, even accidentally**, get into them. Keep substances & any paraphernalia or packaging far away from where your children are - make it a routine to ensure no accidents are possible!



Make sure to keep naloxone with you at all times, just in case.

*If your child is accidentally exposed to substances and shows **no symptoms of overdose**, you should **immediately call the Louisiana Poison Center (1-800-222-1222) or visit them online at poison.org to ask for guidance.** Sometimes symptoms can be delayed.*

If your child is experiencing any symptoms of a drug ingestion immediately call 911. Naloxone can be used to **temporarily** reverse an opioid overdose - **your child still needs medical care immediately!**

Narcan administration alone is not a substitute for medical care.

REPORTING PARENTS WHO USE SUBSTANCES

IT'S SAFE TO SEEK HELP!

There are certain times when medical or social service providers are required to report concerns about child abuse and neglect.

Continue reading for more information - knowledge is power!

WHAT IS CONSIDERED ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

YOUR SUBSTANCE USE ALONE IS NOT CHILD ABUSE, BUT IF YOU ABUSE OR NEGLECT YOUR CHILD WHILE YOU ARE USING SUBSTANCES YOU NEED SUPPORT.

“Abuse” means any one of the following acts which seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health and safety of the child:

- The infliction, attempted infliction, or, as a result of inadequate supervision, the allowance of the infliction or attempted infliction of physical or mental injury upon the child by a parent or any other person.
- The exploitation or overwork of a child by a parent or any other person, including but not limited to commercial sexual exploitation of the child.
- The involvement of the child in any sexual act with a parent or any other person, or the aiding or toleration by the parent, caretaker, or any other person of the child's involvement in any of the following: *Any sexual act with any other person. Pornographic displays. Any sexual activity constituting a crime under the laws of this state. A coerced abortion conducted upon a child. Female genital mutilation as defined by R.S. 14:43.4.*



WHAT IS CONSIDERED CHILD NEGLECT?



Louisiana's Children's Code Article 603(18) defines **neglect** as the **refusal or unreasonable failure of a parent or caretaker** to supply the child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, care, treatment or counseling for any injury, illness or condition of the child as a result of which the child's physical, mental or emotional health and safety is substantially threatened or impaired.

Neglect includes prenatal neglect.

“Prenatal Neglect” means exposure to chronic or severe use of alcohol or the unlawful use of any controlled dangerous substance, as defined by R.S. 40:961 et seq., or in a manner not lawfully prescribed, **which results in symptoms of withdrawal in the newborn or the presence of a controlled substance or a metabolic thereof in the newborn child's body, blood, urine, or meconium** that is **not** the result of medical treatment, or observable and harmful effects in his physical appearance or functioning.

Seeking help while you're pregnant is very important to keep you & your baby as safe as possible **and avoid prenatal neglect.**

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REPORT IS MADE TO DCFS?

DCFS staff screens all reports to determine if an investigation needs to occur.

Reports must: be about children (under age 18) & include an allegation that the condition of the child presents a substantial risk of harm to their health or welfare.

If there is a substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare, DCFS will investigate. Investigations will include contacting the family & others involved to determine if abuse or neglect has occurred.

If the report warrants an investigation, short-term services are provided to families while the investigation occurs.

At the end of an investigation, DCFS will make a finding of the investigation that is **invalid (not justified), inconclusive, or valid (justified).**

If an investigation is found valid, you have the right to file an Administrative Appeal.

If the investigation is found to be valid & the family needs ongoing services or supports, the family is transferred to the Family Services Program.



WHEN CAN MY CHILDREN BE REMOVED FROM MY CUSTODY?



If the child abuse and/or neglect is serious enough to remove the child from the home, the case is staffed prior to the removal and an instanter order is obtained from a judge. The child is then placed in foster care or provisional custody is granted to a suitable individual or relative. **However, prior to removal, reasonable efforts are made to prevent the removal.**

DCFS'S GOAL IS TO BRING FAMILIES SAFELY BACK TOGETHER.

If your children are removed from your custody, you will work with DCFS and the court as you complete your Family Case Plan.

WHAT ELSE DOES DCFS DO?

DCFS works to prevent child abuse and neglect by empowering at-risk families to seek help before abuse or neglect occurs

Available support programs for you family include:

Child First

My Community Cares



DCFS helps families become self-sufficient.

The **Division of Family Support** assists families with needed assistance programs through Economic Stability with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP), and the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP), Child Support Enforcement services, Disability Determination Services and Workforce Development.

DCFS helps families become self-sufficient by providing assistance to meet nutritional, educational, and financial needs.

Call 1-888-LAHELP-U (1-888-524-3578) for information & application assistance.



Remember: DCFS wants to prevent child abuse & neglect!



FAMILY FOCUSED RECOVERY: OUTPATIENT & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Location & Hours: 2714 Canal St, Suite 403, NO LA 70119 Monday - Friday 8:30a - 4:30p

Best Contact: 504-708-1700 recovery@voasela.org

Population & Area Served:

- Substance using mothers, with children ages 17 & under (trans & nonbinary inclusive), that live in the Greater New Orleans area
- Child & Adolescent Services available for children, ages 17 & under, of women engaged in the program

Services:

- All community members: Medicaid Application Center (help applying for Medicaid) and **Harm Reduction Services** (free naloxone, fentanyl test strips, wound care kits, sharps containers while supplies last)
- Mothers: Clinical assessment (mental health & substance use), care planning, individual & family therapy and peer support
- Child & Adolescent Services: Clinical assessment (mental health & substance use), care planning, individual & family therapy and intensive care coordination

Costs: Currently free, but will soon begin billing insurance (Medicaid), and offer sliding scale

Referral Process:

- Walk-in, call, email or online at voasela.org/substance-recovery-services/
- Agencies may submit Referral form online, via fax or email

Notes:

- Low barrier: no sobriety requirements, provides individualized care
- Accessible: services can continue if you access other agencies like detox or residential treatment and is a good aftercare option as you leave in-patient care

New Services Coming Soon:

- Nurturing Parenting Groups planned late 2024
- IOP+ expected 2025
- Residential Center for women and their minor children opening Summer 2025

Alternative Contact:

- Annalyse Devall, Program Assistant, 504-576-1131, ADevall@voasela.org

VOASELA's Family Focused Recovery is the agency that leads the LA RPG Interagency Coordinating Council monthly and distributes this Guide.

Please contact us for any questions or concerns.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GROUP DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS TREATMENT CENTER

Location & Hours:

- Hospital locations: Bunkie, Lacombe, Lutcher, New Orleans, West Bank
- IOP locations: Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bogalusa, Hammond, Metairie, Opelousas, Slidell

Best Contact: 24/7 Hospital Intake: 1-833-891-6080

- Metairie IOP: 504-581-4333
- Slidell IOP: 985-607-0290

Population & Area Served: Adults (age 18+) and Geriatrics with mental health & substance use disorders

Services:

- **What to expect in hospitals:** our assessment process begins upon admission—you will be assessed by our nursing staff, medical staff, psychiatric staff, and social services staff all within the first two hours of your state. You will receive individual and group therapy. You will see your doctor up to every day. You will have a Case Manager that works with you when developing follow-up care plans. We are not a long-term facility and generally, our patient stay about two weeks, Some more, some less. Discharge planning is an active process that begins at the moment of admission. Every patient receives a specific discharge plan designed to maintain stability and reduce the possibility of remission.
- **What to expect in IOP:** Our clinics operate Monday through Friday and our clients may attend from 3 to 5 days a week depending on their needs. Each day, we provide three therapy groups with Group limited size of 12 people. The psychiatrist and psych NP work together with the client to determine the frequency of days and follow up with client at least once a month or as needed for medication management. Individuals begin their treatment by meeting with an intake. Specialist to better understand what issues are occurring. If the client meets IOP criteria and is agreeable to participate in treatment, then an appointment with a clinic psychiatrist is arranged. Our average length stay is 10 to 12 weeks. We also provide free transportation, light breakfast and lunch. Lunch.

Costs: Medicare, Louisiana Medicaid, Cigna, BCBS, Humana, Aetna, beacon health options, Goldberg, Magellan, MH net, people's health, United healthcare, vantage plan of Louisiana, WellCare (hospitals only)

Referral Process:

- Hospital referrals: Central intake 24/7 1-833-891-6080; Fax: 1-866-446-2491
- IOPs: call location



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GROUP DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS TREATMENT CENTER

Location & Hours: 2235 Poydras St, Suite B, NO, LA 70119 Monday-Friday 5-11:30a (Dosing) 5a-1:30p (Business); Saturday 5-9:30a(Dosing) 5-10a (Business)

Best Contact: Abbee Thevenot, Intake Coordinator, 504-384-2588

Population & Area Served: Substance Abuse - Opioid Use Disorder

Services:

- Medication Assisted Treatment with Methadone & Suboxone
- Individual Counseling Services

Costs: \$105 weekly private pay; private insurance, Medicaid, & Medicare

Referral Process:

- Potential patients can be referred by contacting the intake coordinator to complete intake paperwork.
- Referrals can also be faxed to 504-384-8847

Notes:

- Walk-ins accepted. Appointments are also available by calling 504-524-7205.
- Accepts pregnant persons; can provide treatment to those incarcerated in Orleans Parish Justice Center.

New Services Coming Soon:

- Groups, Co-occurring services, Expanding into other jails

Alternative Contact:

- Ann-Kathryn Cummings, Resource Coordinator, 504-384-8830



REBUILDING LIVES FOR MEN AND WOMEN WITH DIGNITY, HONOR & RESPECT

BRIDGE HOUSE/GRACE HOUSE

Location & Hours: Intake: 4150 Earhart Blvd, NO, LA 70125 8:30a-4:30p

Best Contact: 504-821-7120

Population & Area Served: Adult women with substance use disorders in Louisiana

Services: Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment:

- Long term (4-7 months) group & individual therapy, peer support services, 12-step affiliated, medication management, dual-diagnosis treatment

Costs: Medicaid and grant funded for qualifying services. Client service fees based on income (if other funding exhausted). Services offered regardless of client ability to pay.

Referral Process:

- Community members must call the intake office 504-821-7120 to schedule an intake appointment.
- Agencies may email or fax Referral Form (available on website)

Alternative Contact:

- Allison Skapik, Chief Clinical Officer, 504-821-7128



JEFFERSON PARISH DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Location & Hours: 200 Derbigny St, Gretna, LA 70053 Monday - Friday 8:30a - 4:30p

Best Contact: Nancy Michel

Population & Area Served: All of Jefferson Parish

Services: Victim/Witness assistance

Alternative Contact:

- Allyson Bianchini



JEFFERSON PARISH HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITY (JPHSA)

Location & Hours: 3616 S. I 10 Service Rd W., Ste. 200 Metairie, LA 70001 Monday – Friday 7a –5p

Best Contact: Ann Oliva (Centralized Care Coordination)

Population & Area Served: Children & Adults (Jefferson Parish residents)

Services:

- Clinic-based (primary care, behavioral health)
- Behavioral Health Community Based Services
- Developmental Disabilities

Costs: Medicaid, sliding scale, Medicare, private insurance for primary care

Referral Process: Centralized Care Coordination, carecoordination@jphsa.org



METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT (MHSD)

Location & Hours:

- **Algiers Behavioral Health Center** (District Office) 3100 General De Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114 *Monday-Friday 8a-4:30p*
- **Central City Behavioral Health & Access Center** 2221 Philip Street, New Orleans, LA 70113 *Monday-Friday 8a-4:30p*
- **Chartres-Pontchartrain Behavioral Health Center** 719 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117 *Monday-Friday 8a-4:30p*
- **New Orleans East Behavioral Health Center** 5630 Read Boulevard (2nd Floor), New Orleans, LA 70127 *Monday-Friday 8a-4:30p*
- **St. Bernard Behavioral Health Center** 6624 St Claude Ave, Arabi, LA 70032 **Adults:** *Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8a-4:30p* **Children/Youth:** *Monday 8a-4:30 (5:30p based on availability) & Tuesday 1-8p*
- **Plaquemines Community C.A.R.E. Center** (MHSD Contractor) 115 Keating Drive, Belle Chasse, LA 70337

Best Contact: 504-568-3130 (for appointments) Fax: 504-568-3134

Population & Area Served: MHSD serves adults, children and families of Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes.

Services:

- **Intellectual/Developmental Disability Services:** Disability-related Expenses, Respite Care for Caregivers, Intermediate Care Facilities, Nursing Home Assessment, Positive Behavioral Support Services, Psychiatric Services, Medicaid Waiver Program, Crisis Assistance
- **Child & Youth Services:** Early Childhood Services (0-5yrs), Psychiatric Evaluations/ Assessments, Mental Health & Substance Use Evaluations/Assessments, Medication Management, Diagnostic & Psychological Testing, Psychosocial Interventions, First Episode Psychosis Services (15-21yrs), School-based Prevention Services
- **Adult Services:** Assessments, Referrals, Crisis Intervention, Peer Support, Case Management, Medication Management, Individual Therapy, Group Therapy, Addiction Treatment (Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling), HIV and TB Testing
- Support Services, Employment Training & Placement, Housing, Medical Supplies/Equipment, Public Transportation, and more!

Costs: MHSD serves the Medicaid, Medicare and uninsured eligible populations. No one will be denied access to services due to inability to pay.

Referral Process: Contact our Care Center at 504-568-3130 or walk-in to any of our clinics to connect to MHSD services and programs. A referral is not needed.

Notes: At MHSD, our focus is you! We give you the opportunity to maintain recovery through our Peer Support Program and Resource Coordination Unit.

New Services Coming Soon: Inpatient Problem Gambling Treatment

Alternative Contact: www.mhsdla.org



NEW ORLEANS HEALTH DEPARTMENT: FAMILY CONNECTS NEW ORLEANS

Location & Hours: 1300 Perdido Street (City Hall, 8th Floor – Health Department), NO, LA 70112
Ochsner Baptist and Touro 9a-4p

Best Contact: 504-658-3266. FCNO@nola.gov

Population & Area Served: Orleans Parish residents who birth at Ochsner Baptist or Touro

Services: Family Connects New Orleans is a program that offers a free visit by a registered nurse to birthing families. During this visit, the nurse will answer any questions you may have about you and your baby's health, nutrition, safe sleep, and other important topics related to caring for a new baby. The nurse can also connect you and your household with community resources to help you feel more connected and supported in your parenting journey.

Costs: Free for all

Referral Process: Refer families by contacting us at 504-658-3266 or email us at FCNO@nola.gov

Notes: Birthing families will be reintroduced to the Family Connects visit by a Program Support Specialist (PSS) at their hospital's bedside. The PSS will schedule their first visit.

Alternative Contact:

- Monique Mitchell, Community Alignment Specialist, 504-658-2565 or monique.mitchell@nola.gov



ODYSSEY HOUSE LOUISIANA, INC.

Location & Hours: 2700 S. Broad Ave, NO, LA 70125 Detox: Monday – Friday 8a-2p
Residential Inpatient: Daily 7a – 7p (24/7 admission with advanced notice)

Best Contact: 504-821-9211

- Detox: detox@ohlinc.org
- Residential Inpatient: admissions@ohlinc.org

Population & Area Served: Individuals with substance use disorder, 18+

Services:

- Medically Supported Detox: Appropriate for people who are withdrawing from many substances including alcohol, opiates (heroin, oxy, etc.) and benzos. OHL's Medically Supported Detox uses medication assisted treatment (MAT) to treat withdrawal and offers MAT induction to clinically appropriate individuals.
- Residential Inpatient Treatment: Short-term (approximately 28-day) inpatient drug rehabilitation treatment, focused intensively on the most basic aspects of drug rehab treatment, such as abstinence from substance use, life skills building, and recovery tools.
- OHL offers a full continuum of care; clients enrolled in its treatment programs also have access to OHL's Community Health Center, along with a host of wraparound and supportive services. Visit www.ohlinc.org for more information.

Costs: No direct cost to individual if enrolled in Medicaid or uninsured; private pay accepted call for details. OHL is a Medicaid Application Site and can assist with enrollment.

Referral Process:

- Community members can call, walk-in or email
- Agencies may email or fax Referral Form (available via email, phone call or on website)

Notes:

- Clients must be a Louisiana resident with valid ID
- Detox is appropriate for those detoxing from opiates (heroin), alcohol, and benzodiazepines. Others may move directly into residential treatment

Alternative Contact: info@ohlinc.org

- Ashley Riley, Program Director, ariley@ohlinc.org



THE GRACE PROGRAM AT WOMAN'S HOSPITAL

Location & Hours: The GRACE Program at Woman's Hospital 500 Rue De La Vie, Baton Rouge, LA 70817 Monday - Friday 7:30a-4p

Best Contact: 225-924-8574

Population & Area Served: Pregnant patients with Substance Use Disorder that reside in the Baton Rouge Area

Services: GRACE, which stands for Guiding Recovery And Creating Empowerment, is a free program to patients that provides non-judgmental support and resources to pregnant women suffering from substance misuse, tobacco or alcohol addictions.

- A nurse and social worker support women through pregnancy up until one year after giving birth.
- Women are provided with education on substance use and the safest treatment options during pregnancy.
- The GRACE team will connect participants to resources in the community to aid in treatment and recovery.
- The GRACE team helps women and their babies receive the best care possible.
- Each patient that enrolls in the program will receive Narcan and education by a pharmacist on use.

Costs: The program is free of cost to participants and open to any pregnant woman in the Baton Rouge area, regardless of where she is receiving prenatal care. We are contracted with four of the six Medicaid plans for reimbursement of the care coordination services provided by the GRACE team.

Referral Process: Self-referral. Providers or community agencies can fax a referral form along with the release of information from the patient.

New Services Coming Soon: Initiation of medication assisted treatment to bridge the gap for patients prior to starting a program.

Alternative Contact:

- Social Services 225-924-8456



REALITY HOUSE

Location & Hours: 2056 North Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70806 Admissions/Intake: Monday - Thursday 8a-5p Friday by appointment

Best Contact: 225-231-2490

Population & Area Served: Louisiana Health and Rehab Center (LHRC)-Reality House provides quality, comprehensive treatment to substance use disordered pregnant women, and women and their dependent children aged 0-12 in a safe, caring, and supportive environment. Services focus on women developing and maintaining a healthy and safe alcohol and drug free lifestyle, with emphasis on compassionate attention to gender-specific issues. While the recovery process is person-centered, the end result is that women become effective nurturing mothers breaking the bondage of destructive behaviors. On this continuum of care are developmentally appropriate treatment services to children. With evidence-based treatment, children can be healed from the scars of their mothers' disease, if not escape them altogether.

Services: Individual, Family & Group Counseling (Provided to mother and child), Substance Use Disorder Education, Nutritional Education, Spiritual Formation, Crisis Intervention Services Referral, Relapse Prevention, Parenting Training, Life Skills Training, 12-Step Recovery Program, Children of Alcoholics (COA) Program, Early Childhood Development, Tutoring for Children, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Screening and Treatment, Transportation, Money Management, Job Search Assistance, Job Readiness, & Supportive Services Referrals

Costs: No cost to TANF and Medicaid Eligible recipients.

Referral Process:

- Recipients can call, walk-in or email
- The court system, state agencies, DCFS, and local agencies may email or fax the Referral Form (available via email or phone call)

New Services Coming Soon:

- Pineville, LA Residential treatment facility for women with dependent children. Address: 514 Bragg Street Pineville, LA 71360



TULANE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE: EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORTS & SERVICES

Location & Hours: 1440 Canal Street, 10th Floor, NO, LA 70112 Monday – Friday 8:30a–5:30p

Best Contact: ecss@tulane.edu

Population & Area Served: Families with children aged 0–5 who are facing mental health, behavioral, or social challenges in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parish.

Services:

- Specialized Mental Health Services: Personalized assessment and treatment for children aged 0–5.
- Family Support Services: Community health workers and case managers link families with community resources.

Costs: Medicaid and private insurance are accepted; services are currently grant funded & offered at no charge for individuals who are uninsured.

Referral Process: Referrals are accepted from providers and parents. Call 504–862–ECSS (3277) or email ecss@tulane.edu

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Louisiana Interagency Coordinating Council meets monthly, on the 3rd Thursday from 10:30-11:30a.

Please contact us at recovery@voasela.org if you would like to attend.

All agencies and information contained in this resource guide come from the collaborative work of our Council and is updated twice a year. To be included in this resource guide, agencies must agree: Their agency and services are in alignment with the Mission, Values and Principles of the Louisiana RPG Interagency Coordinating Council; To participate quarterly in our Louisiana Interagency Coordinating Council Meetings; To alert us if any changes are needed to the information they have contributed to this Resource Guide.

We reserve the right to add or remove an agency from this resource guide at any time, as we are committed to providing families impacted by parental substance use accessible, safe, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services.

MISSION, VALUES & PRINCIPLES

Our mission is to center women^[1] and their families in the provision of high-quality and culturally responsive care that eliminates systemic barriers, builds family resilience, and increases access to substance use disorder treatment. We will foster interdisciplinary collaboration and establish the infrastructure and partnerships to continue this critical work into the future.

Values and Principles: CENTER

- **Collaborative:** To serve the needs of families, we must be flexible, innovative, and committed to working together. Collaboration is required to create meaningful changes for families and the community.
- **Equitable:** We acknowledge the impact of all forms of oppression. We are especially committed to furthering racial and health equity.
- **Nurturing:** We recognize the need to nurture and develop families, with their unique strengths and needs, by providing and linking families to high-quality care and services.
- **Transparent:** Our work will be ever-changing and require many approaches to make an impact. We are committed to transparency in our thinking and actions.
- **Empowered & Safe Inclusion:** Our work must be trauma-informed and culturally responsive. We must ensure families are safe from racism and stigma, with the end goal of keeping families together. We must listen to the voices of the people we serve and follow their lead to best address intergenerational trauma cycles that afflict communities. Empowered and safe inclusion will allow us to ensure that their lived experiences guide our work.
- **Relentless:** The work we are doing now lays the path for continued meaningful changes to better serve the needs of families; this work may sometimes be challenging but always worth continuing.

[1] Inclusivity statement: pregnant persons, women identifying, and nonbinary parents included.