



North Carolina's Response to the
Comprehensive Addiction and
Recovery Act of 2016

*Implementing the Substance Affected
Infant Policy and Plan of Safe Care
July 26, 2017*



Impact of Federal Legislation on States



Implementing the Legislation in North Carolina

Hospital of Birth

1. Identifies infant as “substance affected” based on DHHS definitions
2. Makes notification to county child welfare agency through regular reporting mechanisms

County Child Welfare Agency

1. Completes CPS Structured Intake Form (DSS-1402) with caller
2. Develops Plan of Safe Care/CC4C Referral using ONLY the information that is obtained during the intake process
3. Refers ALL infants and families to CC4C PRIOR to any screening decision being made
4. Collects and reports required data
5. Uses “Substance Affected Infant” Policy to screen report and provide services for screened in cases

Care Coordination for Children (CC4C)

1. Participation is voluntary
2. Services based on needs identified in Plan of Safe Care
3. Progress is monitored based on monitoring tools already in place

Substance Affected Infant Policy

- Creates: CHAPTER VIII: Protective Services; 1439 – Substance Affected Infants
- Other sections changed: Child Placement, Structured Intake, CPS Assessments & Investigations, CPS In Home Services
- Implementation is July 31, 2017

Data Collection

Child welfare agencies will collect the data based on information known during the intake process

- The number of infants “born and identified as being affected by...”
(# of infants who were identified by hospital and notified to CPS, # of those infants who were screened in, # of those infants who screened out)
- The number of such infants for whom a plan of safe care was developed
(# of infants that CPS developed Plan of Safe Care for during intake process)
- The number of such infants for whom a referral was made for appropriate services, including services for the affected family or caregiver
(# of infants that CPS referred to CC4C)

Survey Questions

Based on its Plan of Safe Care program, NC DSS has developed the following survey questions to extract the data from county child welfare agencies:

- In the month of _____ how many infants did your agency receive notification from a healthcare provider regarding the birth of an infant identified as “substance affected,” per North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services definitions?
- For how many of those families did your agency develop a Plan of Safe Care?
- How many of those infants did your agency refer to the local Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) for appropriate services?
- Of the infants for whom you received notification, how many of those did you eventually “screen-in” for Child Protective Services?
- Of the infants for whom you received notification, how many of those did you eventually “screen-out” for Child Protective Services?

Survey Protocol

- First business day of the month, DSS Child Welfare Section Chief will send email and link to survey to all counties
- Counties will have **10 business days** to respond
- DSS REAP/CQI team will alert DSS Local Support team to which counties have not responded
- Assigned CPR will contact the Director of each county that has not responded on the **15th (or next business day)** of each month
- REAP/CQI team will alert Local Support team and Child Welfare Section Chief on the **20th (or next business day)** of each month
- Child Welfare Section Chief and assigned CPR will send letter/email to Director on the **25th (or next business day)** of each month to counties that are over a month behind in data