

# Wyoming Plans of Safe Care

State Team Update  
May 2023



## Legislation: Supporting Wyoming Families

The recent passage of [Enrolled Act 69](#) requires that a plan of safe care (POSC) be developed by the patient care team for any infant born prenatally exposed to substances. The Act also requires CAPTA notifications to the Department of Family Services for all infants and families for whom a plan of safe care has been developed. To support the implementation of this legislation, the Wyoming Plans of Safe Care state team will be implementing multiple improvements to Wyoming's service delivery system in an effort to equip providers and support families impacted by parental substance use and infants born prenatally exposed to substances.

## Improving Overall Care through Plans of Safe Care



### Implementing Universal Screening

by quickly identifying and connecting families with services and supports

### Taking a Family-Centered Approach

including services that support mutually therapeutic early attachment for infant and mother, as well as other caregivers

### Disrupting Stigma

by making mindful language choices using person-first, strengths-based language, and recognizing words have power

### Hospital Discharge Planning

ensuring families are wrapped in essential services to provide ongoing support

### Advancing Equity and Inclusion

by recognizing substance use disorder as a chronic disease and brain disorder, and reflect this understanding in language, responses, and policies

## Collaboration: Wyoming's POSC Collaborative

Wyoming's POSC Collaborative, modeled after Vermont's successful [CHARM Collaborative](#), is a local-level team-based collaborative approach to serving families impacted by parental substance use and infants born prenatally exposed to substances. This approach has been shown to improve the health and safety outcomes of babies born to individuals with a history of substance use disorder by coordinating medical care, substance use treatment, child welfare, and social service supports.

## Benefits of the POSC Collaborative:

### Saves time

Providers across the service continuum participate in the monthly cross-systems staffings to coordinate services which eliminates redundancies.

### Increases expertise

Provider participation in cross-system staffings improves expertise about health and treatment of families impacted by parental substance use and infants born prenatally exposed to substances.

### Improves decision-making

Child protection decisions made based on better information from project partners about safety and risks.

# Progress to-date

How Wyoming is accomplishing its goals of improving outcomes for families



Wyoming has established a POSC state team with the goal of developing resources and guidance to support the local-level POSC collaboratives. Wyoming's POSC Collaborative will be piloted in two counties with the goal of expanding across the remaining 21 counties.

## Partners in Progress

With the implementation of Plans of Safe Care, multiple providers at both the state and local level are coming together to implement this initiative aimed at improving outcomes for families across Wyoming.



## Additional Innovations

Along with the implementation of the POSC Collaborative, Wyoming has progressed on several innovations designed to improve outcomes for families impacted by parental substance use and infants born prenatally exposed to substances.

### CAPTA Definitions Brief

The state team developed recommended CAPTA definitions, and a brief providing guidance on who should receive a POSC.

### Medical Provider Education

The Wyoming POSC state team is hosting a summer webinar series featuring two national experts focused on the screening, treatment, and supports for pregnant women with substance use disorders and infant affected by neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).

### Improved Screening

The state team has launched a cross-systems workgroup to develop a plan to increase universal verbal screening for substance use disorders as a way to quickly identify and refer for services those families that could benefit from the supports and care coordination provided through the POSC Collaborative.

### Notification Portal Pilot

The state team has developed a draft portal it will pilot with Cheyenne Regional Medical Center for CAPTA notifications.