









The Substance Use Network:

Impacting Generations

Goal 	What are we doing?	Regional systems level work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building a collaborate system of care for pregnant mothers with a substance use disorder (SUD), their infants, and families in Cabarrus, Rowan, and Stanly counties.
Vision 	Why are we doing it?	We want healthy, safe babies with their healthy, safe moms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, mothers with an untreated SUD have less access to quality care & worse health outcomes. Providers have limited resources, contradicting directives, and duplicate costly services because of lack of coordination across agencies. We believe providing support BEFORE the baby is born has the greatest impact for both the child and the mother and last generations.
Strategy 	How are we doing it?	SUN develops solutions to systemic issues beyond a provider's control. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes developing short-term 'fixes' for immediate needs and long-term strategies to address root causes. Doctors can't do their jobs and patients can't get the care they need because of big, complex systemic issues that most agencies don't have the funding, time, patience, partnerships, resources, or skillset to address without this project.
Measures 	Have we been successful?	We have documented improvements in collaboration, best practices, and patient outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase use of SAMHSA best practices across county agencies over last 3 years 0 infant deaths 0 maternal deaths 91.4% patients delivered at 35+weeks High adherence to Medication Assisted Treatment: 81% High retention rates: 95.5% Average gestational age: 38.4 weeks Social determinants of health needs met: 61% UNC School of Government conducted full independent evaluation
Principles 	What guides our work?	We use of best practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow SAMHSA best practices for treatment of opioid use disorder in pregnancy A harm reduction model Legal information sharing across sectors Promoting compassionate, non-stigmatizing, trauma-informed care Keeping mom and baby together whenever possible Recognizing "Mom is Medicine"
Innovation 	What makes this unique?	Our collaboration is unlike any other project in the state and only one other in the nation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To our knowledge, the SUN project is the only project other than CHARM in VT to operationalize the legal and systemic infrastructure to share information protected by three sets of legislation (HIPAA, 42.CFR.2, Social Services Regulations). This allows providers to collaborate across agencies without duplication and fragmentation of care. It also includes patient voices as a central driver.
Public Perception 	How is the project seen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive media stories: WSOC-TV, WCNC, NC Impact (available on website) Awards: Dr. Russell Suda, obstetrician and medical director for the project, has received statewide and local awards for this work. National conferences: SUN featured at professional for its innovative work: American Public Health Association, American Maternal and Child Health Programs, Opioid Abuse Management Summit in addition to several statewide conferences.
Contact 	Where can we get more information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUN Project Contact: Gina Hofert, M.A. at gina@cabarruspartnership.org Website: https://www.cabarruspartnership.org/family-programs/sun-clinic Medical Director: Russell Suda, MD at sudarussell@gmail.com



SUN PROJECT

The Substance Use Network (SUN) is a project at the Cabarrus Partnership for Children. **System-level coordination** provided through the **SUN Project** is funded separately, but works alongside, various clinical providers, including those at the Cabarrus Health Alliance. Fear, stigma, and systemic barriers to care, cause pregnant mothers with a substance use disorder (SUD) to experience health inequities that impact both mother and child. SUN's innovative approach focusing on mothers with SUD postulates that the subgroup of substance users who experiences the most stigma and health disparities may very well be the key to making the most impact on the overall opioid epidemic.

SUN PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Eligible participants receive coordination of compassionate, non-stigmatizing, state-of-the-art prenatal care, behavioral health, and social support services to aid the mother in achieving optimal health outcomes and overall wellbeing. Through the SUN Project, various agencies across the county coordinate services to decrease duplication and prioritize the mother's goals and needs while preventing the participant from becoming overwhelmed. Participation is voluntary and patients sign a 'release of information' and 'consent for treatment' form prior to enrollment. The SUN Project facilitates the collaboration between partners for care coordination at no cost to the patient. Separately, patients must consent to care, services, and financial responsibility at individual agencies regardless of participation in the SUN Project.

SUBSTANCE USE AND PREGNANCY

Use of alcohol, illicit drugs, and other psychoactive substances during pregnancy can lead to multiple health and social concerns for both mother and child. Pregnancy presents a critical opportunity and motivator for women to change their patterns of alcohol and other substance use. Professionals providing care for women with SUD during pregnancy need to have the resources to address the complex social, mental, and physical challenges of substance use disorders to provide appropriate care and support throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period.

SUN PROJECT HISTORY

The SUN Project uses a SAMHSA framework to implement best practices for its work. With initial grant funding from private foundations, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Smart Start, the project has established the necessary infrastructure to begin system level changes for this vulnerable population in Cabarrus County. Because SUN serves clients from neighboring counties, Rowan and Stanly partners have asked that we expand our system-building efforts to include their communities. Although clinical services are funded through traditional payor systems, system-level coordination and advocacy efforts needed to combat the opioid epidemic require separate long-term efforts, funding, and support.

Pregnant patients using substances please contact:

SUN CLINIC at the Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA)

Dedicated SUN Clinic Line: 704-920-1289
300 Mooresville Road, Kannapolis, NC, 28081
www.cabarrushealth.org

For additional information about the SUN Collaborative Project, contact:

Gina Hofert at gina@cabarruspartnership.org

