

Dr. Suda's Corner

We continue to be grateful for our SUN partners and the time they invest in our collaborative efforts. We are seeing the benefits of our collective work in the lives of our patients. Below are some of my updates:

I was asked to participate in a CCDHS meeting of a SUN patient's investigation and this was a first for me. This is a big step towards getting the Obstetrician involved with the SUN patients for advocacy purposes in maintaining the all-important biological Mother's connection with her baby.

I am in the process of working with regional Pregnancy Resource Centers to institute the 'Modified 4 P's' substance use screen with the hope of discovering early pregnant patients using substances who could be referred to the SUN Clinic. This could be a rich resource for participants to enter care in the SUN Clinic.

CHA is considering putting a Dental Hygienist in the Women's Clinic. This is very relevant to SUN patients because of a high prevalence of poor dentition.

The SUN Clinic continues to move more closely to a referral path for our stable patients in recovery to Primary Care at Cabarrus Family Medicine. This is a major step towards linking our new mothers of SUN to Primary Care, which could take the 1 year old baby and Mother to adulthood in the wrap around services of a Family Medicine Office.



SUN PROJECT UPDATES

August 2021



- SUN Governance Group has **2 work groups** to address:
 - **Housing:** identify resources/options to increase availability of safe, affordable housing for SUN clients
 - Work group working with AHAS to see if Duke Endowment funds can be allocated to support this focus area. Representatives also working with the Housing Group through Healthy Cabarrus/County Representatives. Meetings scheduled with CCM, Hope Haven, Salvation Army, and Aya House to build formal partnerships for SUN clients.
 - **Plan of Safe Care (POSC):** align messaging and practices across systems that adhere to POSC
 - Previous Chair Lisa Berger has transition to Deputy Director at RCDSS! Congratulations Lisa. Jennie Cannon from CCDSS will now be chairing this work group. Objectives have been developed and meetings will resume in September.
 - Training need identified to further understand the SUN information sharing limitations. Training with Mark Botts from UNC School of Government scheduled for 9/2/2021.





Atrium Health

Partner Highlights



- Cabarrus Family Medicine now has 6 providers who are able to prescribe suboxone and 4 of them who are doing so already.
- Dr. Levy hopes to be able to share his experience with other primary care doctors within the next 6 months to help with getting more community prescribers.
- Atrium Health Addiction Services is looking into using grant funds to provide Recovery Support Kits (recreational items that help clients build new skills/activities as part of their recovery process).

- Since its inception, SUN has served 38 clients.
- 3 of those have had 2 pregnancies in the program
- SUN is currently serving around 20 clients and averages 20-25 any given time.
- CHA has written 5 proposals in the last 18 months to expand or support SUN project efforts. 3 of those were not funded (primarily for insufficient funds to fund all programs) and 2 are still outstanding.
- CHA continues to work with partners across the state to develop relationships to support clients who need residential treatment.

- Please welcome **Jamal Ward** to the SUN collaboration. Jamal is the new Program Manager at Concord MAT and will take Leslie's place working with the SUN project.
- McLeod is working on developing a bridge protocol (similar to the SUN model) for patients (not just pregnant ones) who present in the emergency departments in Cabarrus County. Creating a buprenorphine bridge protocol with a warm handoff to an outpatient provider is considered best-practice but requires resources, time, innovation, and flexibility to create. We look forward to helping with the development of this initiative.

Smart Start continuation application awarded until 2023 for collaborative efforts.

Two other proposals submitted to external funding sources to continue and expand SUN project project activities.

SUN abstract accepted to present at the American Public Health Association conference in Denver, CO in October 2021.

SUN SAMHSA 2-year follow-up assessment results are complete. Summary report included with this update.

IRB approval obtained for UNC School of Government to conduct formal mixed-methods evaluation of SUN.

Please complete the provider survey link as part of the UNC Evaluation of the SUN project (*this is different/separate from the yearly SAMHSA assessment*). At end of this newsletter.



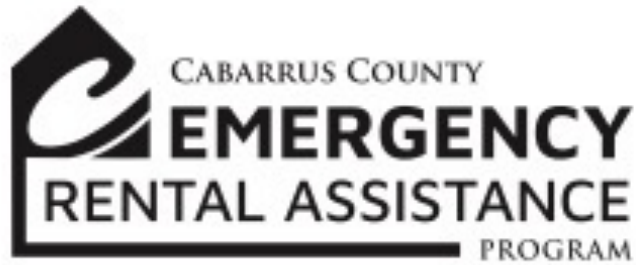
Partner Highlights



- Rowan County DSS is pleased to add **Whitney Peterson** as our liaison with the SUN Project. Whitney is our new Child Protective Services In Home Supervisor.
- She has served as a Child Protective Services Supervisor since 2016, Child Protective Services and Foster Care Social Worker for several years prior to that, and she has worked in the clinical realms of Intensive In Home (IIH) Services and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) prior to her Social Services career. We believe that Whitney and Michelle together will round out our representation for monthly conferences with two different and relevant Child Protective Services viewpoints.
- We are also excited to begin more intentional work with our Cardinal (transitioning to VAYA) partners on “pre-custody” work, which we believe is an exciting dovetail to the work we are learning and evolving with the SUN project. Gretchen Anthony, who is known to us as an amazing partner, has recently been announced as the Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) Care Coordinator for our Department.
- Stay tuned for more progress we are making together in the direction of strong partnerships and quality services to our mutual consumers.

-- Micah Ennis, Director

- Please welcome **Justice Johnson, Tara Allman, and Jennie Cannon** to the SUN collaboration.
- Justice and Tara have already proven to make connections for clients and services that are instrumental through the prevention unit and participation in the Monthly Care Coordination Team Meetings (MCC). We appreciate their leadership in this project.
- At CCDHS, the Prevention/Aftercare Support Services is a voluntary program that offers case management services to assist families in the coordination and access of community resources that enhance the overall health, behavioral, and emotional safety of children and their caregivers. We partner with families who have had previous CPS involvement and families with no prior CPS history. In accordance with the Families First Prevention Act, we are targeting vulnerable families identified through Screen out child protection reports and providing voluntary services. Prevention Program is building positive relationships with schools, community partners and families.
- Jennie will be chairing the Plan of Safe Care workgroup. A special thanks to Lisa Berger for starting this workgroup. We want to congratulate her new role at Rowan County Department of Social Services.
- Karen Calhoun has shared information on the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to include in this newsletter.



APPLICATION

COVID-19 has put thousands of Cabarrus County households on the verge of eviction. For thousands more, it's only a matter of time before the utilities are cut off.

Help is here.

Through the Cabarrus County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), households with financial hardship due to COVID-19 can apply for payment of overdue rent and utilities dating back to March 13, 2020.

Learn more

Additional information about the ERAP program and application process can be found at [erap.cabarruscounty.us](https://cabarruscounty.us). You can also call 704-920-1400, option 4 then option 6.

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY:

An eligible household is defined as a renter household that has:

- A household income that does not exceed 80 percent of the area median income (examples: \$46,800 annually for a household of one, \$66,800 annually for a household of four and \$88,200 annually for a household of eight)

AND

At least one or more individuals living in the household:

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19

AND

- Can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability

If you qualified for another federal or state program (example: HOPE) and have needs beyond the months covered by that program, you may qualify for the ERAP program.

<https://cabarruscounty.us/resources/emergency-rental-assistance-program>

The UNC Evaluation Team needs your input as a provider!
*It should only take **15 min** of your time.*



Partners please complete by 8/30/21
[SUN UNC Provider Survey](#)



- **Governance Group Meeting:** September 2 @ 12.30-1.30
- **MCC Meeting:** September 9th
- **We want to hear from you.**

Please contact Gina Hofert at gina@cabarruspartnership.org with any updates or feedback.

- **Complete Provider Survey** for UNC Evaluation

