

Dr. Suda's Corner



The MCC meeting is becoming a 2-hour period that is dedicated to SUN pregnant patients. The original intent was to include postpartum women as well. It may be time to look at setting time aside for SUN postpartum patients since our last MCC ran out of time to discuss the challenges these ladies face. It is important to understand that the postpartum time period is a time that poses a great deal of risk for maternal relapse. I have found this to be very true about our patients, and they really need a lot of support especially from behavioral health and most especially social services support.

Any thoughts on this?

SUN PROJECT UPDATES

April 2021



- New **SUN Governance Group (SGG)** established. The SGG is a smaller more targeted group working on action items for the SUN project
- SGG formed **2 work groups** to address:
 - **Housing:** identify resources/options to increase availability of safe, affordable housing for SUN clients
 - **Plan of Safe Care (POSC):** align messaging and practices across systems that adhere to POSC
- **Lashonda Houston and Stephanie Howard served as panelists** in the Cross-Sector Innovations Initiative Webinar (March 2020)
- **20 deliveries** since SUN clinic began with a 95% success rate of 35 weeks of gestation or greater. No severe maternal morbidity or mortality. SUN Clinic serves clients in pregnancy and up to one-year post-partum.
- **First patient transitioned from SUN clinic to primary care** at Cabarrus Family Medicine.
- **Rowan County Department of Social Services** added as a formal SUN partner.
- **SUN abstracts accepted** to present at the Smart Start Conference and American Maternal and Child Health Programs Conference.
- Contract secured with UNC School of Government to conduct **qualitative evaluation of SUN.**



Updates from Lacy Esposito

- Addiction Services is hiring for 2 MD positions, and we have recently filled a new APP position with a Physicians Assistant for our outpatient clinics.
- We have posted a Psychotherapist position with plans to work with the Cabarrus Health Alliance to support maternal wellness patients.
- Our outpatient clinics offer substance abuse intensive outpatient treatment group and medication assisted treatment group as well as individual therapy.

By Suzanne Knight

- Clinically, we have more SUN patients than ever! Currently we have eighteen active clients.
- The “best referrals” have been word-of-mouth, from one participant to another. However, in the very recent past, we have had warm hand-offs from private OB, ER, and ever-more referrals from Syringe Services.
- We even had a call last week from Melissa Godwin in Raleigh, trying to connect someone from afar. That situation was a perfect example of how desperately systems such as SUN are needed all over the state, and just how woefully inadequate the systems really are.

By Julie Peterson

- We have started a new ED expansion project with Behavioral health services. It is targeted around Schizophrenia and SUD diagnosis by adding addition support for this population in 3 pilot locations.
- We have openings in various roles.
- We are one of managed care organization in NC for Medicaid behavioral health. Our main website offers providers for services in those counties. We also have 24 hours crisis services support thru 800-939-5911. As a provider you can gain information related to services and providers of joint members thru 855-270-3327.

REMINDERS

- **SAMHSA assessment** to be emailed in April – *please complete!*
- **CSII site visits** April-June – *please attend assigned groups!*
- **Governance Group Meeting:** April 22nd
- **MCC Meeting:** May 13th
- **We want to hear from you.** Please contact Gina Hofert at gina@cabarruspartnership.org with any updates or feedback.

By Leslie Gray



McLeod continues to provide telehealth services in response to the pandemic. The entire intake process for patients seeking buprenorphine (apart from medication administration) can be completed via telehealth. Patients seeking methadone treatment are able to complete the clinical portion of their intake via telehealth. We are almost ready to begin piloting mental health services at McLeod with clinicians at each MAT program ready to start with current MAT patients who present with co-occurring disorders. All McLeod campuses became tobacco-free on 1/1/2021. We work with Mecklenburg County Public Health and NC QuitLine to provide referrals for tobacco cessation. McLeod Concord resumed intake on 3/30/21 after staffing needs were fulfilled. There are other processes in the works and more to come for McLeod working together as a whole to provide the services our patients have needed for some time now. We are all very excited for what the future holds for our company.



By Sharon Schueneman

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. We are placing pinwheels in front of our building. The Pinwheel is the national symbol of child abuse prevention, representing the great childhood all children deserve. When you plant a pinwheel, you become a part of a national movement to help all children grow up in safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities.

Currently we have 1 in-home services position and 2 investigator positions vacant. We have been diligently interviewing to fill these positions as soon as possible. We have recently gone through our budget meetings and we are requesting 6 additional positions in various areas.

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.