



# **WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

*State Fiscal Year 2019-2020*





Act 65 of 1993 authorizes the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) to establish and fund residential drug and alcohol treatment programs for pregnant women and women with dependent children. The Department enters grant agreements with local Single County Authorities (SCAs) to use federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant allocations for services to pregnant women and women with dependent children. SAPT Block Grant expenditures must fund treatment and services across all levels of care, while utilizing approaches and specific services targeted to pregnant women and women with dependent children. SCAs must provide access to a full continuum of care and provide preferential services for this population. As a result, treatment providers have developed gender-specific components to existing programs either on-site or by referral to appropriate agencies.

Pregnant women seeking treatment are a priority population and as such are offered services immediately. SCAs are obligated to ensure the application of trauma-informed approaches as they make provisions for medical care, including prenatal and pediatric care; treatment for substance use disorders (SUD); therapeutic interventions to address children's developmental needs; and case management services. Residential women with children programs should be trauma-informed and must offer treatment, parenting skills counseling and training, activities designed to enhance self-sufficiency, employability skill development, referrals to vocational training programs and/or jobs, social and life skills development, family therapy or family reunification services and other activities related to rehabilitation. Age-appropriate prevention programs for the children of women in treatment are provided through agreements with prevention providers or specially trained child development staff. As required by law, children are enrolled in school. If necessary, mothers receive assistance with securing vital records and other documentation necessary for their child's school registration.

Expected outcomes for gender responsive programming for women with their children include:

- Development of knowledge and skills to maintain a self-directed recovery and abstinence from alcohol and other drugs;
- Education and life skills to become productive members of society;
- Prevention and education for accompanying children;
- Reduction in perinatal addictive disorders;
- Reduction in acute health care costs;
- Reduction in legal system involvement and criminal behavior;
- Reduction in unemployment;
- Reduction in homelessness;
- Development of parenting skills for mothers; and
- Improved communication skills for mothers and children.

DDAP will continue to support programs and facilities that offer multi-disciplinary, trauma informed, evidence-based, and gender-specific care to Pennsylvania women and their families.

## Women-Women with Dependent Children Network

On June 2, 2020, DDAP established a Women-Women with Dependent Children (W3DC) Network comprised of stakeholders who represent this treatment and service system. The W3DC Network will identify barriers and establish solutions to improve treatment and service delivery to this target population. The W3DC Network will build upon an existing network known as *WATCH* (Women and Their Children Heal), which was established in 2002 to create a state-wide forum for addressing the gender-specific treatment needs of women with substance use disorders. The W3DC Network will integrate the primary goals of *WATCH*, which are to create a state-wide forum for addressing the gender-specific treatment needs of women with substance use disorders (SUD); enhance gender-responsive alcohol and other drug treatment programs; and advocate for the protection of mandated services for women, pregnant and parenting women, and their children.

### W3DC Purpose:

- Represent the “voice” of women in identifying barriers and establishing solutions to improved service delivery
- Improve collaboration among partners providing services to pregnant and parenting women;
- Identify needs and improve access to resources

### W3DC Areas of Focus:

- Data collection to support data driven guidance and decision making
- Review/revise the 2010 *WATCH Female Responsive Practice Standards*
- Access to *Case Management and Recovery Based Peer Support Services* such as Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) and/or Certified Family Recovery Specialist (CFRS)
- Treat and address the needs of the family as a unit
- Provide children's programming that is evidence informed (EI) and/or evidence based (EB) to include pediatric services; developmental assessments, e.g. Ages and Stages Questionnaires; an array of therapeutic interventions
- Provide childcare that aligns with Department of Human Services (DHS) standards as per the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)
- Trauma Informed Approaches and Trauma Informed Interventions
- Evidence Informed/Evidence Based (EI/EB) female responsive programming
- EI/EB family and parenting programs
- Develop processes for monitoring the fidelity of implementation of EI/EB programs
- Enhance transitional services for returning to community (housing, childcare/transportation, employment, etc.)
- Improve collaboration among partners providing services to pregnant and parenting women through ad-hoc memberships to include Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF), Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), Department of Health (DOH), and OCDEL.

### Family First Prevention Services Act (*Public Law 115-123*)

DDAP and OCYF co-chaired Pennsylvania's Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Family-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment (FB SUD TX) Workgroup. The FFPSA FB SUD TX Workgroup is comprised of stakeholders representing Residential SUD Providers; County Children and Youth Agencies (CCYAs), SCAs; Advocacy Groups; DHS & DDAP Policy Offices; OMHSAS and OCDEL. The charge of the Workgroup is to develop recommendations for the implementation of the FFPSA provisions relating to federal Title IV-E placement maintenance payments for children with parents in a licensed residential family-based SUD treatment facility. The FFPSA SUD workgroup met on January 7, January 28, February 11, and February 26, 2020, to develop these recommendations.

#### Family First Family-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment Workgroup Implementation Recommendations

The Workgroup received clarification from the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) regarding:

- Responsibility for "placement and care"
- Permitting the use of placement maintenance payments for children placed with their parents in residential family-based SUD treatment facilities.

ACF clarified that Pennsylvania cannot interpret "dependency" or "open case" to equal "care and responsibility".

- If the child is with their parent in the residential family-based residential treatment facility and the county children and youth agency has care and responsibility, the only costs that can potentially be reimbursed with Title IV-E funds (if child is IV-E eligible under eligibility rules specific to this setting) are the "room and board" expenses. The child must meet all the title IV-E foster care eligibility requirements except the AFDC eligibility requirements in sections 472(a)(1)(B) and (3) of the Social Security Act.
- If the child is with the parent in the facility and the parent has care and responsibility, the only costs that can potentially be reimbursed with Title IV-E funds (if a "candidate for foster care" as defined in section 475(13) of the Social Security Act) are the trauma-informed evidence-based practice (EBP) costs (if the service is part of PA's five-year prevention plan).

The clarifications provided by ACF limit the use of Title IV-E placement maintenance dollars to only children with their parent in residential family-based SUD treatment facilities who are under the "care and responsibility" of a county children and youth agency.

#### Workgroup Discussion and Findings

DDAP licenses seventeen SUD residential treatment programs for women with children that qualify under the FFPSA provision for residential family-based SUD treatment programs. Workgroup members representing DDAP- licensed SUD residential treatment programs for women with children state the following:

- Mothers display increased motivation for treatment and recovery while their children are placed with them.

- Most children who reside with mother in SUD residential women with children treatment programs are NOT under the care and responsibility of a county children and youth agency. This means that the children are not eligible for Title IV-E funding under the Family First provisions relating to Title IV-E placement maintenance payments for children with parents in a licensed residential family-based SUD treatment facility.
- Most DDAP-licensed SUD residential women with children treatment programs do not receive financial compensation for child-specific costs such as room and board, childcare, assessments, interventions, clothing and other necessities.
- Currently there are no DDAP-licensed residential family-based SUD treatment providers that serve fathers, or families (two parents with their child(ren)).
- Resources that are lacking for women with children while they are in residential treatment and when transitioning back to the community include:
  - “Reentry” childcare, i.e., while mother prepares for and seeks employment;
  - Keystone Stars daycare in community (that is accessible to target population);
  - Transportation (mother and family);
  - Behavioral Health Services, e.g., child presents as needing services for autism spectrum disorder and does not have Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization coverage in county where the program is located;
  - Mental Health Services;
  - Enrichment & family activities, such as museums, movies, plays, etc.

**Challenges: *Transitional Services and Resources***

- Workgroup members expressed concern about placement stability/continuity for children who reside with their mother at SUD residential treatment program and are also in the care and responsibility of CCYA. Upon discharge from residential treatment, the mother must transition back to the community, which means obtaining employment and safe housing. She may not have the ability to support her child, resulting in the child’s return to foster care, whereby the child’s permanency is interrupted. This lack of transition supports is a concern because individuals with SUD, including women with children, commonly experience employment and housing barriers when transitioning to the community. Due to the lack of placement stability/continuity for children under the current practice model, county children and youth agencies may not recommend placing a child under the agency’s care and responsibility with their parent in a residential family-based SUD treatment facility.
- Some workgroup members expressed concern about the lack of clearance requirements for parents served in these programs because it is common practice for parents to help care for one another’s children.
  - CCYAs may view this practice as a liability concern.
  - In order to mitigate CCYA liability concerns, individuals who are being provided treatment and services (clients/patients) would need to obtain clearances mandated by the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) (23 Pa.C.S. Chapter 63) prior to assisting with childcare duties. The feasibility of requiring CPSL clearances will need to be explored.

- Some workgroup members expressed concern about the lack of data about the children with their parents in residential family-based SUD treatment programs.

### **Workgroup Member Recommendations**

- Pennsylvania should remain a leader in ensuring that a woman who is pregnant and/or parenting a child(ren) does not encounter diminished access to and likelihood of success in treatment and recovery because she (and her children) face trauma associated with being separated. Since the 1990s, Pennsylvania's women and children programs have promoted innovation and are women and child centered. These programs should be explored more fully for enhancement, including related to concrete outcome measures, and replication.
- There are few opportunities promoting residential treatment and recovery pathways for families as a whole and/or fathers and their child(ren). Pennsylvania should immediately assess the need for and gap in available services.
- The FFPSA offers an incredible invitation for Pennsylvania to further, not foreclose, greater access to family-based residential treatment services by working across state agencies and funding streams and encouraging counties to be bold and to bring ideas forward. Leveraging Title IV-E federal IV-E reimbursement to cover some of the costs (e.g., room and board) for a child(ren) in a family-based residential treatment program may be among the considered strategies woven into a county's approach to family-based treatment. Still, the subcommittee was acutely aware that leveraging the Title IV-E federal child welfare funding stream could invite unintended consequences, including the need to proceed down a court-related "placement" pathway for the child in which the care and custody of the child(ren) doesn't rest with the parent(s), but the child welfare agency.
- Pennsylvania's plan for shifting our child welfare approaches to comply with the FFPSA, particularly the children identified as "at-risk of placement" and the menu of evidence-based prevention services to prevent placement, must be fully committed to elevating an array of trauma-informed and family-centered treatment and recovery options, including within home and community-based settings.

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FY 2019 – 2020, Pennsylvania Residential Programs for Women, Pregnant Women, and Women with Dependent Children

County	Program Name	Women Residential & Halfway House	Pregnant Women	Women with Dependent Children	Gender Specific Track/Unit for Women
<b>Allegheny</b>	CeCe's Place	Halfway House			
Allegheny	Family Links	*	*	*	
Allegheny	PA Organization for Women in Early Recovery, POWER	Halfway House	*		
Allegheny	Sojourner House	*	*	*	
Allegheny	The Program for Offenders, Inc.	*	*		
<b>Berks</b>	Caron's Grandview Women's Program				*
<b>Blair</b>	Pyramid Tradition House	Halfway House	*		
<b>Bucks</b>	Libertae Family House	*	*	*	
Bucks	Libertae Liberty House	Halfway House	*		
Bucks	Penn Foundation				*
Bucks	Pyramid Langhorne Women's Trauma Focused Residential				*
<b>Chester</b>	Bowling Green Brandywine		*		*
Chester	Gaudenzia Kindred House	*	*	*	
Chester	Samara House CWYA	*	*	*	
<b>Dauphin</b>	Evergreen, Catholic Charities & Diocese of Harrisburg, Inc.	Halfway House	*		
Dauphin	NASR	*			
<b>Erie</b>	Gaudenzia Community House	Halfway House	*	*	
Erie	Gaudenzia House of Healing	*	*	*	
<b>Fayette</b>	Good Works Life Recovery House	Halfway House	*		
<b>Greene</b>	Greenbriar Treatment Center	*	*		
<b>Lancaster</b>	The Gate House for Women	Halfway House	*		
Lancaster	Gaudenzia Vantage	*	*	*	
<b>Lawrence</b>	The Highland House, Inc.	*	*		
<b>Lehigh</b>	Treatment Trends Halfway Home Women's Program	Halfway House			
<b>Luzerne</b>	Clem-Mar House	Halfway House	*		
Luzerne	Graniteville House of Recovery	Halfway House	*		



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<b>County</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Women Only Residential &amp; Halfway House</b>	<b>Pregnant Women</b>	<b>Women with Dependent Children</b>	<b>Gender Specific Track/Unit for Women</b>
<b>Montgomery</b>	RHD Family House	*	*	*	
<b>Philadelphia</b>	Gaudenzia New Image	*	*	*	
Philadelphia	Gaudenzia Washington House	Halfway House	*		
Philadelphia	Gaudenzia WINNER	*	*	*	
Philadelphia	Interim House	Halfway House	*		
Philadelphia	Interim House West	*	*	*	
Philadelphia	RHD Family House NOW	*	*	*	
Philadelphia	RHD Womanspace	*			
Philadelphia	My Sister's Place, Thomas Jefferson University	*	*	*	
Philadelphia	Teen Challenge for Ladies	*			
<b>Schuylkill</b>	Gaudenzia Fountain Springs	*	*	*	
Schuylkill	Gaudenzia New Destiny	Halfway House	*	*	
<b>Snyder</b>	Conewago Snyder Residential				*
<b>Somerset</b>	Twin Lakes Center Residential				*
<b>Venango</b>	Freedom Center for Women at Turning Point	*			
<b>Washington</b>	Abstinent Living at Turning Point, Washington	Halfway House	*		
Washington	Turning Point at Washington, Julie's House	Halfway House	*	*	
Washington	Lighthouse for Women of Greenbriar Treatment Center	Halfway House	*		

**RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM NUMBERS**

The number of DDAP licensed treatment **programs** that are designated to serve Women, Pregnant Women, and Women with Dependent Children at a single point in time is as follows:

3 Residential, Women Only Programs	3 Residential, Women Only Programs that Serve Pregnant Women	14 Residential, Women Only Programs that Serve Pregnant Women and Women with Dependent Children
2 Halfway House, Women Only Programs	13 Halfway House, Women Only Programs that Serve Pregnant Women	3 Halfway House, Women Only Programs that Serve Pregnant Women and Women with Dependent Children
5 Residential Programs that Serve Women & Men, and provide a Gender Specific Track or Unit for Women		1 Residential Program that Serves Women & Men and Provides a Gender Specific Track or Unit for Pregnant Women

**TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN'S RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS: 44**