

# Cross-sector Innovation Initiative Profile: Cabarrus County Partnership for Children (NC)

## Project Title and Tagline

Substance Use Network (SUN) Project – *A collaborative system of care for pregnant mothers with substance use disorder, their infants and families.*

## Project Summary

The SUN Project will develop a sustainable, cross-sector, collaborative system of care that uses best practices to support the health, safety, well-being and recovery of pregnant mothers with substance use disorder (SUD), their infants and families. Due to fear, stigma and systemic barriers to care, pregnant women with SUD experience health inequities that impact both mother and child. These health inequities have become a focus for public health and other service providers in our community. Pregnancy presents an opportune time for collaborative, comprehensive intervention due to an increased motivator for behavior change and the ability to begin services even before the child is born. SUN operates using SAMHSA's framework entitled, "A Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders (2016)" to guide provider collaboration. 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.

## Community Description

- Cabarrus County, North Carolina
- Population size: 196,716
- Poverty Rate: 11.5%
- Racial/Ethnic Composition: 68% White Alone, 16.7% Black or African American Alone, and 10% Hispanic or Latino
- Source: <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/cabarrus-county-nc#about>

## Expected Impact on Systems Alignment, Population Health, and Health Equity

In the past, individual sectors provided care to pregnant women with SUD with limited collaboration and conflicting directives, resulting in sub-optimal care. Funding for this project will support working toward alignment through the formation of the tiered collaborative structure, a best practice to developing a sustainable coordinated care system. Once systems alignment is achieved, partners will have the resources, policies, referral mechanisms, documents, training and experience in collaborative care coordination to sustain it as part of their future work.

## Key Partners

- Atrium Health
- Cabarrus County Department of Human Services
- Cabarrus County Partnership for Children
- Cabarrus Health Alliance
- Genesis A New Beginning
- McLeod Addictive Disease Center
- NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
- UNC Project ECHO MAT

Grantees are working toward population health and health equity priorities, as well as addressing one or more pillars of alignment (as indicated by a checkmark below).

## Population Health and Health Equity Focus

- Access to care
- Injury and violence prevention, trauma informed care
- Maternal, child and adolescent health
- Mental and behavioral health, substance use disorder

## Systems Alignment Areas

- ✓ Share a vision and a set of priority outcomes
- Create a shared data and measurement system
- Establish appropriate financing with incentives and accountability
- ✓ Strong governance with leadership and defined relationships driven by the voice and participation of community members

## Cross-sector Innovation Initiative Overview

With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Center for Sharing Public Health Services and the Public Health National Center for Innovations are co-leading the Cross-sector Innovation Initiative, a joint effort that aims to understand and support innovative multi-sector partnerships between public health, healthcare, and social services that ultimately transform practice towards working in alignment to improve population health, wellbeing, and equity for all.