

Advocating for the Children of Hernando County



APRIL IS
NATIONAL 
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
MONTH

April 20, 2022
Tresa J. Watson & Lily Greenan



The **Hernando SEN** provides the supports, services and understanding necessary so that Hernando substance exposed newborns and children may thrive and develop - remember they are Hernando's future. Hernando SEN represents local concerned citizens and representatives of local agencies and businesses.



To learn more, visit www.hernandosen.org

The **Hernando Community Coalition (HCC)** is a countywide behavioral health partnership working to prevent and reduce substance use and associated problems among youth and families in Hernando County. The Coalition serves as an organizational unit in our community where prevention projects are shared across partners and sectors, utilizing existing expertise from membership and resources available in the community to implement research-based approaches and best practices.



Our Mission is to serve as a collective voice for Hernando County residents working towards the health and wellness of community members, with a focus on youth substance abuse.



To learn more, visit www.hernandocommunitycoalition.org

What is SEN? What is NAS?



SEN

Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN) refers to infants that are affected by prenatal exposure (while the mother is pregnant) to substances such as prescribed medications, alcohol, illicit drugs, and tobacco. Nearly every substance taken by a woman passes from her blood stream through the placenta to her fetus.

NAS

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a term used to describe a set of problems a baby experiences when withdrawing from exposure to drugs. NAS is a withdrawal syndrome experienced by substance-exposed infants after birth. NAS often follows an opiate exposure such as heroin or a prescription opioid, however other drugs such as alcohol, cocaine, benzodiazepines or barbiturates can also result in withdrawal syndromes.

Symptoms Caused by Drug Exposure (every 20 minutes)....

- Shrill, high pitched cry, Irritability, Hypertonicity, Periods of No Breathing
- Tremors, Twitching or Seizures, Short sleep cycles and problems with sleeping
- Sensitivity to Noise and Touch, Stuffy nose, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Sweating, Fever, Sneezing
- Vomiting, Difficult to Soothe



Why are we working together to address SEN?



Women, families, and children affected by prenatal opioid use and are involved across multiple systems, i.e., healthcare, behavioral health (mental health and/or substance use disorder (SUD) treatment), education, child welfare, human services, early learning agencies, civil and criminal justice, probation/parole and many others.



All professionals involved in coordinated/integrated care for women, families, and children affected by prenatal opioid use are part of an inter-disciplinary team of service providers or "partners" bringing expertise to the table.



Every partner brings valuable expertise to the table – brings a "piece of the puzzle." No one partner has "all the pieces."

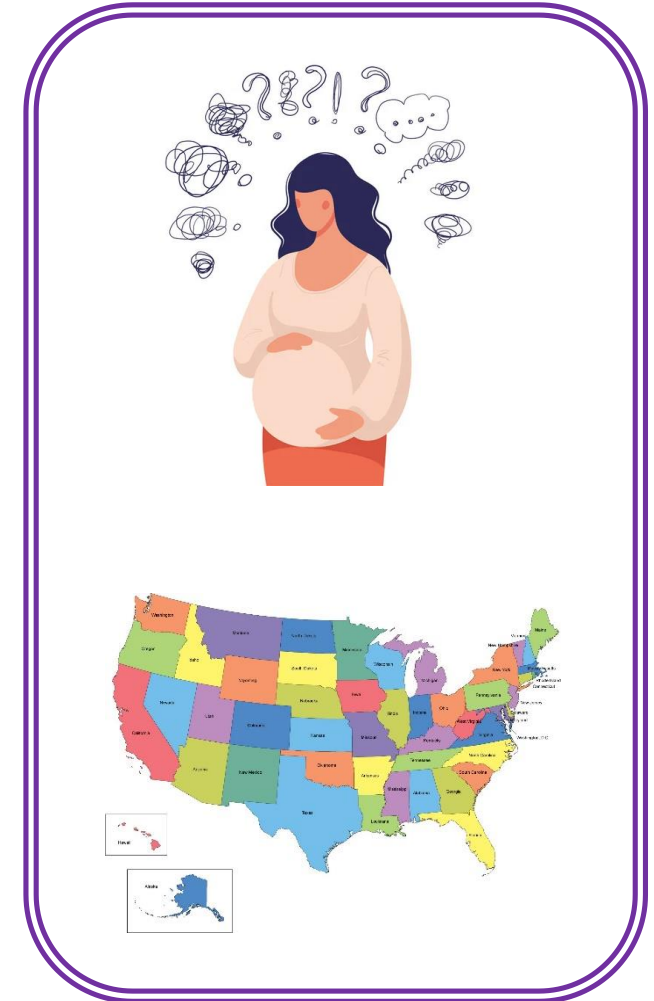


SEN National Trends

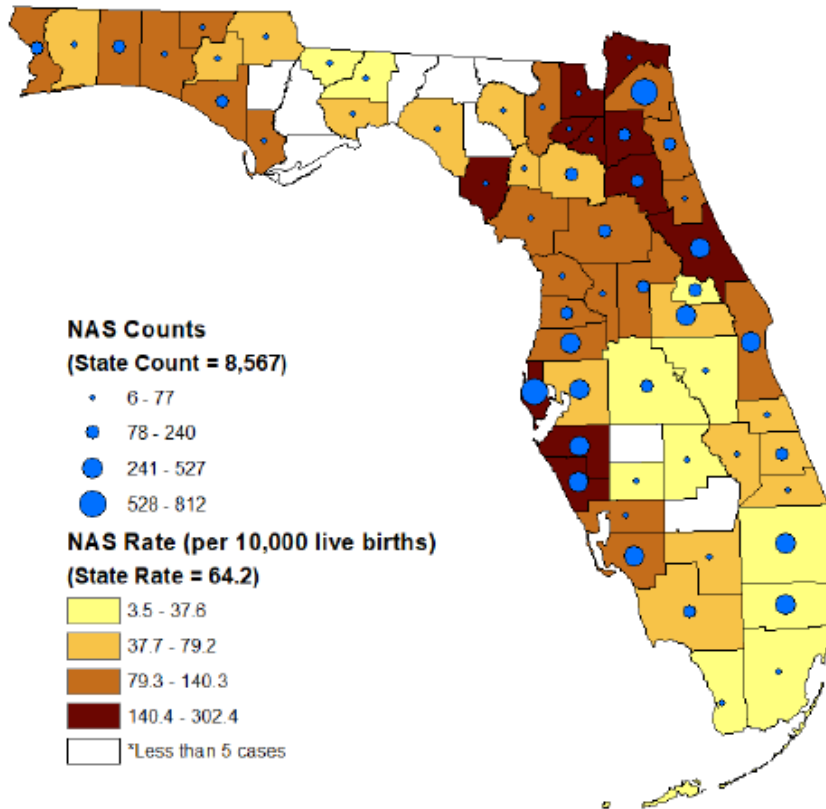


- Every 15 minutes in the USA, a baby is born going through opioid withdrawal
- 1 in 3 women of reproductive age filled an opioid Rx
- 7% women reported using opioid pain relievers during pregnancy
- 1 in 5 got them from a non healthcare source

Source: CDC Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, 2020



Florida Substance Exposed Newborns



Roughly 35% of Hernando babies who enter the NICU suffer from Neo-natal Abstinence Syndrome.



In 2020, the rate of babies born addicted to opioids (NAS) in Hernando was double the Statewide rate.

Pregnancy Substance Abuse Red Flags



Need for Integrated Care



Providers and partners in multiple systems share significant concerns about pregnant women who misuse opioids, newborns with NAS, and other problems related to in utero drug or alcohol exposure.

Providers and partners need to develop plans for safe integrated care for the infant and family's well-being prior to and following the baby's birth in the following areas: Physical health, mental health, SUD treatment needs, developmental as well as many others.



When communities recognize the positive and often cost effective impact of a collaborative approach, public agencies and private providers have a powerful incentive to work together in alternative and innovative ways towards joint accountability and shared outcomes.

Need for Integrated Care



**A valuable resource:
SAMHSA's A Collaborative
Approach to the Treatment
of Pregnant Women with
Opioid Use Disorders.**

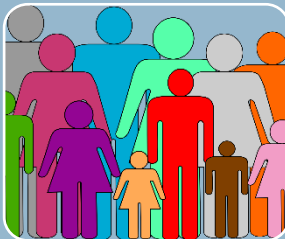
https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/files/Collaborative_Approach_508.



Communicate (including listening) effectively with all partners as a standard mode of operations



Provide access to ongoing cross-disciplinary education for all partners – increased understanding can decrease challenges and conflicts.



Build knowledge, skills, and expertise within the healthcare (including obstetrics, pediatrics, substance abuse treatment, and mental health), child welfare, and judicial systems, to improve the quality of integrated care.

SEN System of Care



The existing systems of care for substance exposed newborns is disconnected and can be difficult to navigate.

- **Medical** – CHD's, CMS, hospitals, physicians, midwives, pediatric, specialty, insurance, hospital, developmental*
- **Medicated Assisted Treatment** – Operation Par, BayCare Behavioral Health
- **Treatment Centers** – BayCare, Spring Gardens, others
- **Child Care** – ELC, Early Head Start – screening of children
- **Child Welfare** (DCF and Community Based Care) – legal, investigative, case management, wrap around services, – foster care, relative placement, group home, legal & guardian ad litem
- **Healthy Start** – care coordination and linkage to additional resources.
- **Infant Mental Health**

5 point



Approach

- Identify key players – including and centering on pregnant women and the babies.
- Unify referral processes - identify the point person/entity.
- Coordinate consent – Healthy Start screening form can support collaboration until further consent is obtained.
- Align policies and procedures – ensure systems have interagency agreements which delineate roles and responsibilities.
- Utilize unified staffing forms.

Hernando County – Quick Facts



In 2019, 84 babies entered a NICU for substance exposure in Hernando County at to area hospitals.

- Based on the average length of stay for babies in the NICU at the 2 hospitals in 2019, the 84 babies stayed an estimated 621 days.

In 2019, the rate of babies born addicted to opioids (NAS) in Hernando County was DOUBLE the Statewide rate.

The rate of Newborns born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) per 10,000 live births in Hernando was 142.0, more than double the statewide rate of 62.1 in 2018.

In 2020, there were 3,367 maltreatment investigations conducted by Child Welfare in Hernando County. Of those, 25% were substance abuse-related.

- 59 were for Substance Exposed Newborns

In 2020, there were 38 calls to the FL Poison Control Center for children ages 5 and under for exposure to analgesics (painkillers).

Hernando SEN



Our purpose is to gather and evaluate data, raise awareness within our community partners and provide education to new and expecting families.

Our goal is to reduce the number of substance exposed newborns, and prevent this epidemic, in Hernando County.



Hernando SEN

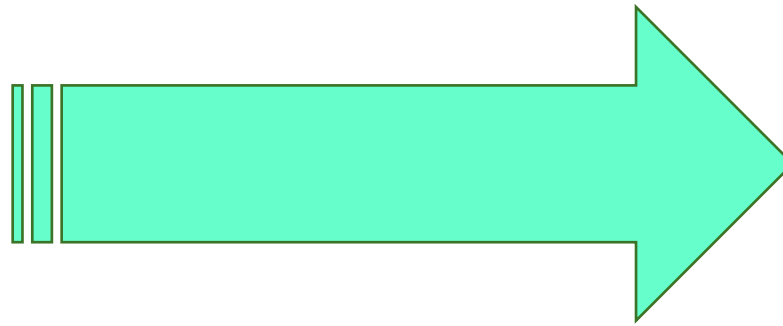


Used for media
and community
outreach.

Hernando SEN Success Stories



Bayfront/New Vision



HCC Office (referred by United Way of Hernando County)



Hernando SEN Projects



NEW MOM TOOLKIT

Information and Resources to Help Those Expecting,
New Moms and Families, or Those Sexually Active

Through the Hernando SEN Taskforce, the third edition of the New Mom Toolkit - Information and Resources to Help those Expecting, New Moms and Families, or Those Sexually Active - was released August of 2021.

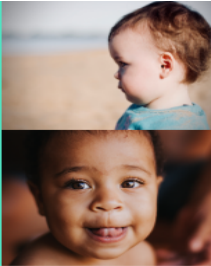
Over 2,000 guides have been distributed over the past few years.



Hernando SEN Rack Card



More than
HALF of
Pregnancies
are
Unplanned



Birth control can prevent pregnancy - make sure you (or your partner) have a plan.



DID YOU KNOW?



Both Opiates and Opioids Can Harm Your Pregnancy And Unborn Baby.

This includes both prescription and non-prescription drugs, such as methadone or heroin.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HAVE A HEALTHY BABY

A baby's health depends on your health

If you become pregnant, or are thinking about becoming pregnant, see a doctor and schedule regular pre-natal checkups.

Be honest with your doctor if you use substances.

Read labels and talk with your pharmacist before taking medications, vitamins, or supplements.

If you have a problem with any substance, seek help, there are places that can help. (see back of card for resources).



Resources for those
Expecting, New Moms, or
those Sexually Active

Bayfront Health Spring Hill: (352) 688-8200
Hernando County's only Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

The Maternity Suites at Oak Hill Hospital: (352) 606-7300
Labor and delivery services

Healthy Start: 352-848-3746
Free program that helps all pregnant women and families with babies up to age 3.

A New Generation: 352-544-0911
Committed to providing care to anyone facing pregnancy, free pregnancy testing and ultrasound for pregnancy verification.

BayCare Behavioral Health: (352) 540-9335
Community Behavioral Health provides comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services.

WIC: 352-540-6800 x82050
A federally funded nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children under age 5.

FL DOH - Hernando County: 352-540-6800
Women's Health Services offer yearly exams, PAP tests, pregnancy tests, breast exams, infection identification and treatment, and family planning services.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NA): 352-754-7200
For Hernando County

Operation PAR: 352-666-5709
Medication Assisted Patient Services (MAPS)



Contact the Hernando Community Coalition at 352-596-8000 if you are pregnant or a new mom and would like a FREE "New Mom Toolkit" to help yourself and your substance exposed newborn.

3500+ cards – Distribution Hernando Health department, 5 Hernando schools – health clinic nurses station, 3 hospitals, community college, jail, behavioral health provider, Healthy Families, Healthy Start, visiting nurse program, methadone clinic, libraries, 2 Hernando High Schools with nurseries.

Hernando SEN Resource Map



**Made for anyone
in contact with a
Hernando SEN baby.**
Updated Feb 2021

Hernando County Resource Map for Mom's and Families

KEY POINTS

- Does mom need a substance abuse assessment/evaluation?
- What state & local systems are involved?
- What level of service(s) have been recommended?
- What services have been tried in the past?
- Who are the right people to connect with?

**Infant Developmental Assessment
Early Steps (0-3 yr.)**
Pat Califano pcalifa1@jhmi.edu
(727) 767-4403

CONNECT
Lynne Hough - LHough@wellflorida.org
1-(877)-678-9355
Please refer baby, even if Mom is enrolled in Healthy Start

ACCESS FLORIDA
dcf-access.dcf.state.fl.us/access/index.do
Robert Bradburn (352) 279-1962
Robert.bradburn@myflfamilies.com

Levels of Mental & Behavioral Health Services

- Outpatient
- Intensive Outpatient
- Emergency/Crisis Services
- Residential Treatment

Emergency/Detox/Treatment Assistance
Mobile Response Team
24/7 Mental Health crisis response- up to age 24 yrs
Call BayCare: (352)-467-OKAY (6529)
Jenine Martin: jenine.martin@baycare.org

Emergency: 911
Poison Control Line: 1-800-222-1222
Suicide Crisis Line: 1-800-SUICIDE or 273-8255
Hernando County Sheriff's Office-
(Baker Act Immediate Crisis): (352) 754-6830

Detox/Treatment
New Vision (if not pregnant): (352) 797-4649
Springbrook Hospital: (352) 596-4306
Spring Gardens: (866) 244-9556
Operation PAR-MAT: (352)-666-5709
BayCare: (866) 762-1743
Financial Assistance Childcare: (727) 233-8291
*** Financial Assistance May Be Available

Parent/Caregiver apply for:
Medicaid
Healthy Kids

Contact Lutheran Services FL
• ACCESS to Care Line 1 (877) 229-9098

Health Insurance
Contact health plan
Medicaid Insurance (below)

Ask for behavioral health coordination through the health plan & search for providers

INFANT
DEVELOPMENT/
ASSESSMENT/
HOME VISITING

FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE

HEALTH INSURANCE

PARENTING/
EDUCATION

MENTAL HEALTH
AND/OR
SUBSTANCE USE

HOUSING/
FOOD

Housing Resources
Domestic Violence
Dawn Center: (352) 686-8430

Human Trafficking
More to Life (941)-227-1012 (Local)
National: (888) 373-7888

Transitional Shelters
Jericho Road: (352) 799-2912
Mary's House (352) 799-2912 (no substance use)
Life Center (352) 515-0119

Women and Infants WIC Program: (352) 540-6800

Breastfeeding: (352) 540-6924



CONNECT
Lynne Hough
LHough@wellflorida.org
1-877-678-9355

Kids Central Inc.
Kinship Care and Child Abuse Prevention
Services
Michelle Mongeluzo
michelle.mongeluzo@kidscentralinc.org
352-387-3439

Healthy Start
Dina Martinez
Dina.Martinez@KidsCentralinc.org
(352) 848-3747
Serving pregnant woman and children
under 3 years of age

Healthy Families
Dana Selfridge
dsselfridge@pascokidsfirst.org
(727) 247-8335

Obria Medical Clinic
Pregnancy & Relationship Center
Cheryl Bennett
cbennett@purehope.org
(352) 544-0911

Birth Control-Health Department
(352) 540-6800

Food Assistance
Catholic Charities: (352) 686-9897
People Helping People: (352) 515-1663
NorthCliff Baptist Church: (352) 683-5882
Grace World Outreach: (352) 247-7883
St. Vincent DePaul: (352) 688-3331
Grace Presbyterian Church: (352) 683-2082

Learn more at: hernandosens.org

Hernando Plan of Safe Care



Currently being used in both Hernando birthing hospitals through hospital social workers.

Plan of Safe Care for Infants Affected by Prenatal Substance Use

A plan of safe care is intended to be developed at the earliest point that the mother's use/ infant's exposure is to ANY substances (legal, to include alcohol, prescription medications, medication assisted treatment or illegal) is identified and is intended to facilitate a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to responding to the needs of the entire family.

Plan of initiation (select): Prenatal _____ Birth _____ Perinatal _____

Contact Information:

Mother's Name:	Phone Number:
Address:	

Identifying Information:

Infant's Name:	DOB:	Infant's Doctor:
Hospital & Admission Date:	Discharge Date:	APGAR Score:

Include partners, frequent visitors to the home:

Name	DOB Age	Relationship to infant	Mental Health History Yes/ No	Mental Health Diagnosis	Substance Use History Yes/No (Frequency of use/ duration/ last usage)	Treatment History Yes/ No	Treatment Type/ Comments
		Mother					
		Father					

Siblings (include all siblings, note if they are not living in the home & reason):

Name	Prior DCF History (reason)	Development (milestones, delays, etc.)	Service Needs	Comments

Check box(es) applicable to drug screen exposure:	Mom	Infant	Dad
Methadone / Buprenorphine			
Opioids			
Benzodiazepines			
Marijuana			
Cocaine			
Methamphetamines/Amphetamine			

Additional Exposures:	Mom	Infant	Dad
Nicotine/tobacco			
Alcohol			
Other			
Other			

Prenatal Care History:

--

Infant Hospital Care: (withdrawal symptoms, diagnosis, medical / developmental concerns)

--

Social Concerns /Risk Factors (prior involvement with child welfare, family supports, living arrangements, parent-child interactions, parent-parent interactions, financial supports, medical/mental hindrances, screening/education needed)

--

Check box(es) for all applicable services and new referrals for infant and mother/father/caregivers:

	Discussed	Current	New Referral	Organization Referred to	Contact person (if applicable)
Medication Assisted Treatment					
Mental Health Counseling					
Substance Abuse Counseling					
12 Step Group					
Recovery Supports					
Smoking Cessation					
Post-partum OB, GYN, & family planning					
Parenting / Family Support Groups					
Home visiting					
Healthy Start					
WIC					
Infant Developmental Services					
Housing Assistance					
Financial Assistance					
Childcare					
Safe Sleep Plan					
Multi-Disciplinary Team Staffing					
Other					

Hospital discharge plan/instructions/transition home plan (Ex. Follow up appointments, infant care, etc.):

--

Post-discharge Family Strengths and Goals (Ex: breastfeeding, housing, smoking cessation, parenting, recovery):

--

Signatures: Include parents, caregiver, staff person completing the plan (Parents to retain a copy of signed plan).

Name Print	Role (i.e. parent, staff)	Signature	Accepted	Declined	Date

Upon acceptance & completion fax the completed form to county agency below. Date faxed: _____

FAX COMPLETED FORM TO:

Cost of SEN Babies In Hernando County



**SEN babies are
expensive**



Brief Economic Cost Analysis of Substance Exposed Newborns, Babies, and Young Children in Hernando County

Examining the Financial Cost of Parental Substance Abuse Throughout the
System of Care Identified by Service Utilization and Cost Estimation Research

Prepared by

Lisa M. Hilko, Hernando Community Coalition
Tresa J. Watson, Hernando Community Coalition
and the Hernando SEN Taskforce



The Hernando SEN Taskforce provides the supports, services and understanding
necessary so that Hernando substance exposed newborns and children may
thrive and develop - remember they are Hernando's future!

Visit us at hernandosen.org
to learn more and find local support services.



Cost of SEN Babies In Hernando County



SEN babies are expensive

Estimated Annual Financial Cost in Hernando County from Substance Exposure to Newborns and Infants



Costs Due to NAS in the NICU



1 million+ per year

Estimated Cost of Babies Diagnosed with **Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)** in a Hernando County Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Per Year = **\$1,002,496.00**

45+ babies per year in Hernando County are treated for NAS based off 3-year averages, of which 3 per year are babies born to teen mothers.

This does not include other newborns that are substance exposed without a NAS diagnosis.

Estimated Cost of Neonatal Healthcare for Infants Born to Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy in Hernando County Per Year = **\$126,720.00**

108+ babies per year in Hernando County are born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy based off 3-year averages.

In 2019, the rate of mothers who report smoking in Hernando County is more than double the Statewide average.

Cost of Neonatal Healthcare Due to Smoking During Pregnancy



125k+ per year

Cost of FASD Among Infants Due to Prenatal Alcohol Use



300k+ per year

Estimated Annual Cost of **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)** in Hernando County Among Infants 0 to 1 based off State and National Estimates = **\$319,340.00 per year**

An estimated 14 babies per year in Hernando County meet criteria for FASD.

There is an average of 68 calls per year to Child Welfare for SEN in Hernando County. The average cost per investigation (not including further action in the Child Welfare system) is \$88 per call.

Cost of Child Welfare Investigations Due to Calls for SEN



6k+ per year



Preventing Substance Misuse and Helping Those in Need of Services Receive Treatment Benefits Hernando County. To learn more, find help, or get involved, visit www.hernandosen.org

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a term used to describe a set of problems a baby experiences when withdrawing from exposure to drugs. NAS often follows an opiate exposure such as heroin or a prescription opioid.

The term **Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN)** refers to infants that are affected by prenatal exposure (while the mother is pregnant) to substances such as prescribed medications, alcohol, illicit drugs, and tobacco. Nearly every substance taken by a woman passes from her blood stream through the placenta to her fetus.

FOR DETAILS ON ANALYSIS, COST ESTIMATES, AND DATA SOURCES, please visit hernandosen.org for the full report: Brief Economic Cost Analysis of Substance Exposed Newborns, Babies, and Young Children in Hernando County

Hernandosen.com/org



Hernando SEN/ELC Project



The Impact of
Prenatal
Substance
Exposure
on Children

This is offered free to everyone!

<https://phelc.talentlms.com/index>



2019 Circuit 5 Conference

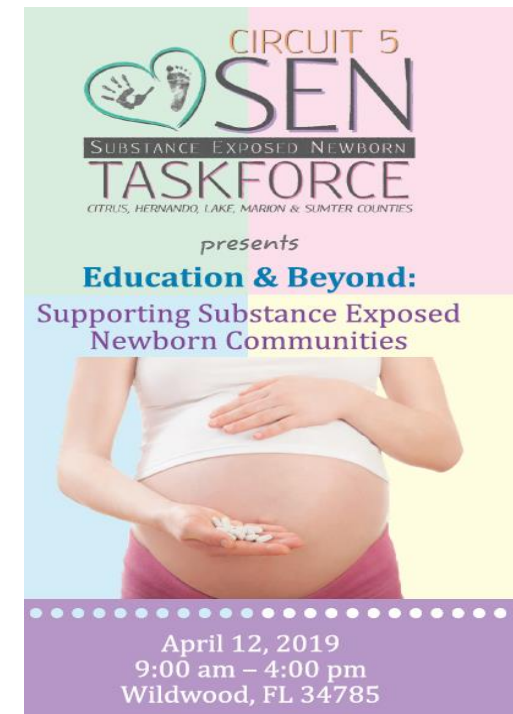


Education & Beyond:

Supported Substance Exposed Newborn Communities

- April 12, 2019-In Person
- 5 State/National SEN/NAS Expert Speakers
- 223 Participants
- 25 Circuit 5 funded Sponsors

Hernando SEN convened Florida's Fifth Judicial Circuit (Citrus, Hernando, Marion, Lake and Sumter Counties) to assess how it can be improved by sharing information and partnered to sponsor the conference.



2021 Virtual Workshop Series



Workshop Participation

367 total live registrations participants

88 Physicians/Nurses (Live)

4/9-313 live participants/24 replay video for Dr. Burd

4/16-302 live participants/21 replay video for Dr. Metz

4/23-263 live participants/10 replay video for Dr. Forbes

4/30-226 live participants/0 replays for Dr. Augsten & Dr. Vicencio

Workshop Topics

April 9, 2021 – Dr. Larry Burd-Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

April 16, 2021 – Dr. Tori Metz-Marijuana & Pregnancy

April 23, 2021 – Dr. Dawn Forbes-Helping At Risk Pregnancy Succeed

April 30, 2021 – Dr. Augusten/Dr. Vicencio-Mothers in Recovery/Maternal Addiction Team



2nd Annual Education & Beyond:

Supporting Substance Exposed Newborn Communities

Fridays in April from 11am – 1pm

A Series of Virtual Workshops

4.9.2021 • 4.16.2021 • 4.23.2021 • 4.30.2021

Opioid and substance misuse in Florida is a serious problem.
Join the **Hernando & Pasco SEN Taskforces** to hear from
4 national medical topic experts!

The event is designed for medical, healthcare and hospital professionals, social and behavioral health workers, nonprofits, treatment providers, law enforcement officers, legal professionals, prevention coalitions and experts, early learning coalitions, state agencies and all others involved in caring for opioid addicted pregnant patients and their newborns.

REGISTER NOW **EVENT LINK** **REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00**

Changes to \$45.00 after Monday, Mar. 1, 2021



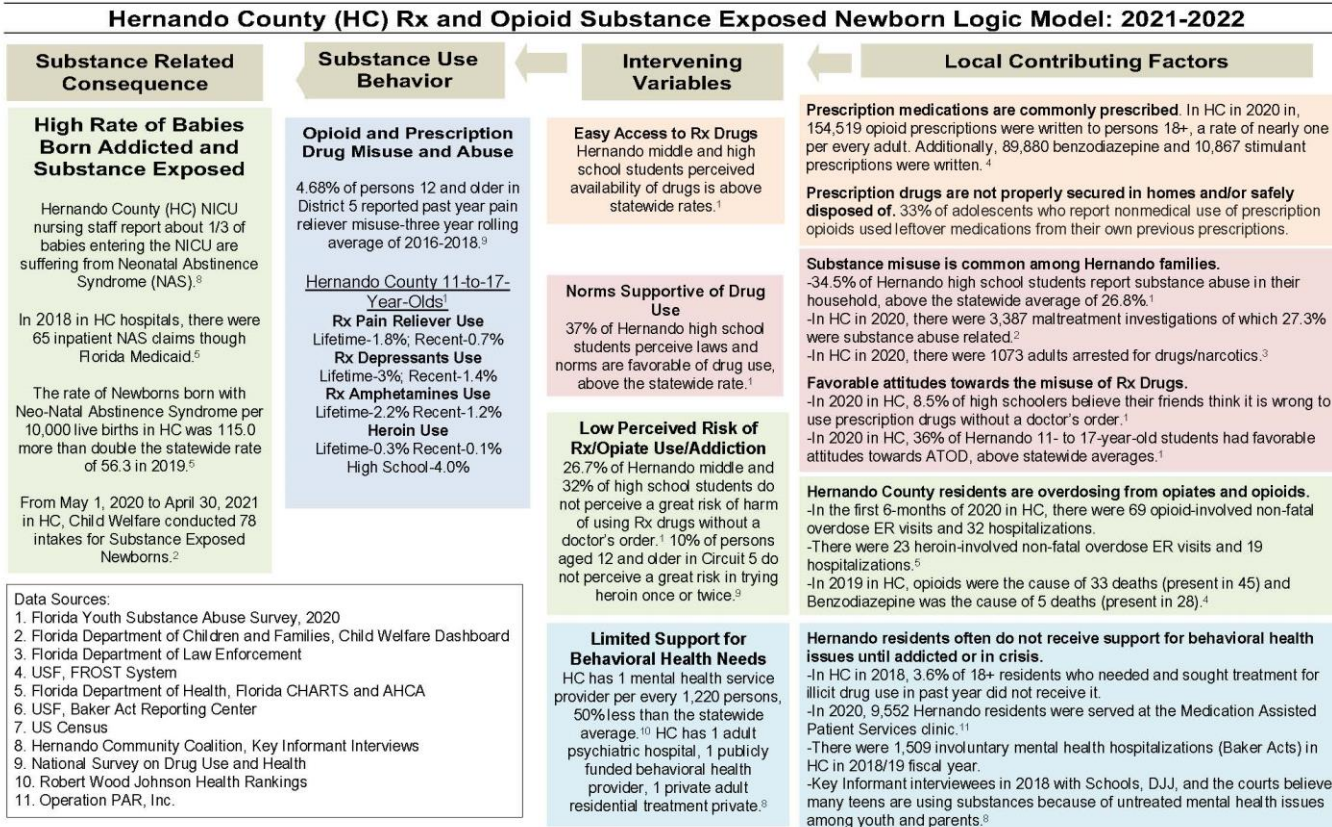
In order to offer this opportunity at a minimal cost of \$35 per attendee, with CEUs for all in attendance – including physicians, nurses, social services, behavioral health, we are seeking sponsor and supporter partnerships for this workshop series. [Learn more about sponsorships.](#)

For more information, call: 352-596-8000 or visit www.hernandosen.org



Click Here for Conference Website

Hernando SEN Logic Model



- **Innovation – Logic Model to guide our work and focus on the needs of the community.** Hernando SEN's logic model is a visual way to present our plan of action for shared partner understanding for the components to work together, identify desired outcomes, and establishes our timelines.
- **Our Logic Model is a tool for planning, management, and evaluation.** Working through this process clarifies the steps for bringing about our desired changes and can identify gaps.

Hernando SEN – 2017 Planning



***Indicates Completed

Substance Exposed Newborn Committee Meeting (January 11, 2016) – Consensus Workshop Product

Consensus Workshop Focus Question: If we could do anything to address the issue of substance exposed newborns, what would we focus on?									
<i>Prevent SEN</i>	<i>Public Awareness</i>	<i>Community Resources</i>	<i>Facts and Data</i>	<i>Intervention During Pregnancy</i>	<i>Collaboration Initiatives</i>	<i>Cultural Change</i>	<i>Professional Education</i>	<i>SEN Caregiver Toolbox</i>	<i>Treatment Expansion for Caregivers</i>
Educate prior to conception *** Educate families on the importance of not using *** Prevention- education, access to birth control *** Prevention- early intervention resources ***	Media Announcements- social media, print, TV, radio Educate- community, families, moms, doctors, community partners ***	Offer resources to addicted pregnant mothers *** Universal list of numbers for treatment Providing a 24 safe place Connections with charitable organization for incentives ***	Track number of *** babies born addicted Long term effect on child and society Consensus on the definition of “substance exposure” *** Gather and distribute accurate facts and data (current) ***	One-to-one contact with pregnant parents Drug testing pregnant women Early intervention- working with mom in pregnancy Early intervention- drug testing mothers, methadone, etc. Decrease number of SEN births by providing intervention prior to delivery	Improve the process for reporting SEN from hospitals to DCF *** Increase communication with hospitals *** Actually engaging in efforts to reduce access to substance	Reducing stigmas attached to being treated for substance abuse ***	Educating hospitals about services available *** Workshops for medical professional (mental and physical health guidance) Designing a poster for the OB offices *** Educate doctors/medical community about addiction resources available Educate providers (PEDS, OBs, hospitals) on facts and community resources for prevention and intervention ***	Resources post birth for babies and mothers *** Education for mothers on effects on the baby and what to expect when baby comes home Educate all parents on additional (ongoing) needs of SEN babies and community resources	Treatment for mothers, and SEN Increase availability and access to treatment Increase treatment

Hernando SEN – 2021 Planning



Original Date Completed – January 11, 2016
Updated – June, 2021

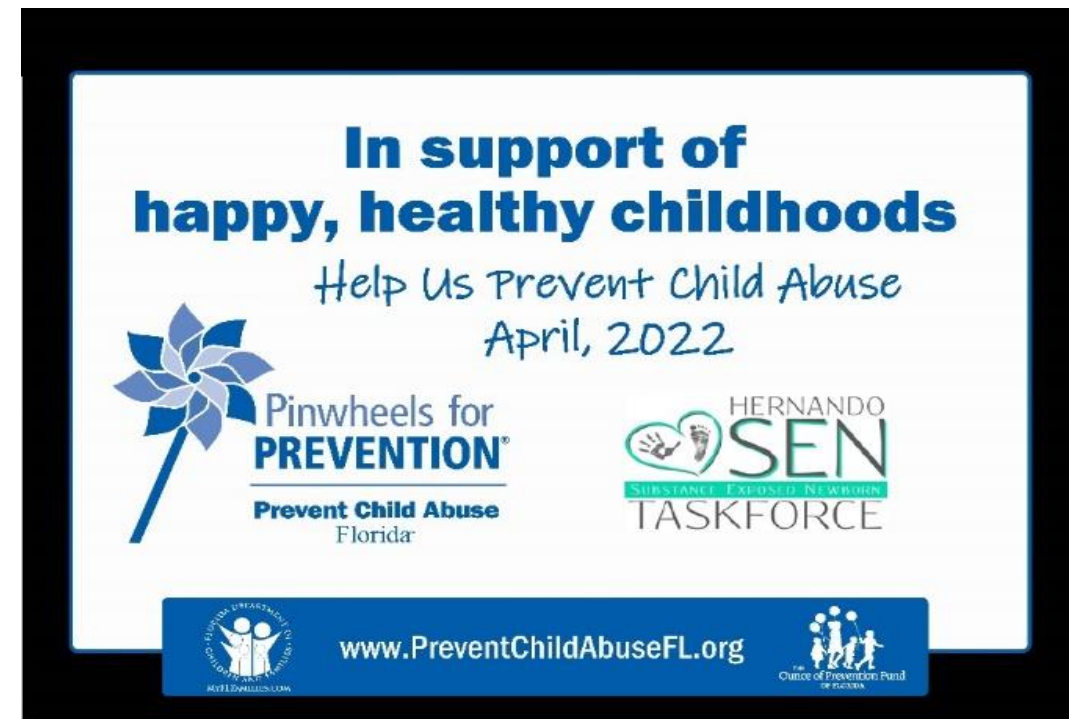
Hernando SEN will be
readdressing areas of focus in
upcoming months.

If we could do anything to address the issue of substance exposed newborns in Hernando County – What would we focus on?							
Prevent SEN	Public Awareness Community Resources	Facts and Data	Intervention During Pregnancy	Collaboration Initiatives	Professional Education & Cultural Diversity	SEN Caregiver Toolbox	Education & Support
<p>Encourage people to seek assistance upon notification of a POSITIVE pregnancy test.</p> <p>Develop education materials and an awareness campaign to educate women of childbearing age, as well as their Significant others and families, about the dangers of substance use/abuse during pregnancy</p>	<p>Geofencing on social media</p> <p>Conference 2022</p> <p>Billboards by hospitals educating on SEN</p> <p>Messaging on buses and bus stops</p> <p>Provide Law Enforcement officers education regarding the reporting of substance use/abusing pregnant women to social services</p>	<p>Medical providers develop consistent protocols for universal screening and testing of newborns.</p>	<p>Offer home visits</p> <p>Develop and Coordinate a prenatal POSC: Whenever possible, health care, behavioral health or other treatment providers should initiate and begin developing a POSC prior to the birth of the newborn in order to encourage parental engagement and facilitate</p>	<p>Increase community outreach for meetings in greatest area of needs</p> <p>Expand the availability of Home Visiting and Public Health Nurses</p> <p>Promote educational information and skill-building for parents and families, including evidence-based programs to develop effective parenting skills</p>	<p>Provide education for empowerment of frontline workers – office staff, medical assistants – not only providers</p> <p>Provide training on Substance Use Disorder and stigma for health professionals working in Hernando County</p> <p>Ensure that training includes special attention to the SUD-related problems faced by pregnant women and young mothers.</p>	<p>SEN safe sleep furnishings – DOH free or discounted care/immunizations/WIC services</p>	<p>Evidence-based programs that combine opioid agonist treatment with efforts to help opioid-addicted parents regulate their emotions, lower their stress, and find pleasure in their caregiving role have led to decreases in the severity of maternal addiction as well as improved well-being for mothers and children.</p> <p>Strategies to empower mothers by supporting their involvement</p>

Hernando SEN – 2022 National Child Abuse Prevention Month



- Receive Proclamation and Hernando SEN Presentation to the City of Brooksville
- Governor DeSantis Proclaims April 2022 Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Opt-Ed/Press Releases sent to Hernando Times, SunCoast News, Hernando Sun and Hernando Beacon
- 2022 Child Abuse Prevention Social Media Messaging on Hernando SEN partners social media platforms



Hernando SEN – 2022 National Child Abuse Prevention Month



- 500 blue satin ribbons for partners, committee member and those working with children to during April, 2022 honoring Child Abuse Prevention Month wear entire month
- Posters to Bravera Spring Hill-Labor and Delivery, NICU, HCA Florida Oak Hill Hospital-Labor & Delivery, NICU, Pediatric ER, Florida Department of Health-Hernando County, BayCare Behavioral Health, The Life Center, local ob gyn and pediatricians offices
- Wear Blue on Friday-April 1 and April 22, 2022



Hernando SEN City of Brooksville Proclamation

On April 4, 2022 – The City of Brooksville, Florida presented a resolution to Hernando SEN to recognize National Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Parents who abuse substances are less likely to be able to function effectively in a parental role. Parents who abuse substances may have physical and mental impairments. They often spend their limited household resources on seeking, purchasing and using substances resulting in the basic needs of their children being unmet resulting in neglect.



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, April was designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in 1983 to raise awareness for the need for efforts to be made to prevent child abuse in the hopes of giving every child a chance to succeed and to ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment that is free from abuse and neglect; and

Whereas, it is estimated that 9% of children (6 million) live with at least one parent who uses alcohol or drugs. Those children are more likely to experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and/or neglect than those in non-substance abusing households; and

Whereas, the increase in substance abusing parents has created an increase in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), premature birth, and drug withdrawal in developing babies. Every 25 minutes, a baby is born with NAS; and

Whereas, there are more than 82 babies born each year in this county treated for NAS based off 3-year averages, of which 3 per year are babies born to teen mothers; and

Whereas, parents who abuse substances often spend their limited household resources on using substances and neglecting basic needs of their children; and

Whereas, in NAS babies, symptoms immediately following the birth of Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN) babies include constantly crying, tremors, irritability, sleep problems, hyperactive reflexes, seizures, poor feeding and sucking, and many others which may increase parental stress and decrease tolerance resulting in an increased risk of child abuse; and

Whereas, maltreated children of substance abusing parents are more likely to have poorer physical, intellectual, social, and emotional outcomes, and are at greater risk of developing substance abuse problems themselves. They are more likely to be placed in foster care and remain there longer than maltreated children from non-substance abusing families; and

Whereas, longer-term outcomes of Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN) babies include developmental delays and speech/language impairments which leads to difficulties in learning which can cause parental difficulty in coping and which causes an increased risk of child abuse; and

Whereas, Child Abuse can occur in any family regardless of race, ethnicity, health history, or economic status; and

Whereas, steps can be taken to improve a child's quality of life and therefore decrease the risk of SEN or NAS such as education about the dangers of alcohol and drug use during pregnancy.

In recognition of April, 2022 as **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**, the Hernando County Substance Exposed Newborn Task Force hopes to:

- Increase awareness about SEN & NAS to pregnant women and the correlation between substance abuse and child abuse.
- Assist mothers in the child welfare system to gain priority access to substance abuse treatment and partnerships to ensure coordinated service linkage between child welfare and other community agencies.
- Increase education and reduce stigma in seeking help for pregnant women using substances that poses an increased risk to their children for child abuse and neglect.
- Provide community resources and education to residents about the programs and resources available.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the undersigned as City Council for and on behalf of the City of Brooksville, do hereby proclaim that April as **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the seal of the City of Brooksville to be affixed this 4th day of April, 2022.

David Bailey, Council Member
Robert B. Battista, Council Member
Pat Bratton, Mayor
Blake Bell, Vice Mayor
Betty Erhard, Council Member
Attest: Jennifer J. Battista, CMC, City Clerk



Hernando SEN BOCC Resolution-Hernando County



On January 11, 2022 – the Board of County Commissioners-Hernando County presented a resolution to Hernando SEN to recognize National Birth Defects Prevention Month.

Birth defects from SEN and NAS include cleft lips and palettes, heart defects, genital defects, spinal bifida, brain damage, glaucoma, adnominal trauma, deformed limbs, skeletal abnormalities and dysmorphic facial features.



Next Steps

Hernando SEN-Innovation Continues



- ✓ Mentoring Lake County to develop and implement the Lake County SEN Taskforce
- ✓ 2023 – 3rd Education & Beyond: Supporting Substance Exposed Newborn Communities
- ✓ Update Hernando SEN Toolkit-Edition 4
- ✓ Explore innovative strategies to reach community partners
- ✓ Engage innovative “right” partners to continue enhancing taskforce efforts – DCF, YFA, ELC, PAR, etc.
- ✓ Ongoing presentations throughout State of Florida to educate and assist other communities to work on SEN efforts – presentation submitted to FAADA.

Continue Hernando County Efforts Including:

Policy Initiatives

Professional Education

Provider Strategies

Public Awareness



Thank You!



Our Contact Information:

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