



Office of Substance Use Services Women's Services Project LINK Program

Glenda M. Knight, LPC, CSAC
Women's Services Coordinator
and
Specialty Population Manager





Overview of Project LINK

 History

 Structure and Mission

 Goals

 Services

 Monitoring and Oversight

 Sites



History



In 1989 committee representatives from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Virginia Department of Health, and Virginia Cooperative Extension formulated an innovative approach to address the diverse needs of substance-using women and their infants.



The committee designed a coordinated approach named **Project LINK** which provided for the development of integrated service plans to meet the multiple and complex needs related to women impacted by addiction with one single point of entry.



In 1992, the first five Project LINK cohorts were implemented and currently, there are 14 sites.

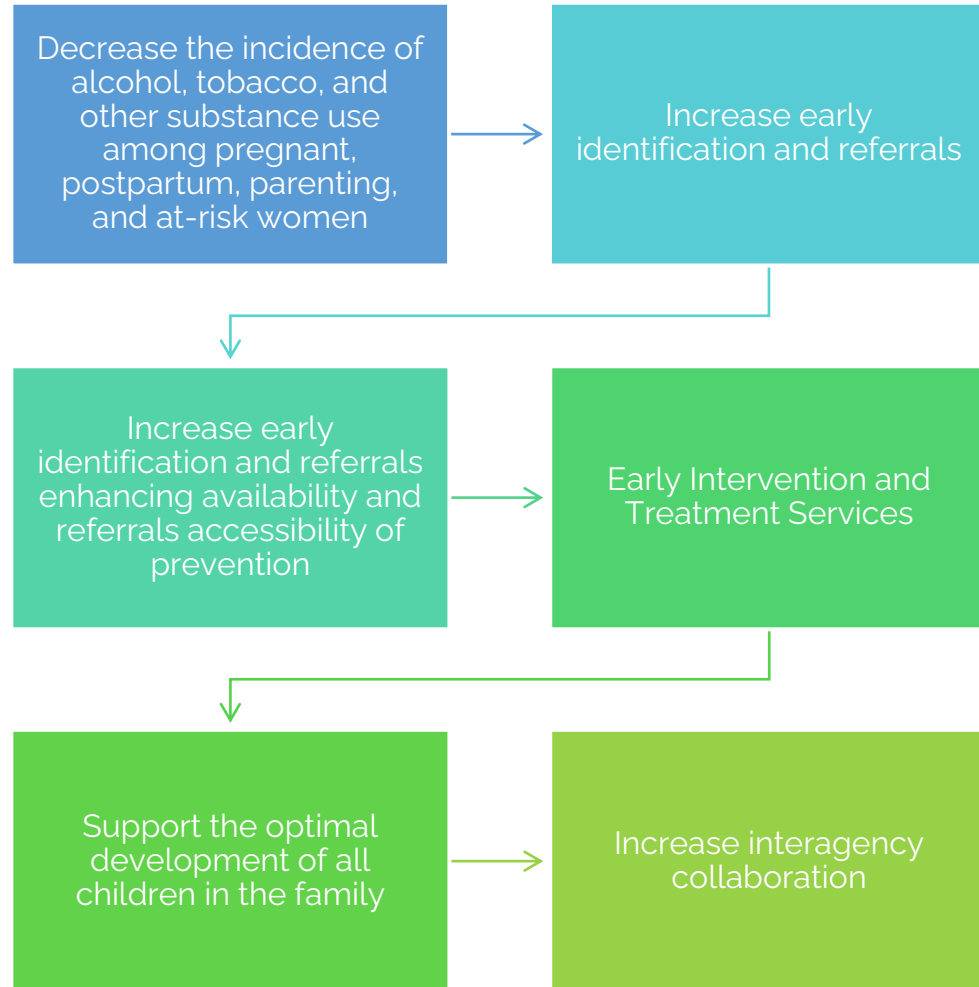
Mission and Structure



The **mission** of Project LINK includes reducing existing barriers to accessing substance use disorder and co-occurring disorder services; coordination of existing services; advocacy; enhancing the knowledge and skills of service providers and community stakeholders and augmenting existing services to address the special needs of the identified population including infants and children.



Project LINK programs are housed in Community Services Boards or Behavioral Health Authorities.



Admission Criteria

Pregnant women with current clinical presentation or history of substance use disorder

Postpartum women who delivered Substance Exposed Infants (SEI)

Individuals voluntarily seeking services for substance use disorder or co-occurring disorders

Positive response to high-risk behavioral screenings

Provider referral

Individuals mandated to treatment by the courts or the Department of Social Services



Postpartum Referrals (Substance Exposed Infants)

10.4.2.2 Report to the Community Services Board

The Code of Virginia §§ [32.1-127 B6](#) and [63.2-1509 B](#) require that each licensed hospital develop and implement a protocol requiring written discharge plans for identified, substance-abusing, postpartum women and their infants. The discharge plan should be discussed with the patient and appropriate referrals made and documented. The discharge planning process shall involve, to the extent possible, the father of the infant and any members of the mother's extended family who may participate in the follow-up care for the mother and the infant. Hospitals are required to notify the Community Services Board (CSB) of the jurisdiction in which the woman resides to appoint a discharge plan manager for any identified substance-abusing postpartum woman. The CSB shall implement and manage the discharge plan.

Project LINK SERVICES

- Comprehensive case management services
- Children's safety assessments
- HIV risk assessments
- Referrals to prenatal and medical care
- Transportation assistance
- Childcare assistance to attend treatment appointments
- Home visits
- Emergency housing
- Therapeutic and psychosocial groups
- Parenting information, education, support
- Clothing and personal care items
- Baby supplies
- Family events
- Outreach and training to community stakeholders



Project LINK Services (EBPs)

Nurturing Parenting for Families in
Substance Abuse Treatment and
Recovery Program

EBP Trauma Program: Seeking
Safety, Beyond Trauma, or Trauma
and Recovery Empowerment Model
(TREM)

Peer Recovery Services





Services/Referrals

Individual
Psychotherapy

Outpatient SUD
Treatment

Withdrawal
Management

Residential Treatment

Psychiatric Services
(Medication
Management)

Intensive Outpatient
(IOP)

Medication Assisted
Treatment

Linkage to
development services
or therapeutic services
for infants and
children*



Monitoring and Oversight

Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUBG) requirements for pregnant and parenting women with dependent children

Each program receives \$100,000.00 from SUBG Women's Set Aside administered by DBHDS

Bi-annual Service Delivery and Outcomes at Discharge Reports

Annual financial and narrative reports

Quarterly Project LINK Managers/Directors Meetings


Biennial federal block grant reviews and site visits

Sites

Region 1

- ❖ Alleghany-Highlands CSB (FY2023)
- ❖ Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare (FY1992)
- ❖ Horizon Behavioral Healthcare (FY2022)
- ❖ Rappahannock Area CSB (FY1992)
- ❖ Region Ten CSB (FY1992)

Region 3

- ❖ Cumberland Mountain CSB (FY2001)
 - ❖ Dickenson County Behavioral Health (FY2001)
 - ❖ Highlands CSB (FY2023)
 - ❖ Mount Rogers CSB (FY2019)
 - ❖ New River Valley CSB (FY2022)
 - ❖ Planning District One (FY2001)
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Sites

Region 4

- ❖ District 19 CSB (FY1999)

Region 5

- ❖ Hampton Newport News CSB (FY1992)
- ❖ Virginia Beach CSB (1992)



Questions

