**Maine’s Plan of Safe Care (POSC)**

**Implementation Checklist for Public Health Nurses**

***Plan of Safe Care (POSC)*** *to be* ***created*** *with healthcare personnel (provider, social worker and/or registered nurse). Language previously used was drug affected baby (DAB); current language used is substance exposed infant (SEI).*

* Identify substance exposed infant (SEI), or pregnant mother who is using substances and family.
* Introduce the *Plan of Safe Care (POSC)* for Infant and Caregiver:

1. Explain what *the Plan of Safe Care (POSC)* is and notification and POSC Laws.
   * Title 22 sec 4004-B
   * Title 22 sec 4011-B
2. With a stance of collaboration, invite an open dialogue with the family and begin filling out the *Plan of Safe Care (POSC)* document together.
3. Discuss Maine’s law around notification of substance exposed infants to Office of Child and Family Services with mother. If the POSC is being created prenatally, the notification to OCFS does not happen until **AFTER** the infant is born.
4. Discuss with family where and how the document will be kept until the infant is born. *Please do not send to OCFS until after the birth.*
5. Begin the process of connecting the family and make referrals to resources indicated.
   * Discuss CradleME referral service and services available; PHN, Maine Families, WIC, and Maine’s Early Intervention Program (formally, CDS).

* Please ask mother if having a paper copy of POSC feels safe and if yes, provide copy
  + If the mother has not yet given birth, **please have the mother bring her POSC to the hospital when delivering.**
  + Encourage the mother to share the POSC with other providers, including the infant’s physician.
* Place copy of POSC into mother chart if possible
* Fax and/or email POSC document to OCFS ***only after*** infant has been born

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* If the infant is discharged in the care of someone other than the mother, a *Plan of Safe Care* should be completed with Resource Family as well. **The *Resource Family POSC* will be created with the OCFS caseworker.**

*Thank you for your continued commitment to families and infants.*

*Questions? Please email* **PHN\_POSC.DHHS@maine.gov**