

Overview of the Reducing Stigma, Supporting Parenting Webinar

August 27, 2020 11am PT

The learning objectives for this webinar were:

1. Describe the evidence-informed work being taken by the substance use and child welfare fields, and in collaboration, to support mothers who use substances in parenting
2. Involve researchers, service providers, policy analysts/planners and women with lived and living experience in learning about, and acting on, improving supports for mothers who use substances
3. Promote discussion on how we build the work done by these fields
4. Reflect on how the principles for the Perinatal Substance Use Project are/can be enacted to enhance parenting supports for mothers who use substances

Background:

Pregnant women and mothers who use substances are often judged and discriminated against when seeking care. Despite these challenges, there have been emerging efforts from the substance use and child welfare fields to offer promising programming that support healing and recovery related to substance use, as well as parenting and attachment.

Some examples include:

- Offering substance use treatment/support programming for mothers and children together
- Integrating parenting and mother-child togetherness in healing/recovery processes
- Addressing trauma and violence concerns in substance use treatment and harm reduction

What was covered in this webinar:



The presenters, Nancy Poole and Lindsay Wolfson ([Centre of Excellence for Women's Health](#)) provided evidence from studies about parenting programs, identified from the development of the *Mothering and Opioids: Addressing Stigma, Acting Collaboratively Toolkit* (pictured left). These parenting programs support mothers who use substances in developing and enhancing relationships with their children (and with service providers) while also meeting harm reduction/recovery goals.

The panelists, Toni Winterhoff ([First Nations Health Authority](#)), Caren Morris-Jones ([Urban Native Youth Association](#)), Deborah Pawar ([Ministry of Children and Family Development](#)) and Susan Wright ([The Tree](#)) highlighted that many of the principles of the Perinatal Substance Use Project (pictured right), such as Indigenous cultural safety, harm reduction, being trauma & violence informed, and honouring women's voices are central to their work with parents.

