

# Northeast Regional LEND Programs Partner to Address Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and the Opioid Crisis

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New England has among the highest incidence of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in the US with 13.7 per 1,000 hospital births in 2012. This increase is 2.4 times the national average and is seen consistently across all communities and ethnicities. In response to this issue the NH-ME LEND Program partnered with Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Services at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and five Northeast Regional LEND programs to convene an interprofessional panel of presenters from around New England.

The full day training on *The Effects of Substance Abuse on Young Children* was held on Friday, May 17, 2019 in Concord, NH. Over 100 interdisciplinary professionals attended the training.

The conference evaluation asked participants to identify the types of training needed across disciplines. Approximately thirty percent of the participants provided feedback on this questions (see summary below). Across all disciplines there was general interest in understanding the system of supports available for NAS, as well as a need for more training addressing destigmatizing approaches to care. Training needs differed across service settings (e.g. medical and home visiting or early intervention settings).

The LEND network is uniquely positioned to provide high quality interprofessional training to address NAS and substance use disorders. Identifying the training needs of providers across service settings is a critical first step.

## Training Needs Identified

### Destigmatizing Approaches to Care

- "Build capacity to acknowledge our bias"
- "Remaining mindful and not judgmental when working with people who are substance addicted."

### Build Community Supports

- "More treatment modalities and better funding for long-term programming."

### Medicine

- "Helping medical professionals understand the importance of obtaining complete family histories, social histories early in their relationships with families...and appropriate referral streams for families in need of psychosocial services."
- "Anticipatory guidance for children with substance abuse disorders; resources for adults in their community"
- "Continual updating on treatment options for pregnant women; trends/patterns of SUD; long-term effects of SUD/NAS on children; research findings"

### Educators/Early Intervention/Home Visiting

- "Individualized training for home-visiting staff; including appropriate expectations for our specific program"
- "Early Intervention Support to Providers"
- "Ideas for educators on working collaboratively with families facing challenges related to substance use disorders."
- "Content in Education Programs - Abnormal psych/mental health disorders; OT Eval & interventions for those with SUD; systems involved in behavioral health."

## Participants by Discipline n=102

