

What is a Plan of Safe Care?

A Plan of Safe Care (POSC) identifies appropriate resources needed to promote the health, safety, development, and well-being of the infant, the birthing person, and family comprehensively.

A POSC is coordinated and family-centered:

The Infant

- Infants up to 1 year of age affected by prenatal substance exposure, substance use, or withdrawal symptoms
- Infants affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
- Infants with physical, developmental, cognitive, or emotional harm associated with maternal substance use or withdrawal

The Birthing Person & Family/Caregivers

- Support for families and/or caregivers
- Birthing person with prenatal substance use, including individuals in recovery when a POSC is developed

POSC Myth vs. Reality

X It is not initiated and developed by anyone

X It is not a report of abuse or neglect

X It does not automatically trigger a child welfare case

✓ Only healthcare providers involved in the delivery or care of a child under 1 or a healthcare provider's designee may submit a substance affected infant (SAI) **notification**

✓ A report of a substance affected infant (SAI) does not mean you are reporting abuse or neglect, which has a separate process

✓ A family support process - child welfare cases are distinct from POSC, however both processes use ChildLine

What does a POSC address?

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

- A POSC incorporates treatment plans developed by the MDT serving the family
- Reflects coordinated services and supports for the infant and family

Infant's Needs:

- Health
- Development
- Safety



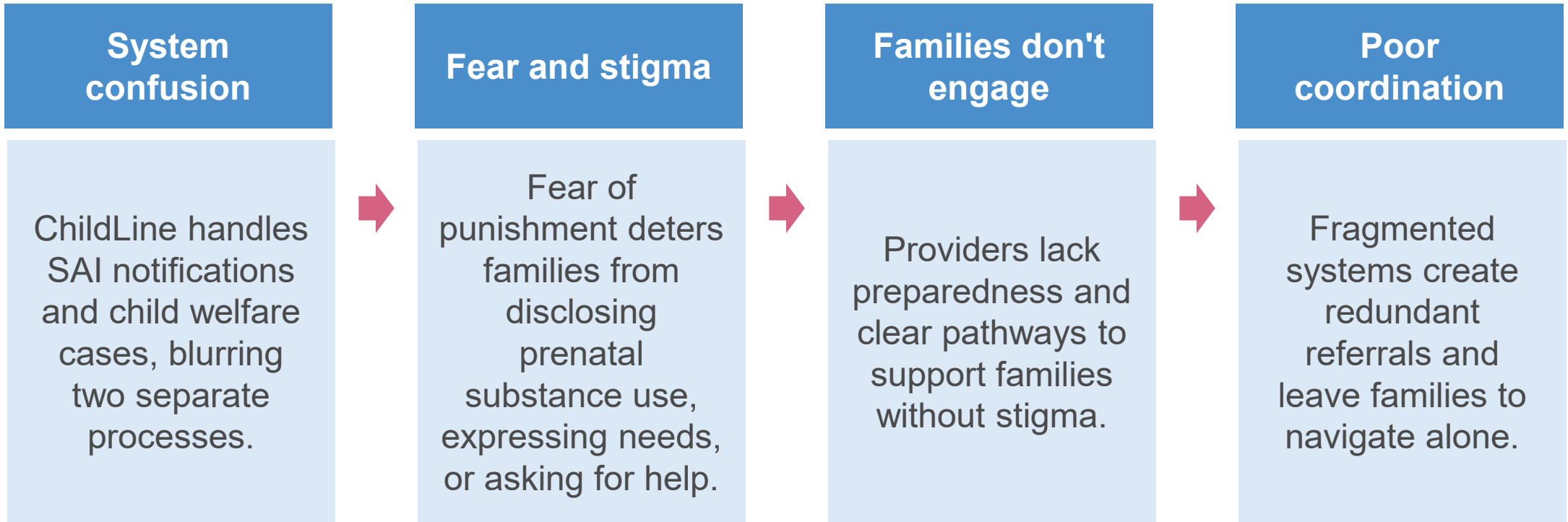
Birth Person's Needs:

- Primary, obstetric, and gynecologic care
- Substance use and mental health services
- Parenting and family supports



The POSC addresses the needs of the infant AND the family, not just the infant's immediate medical needs.

Challenges in Pennsylvania



Challenges in Pennsylvania

Families across Pennsylvania shared barriers they have encountered with POSC:

- POSC not explained well, or with coercion
- Families feel providers judge them when they face barriers to accessing services
- Community awareness about POSC may be more negative