

Pregnancy: Navigating Confidentiality Law to Deliver Evidence-Based Collaborative Care

Gina Hofert, MA, Suda Institute

Mark Botts, JD, UNC School of Government

International Society of Substance Use Professionals 12th Regional Conference 2025:
Pioneering Addiction Science For Global Impact.

Bali, Indonesia

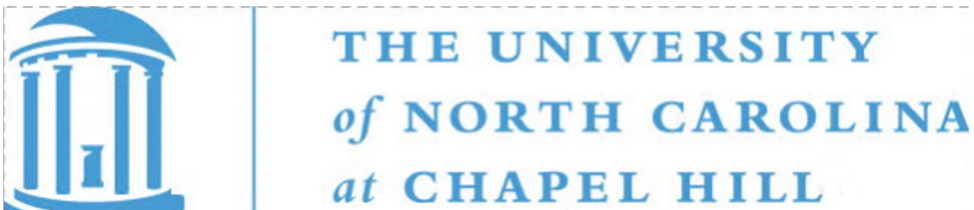


THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



Disclosures and Disclaimers

- No personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation to disclose.
- Funding for a portion of the project is currently supported by Grant# P10RH53742 from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Health Resources and Services Administration for \$100,000 for FY24-25. Other funding sources have included NCDHHS, Opioid Settlement Funds, Smart Start, United Health Care, The Duke Endowment, and other private grants.
- Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Health and Human Services or any or funder.





Need:

Health disparities exist for pregnant patients with opioid use disorder¹



Best-Practice Recommendation:
Collaborative approach to treatment²



Problem:
Confidentiality laws limit collaboration³



Solution:
Use existing laws to build mechanisms for collaboration⁴

1. Patrick, S., et. al (2020). Association of Pregnancy and Insurance Status With Treatment Access for Opioid Use Disorder. *JAMA Network Open*, 3(8):e2013456. Doi:10.1001

2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2016). *A Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders*. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 16-4978. Retrieved from <http://store.samhsa.gov/>

3. Manuel, J.K., Newville, H., Larios, S.E. et al. Confidentiality protections versus collaborative care in the treatment of substance use disorders. *Addict Sci Clin Pract* **8**, 13 (2013). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1940-0640-8-13>

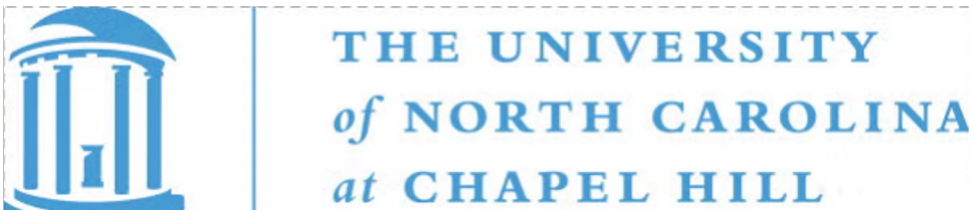
4. Chuang et. al (2020). Integrating Health and Human Services in California's Whole Person Care Medicaid 1115 Waiver Demonstration: an overview of a California demonstration program focused on improving the integrated delivery of health, behavioral health, and social services for certain Medicaid beneficiaries. *Health Affairs*. 39 (4)pp.639-648.

The Trilogy for Success

❖ Good patient outcomes require  Care coordination

❖ Care coordination requires  Collaboration

❖ Collaboration requires  Information sharing





PROBLEM: The Confidentiality Conundrum

Right to Privacy Care

VS.

Need for Coordinated

MULTIPLE LAWS

- HIPAA privacy rule
- Federal SUD regulations
- State laws:
 - Mental health services
 - Social services
 - Child protective services
 - Communicable disease care

MULTIPLE PROVIDERS FOR PSUD CARE

- Prenatal Care, Medical Providers
- Hospitals
- Public Health
- SUD/MAT providers, Outpatient/Residential
- Mental Health Providers
- Social Services Agencies, Child Welfare, Housing/Employment Assistance

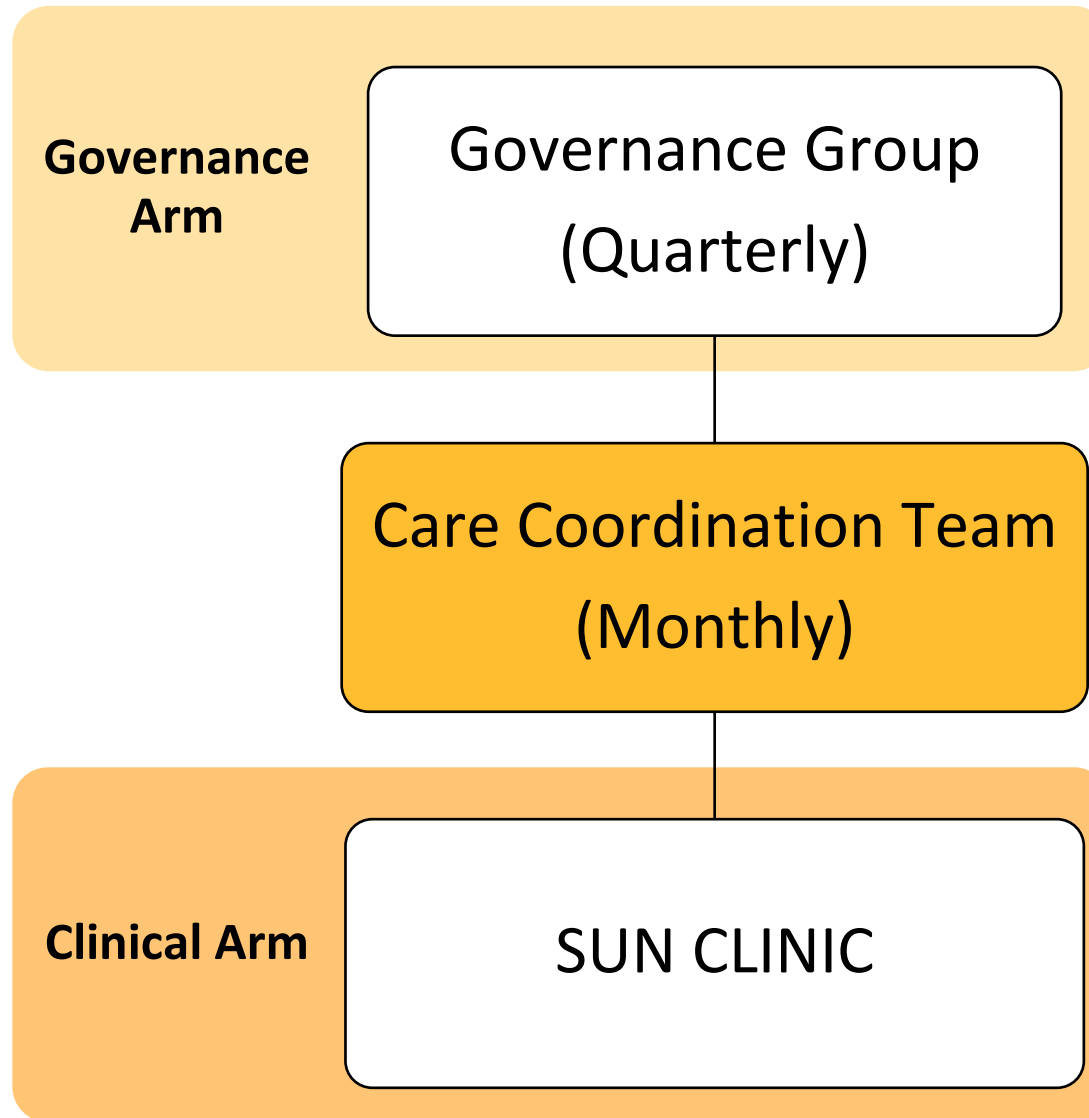
SOLUTION: Legal Infrastructure for Information Sharing

Use the law as a set of tools, not a barrier.

- Agency leadership buy-in
- Memorandum of Understanding
- One multi-agency, multi-law Release of Information for patients
- Administrative court orders
- Educate staff on confidentiality laws
- Monitor implementation and community trust

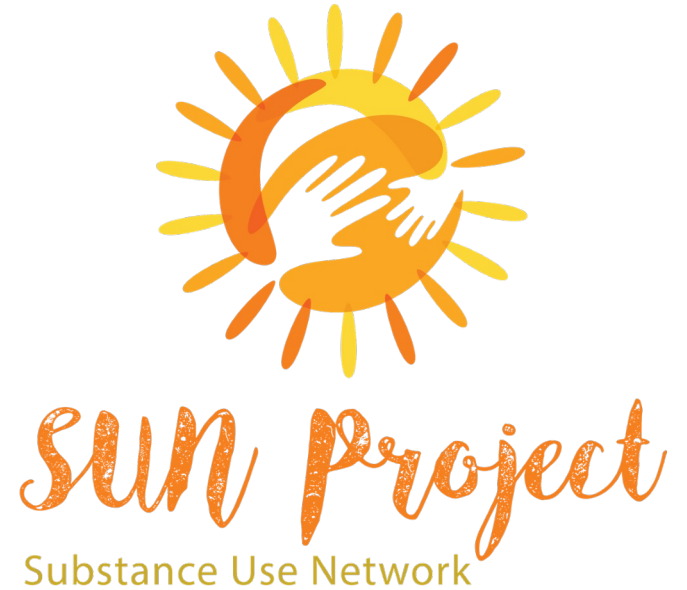


SUN PROJECT COLLABORATIVE



The SUN Clinic at the Cabarrus Health Alliance

- Prenatal care by an OB/GYN with specialized training in addictions
- Ultrasound, lab and fetal monitoring
- Medication to treat opioid use disorder in the form of buprenorphine
- Mental health and substance use therapy services by licensed providers
- Nutritional counseling
- Case management services
- Recovery supports
- Peer support specialist services
- WIC
- Dental care
- Newborn care



Patient Evaluation Outcomes



100% of 1st
trimester clients
delivered at term
(≥37 wks)

30% reduction in
symptomatic
NAS diagnosis
(2021-2023)

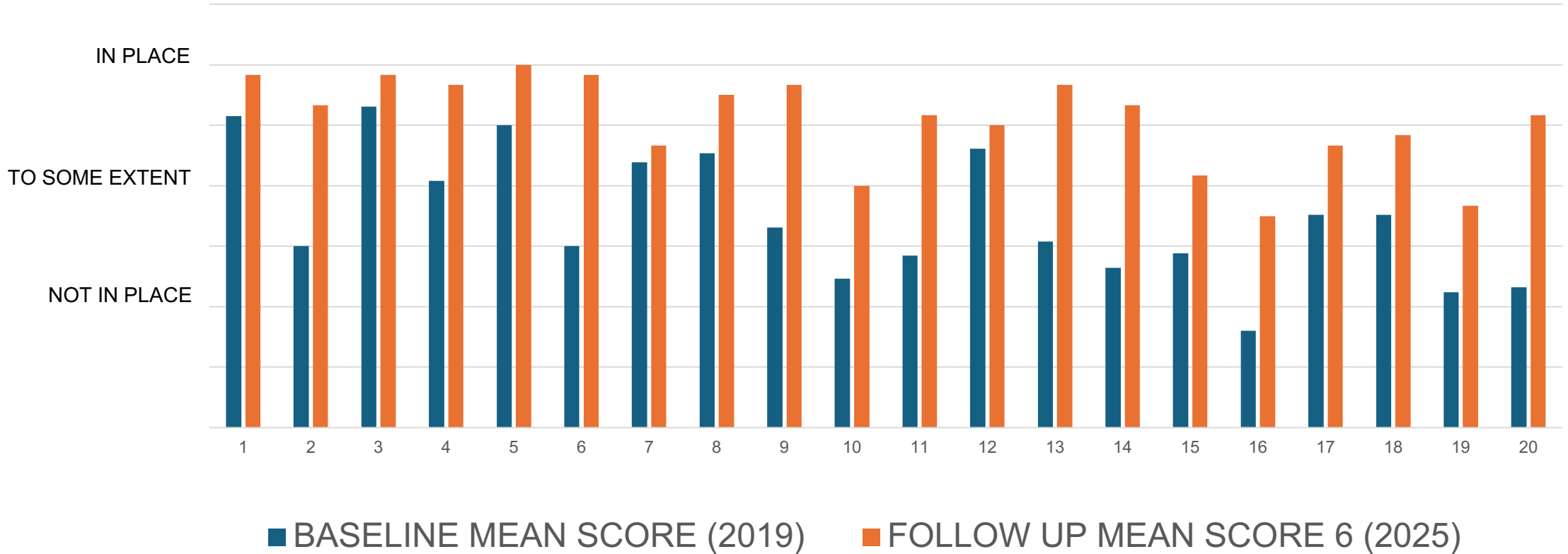
94% program
adherence

93% feel safe at
SUN Clinic

Cross-Sector SAMHSA Assessment
2025 Cabarrus
Year 6 Follow-Up

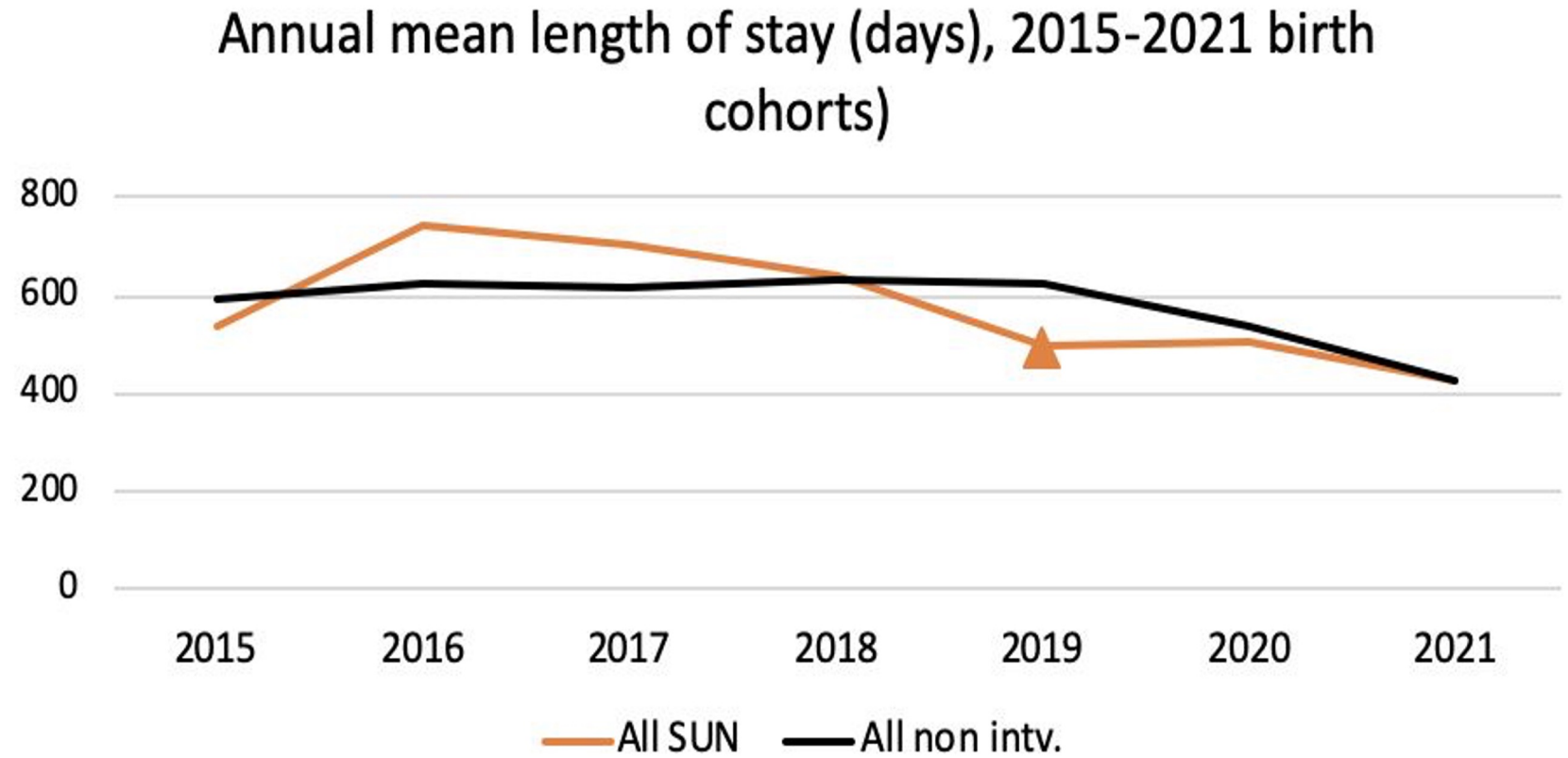
SAMHSA Cross-System Assessment Baseline to Follow-up Yr 6
(2019-2025)

BEST PRACTICE IS:



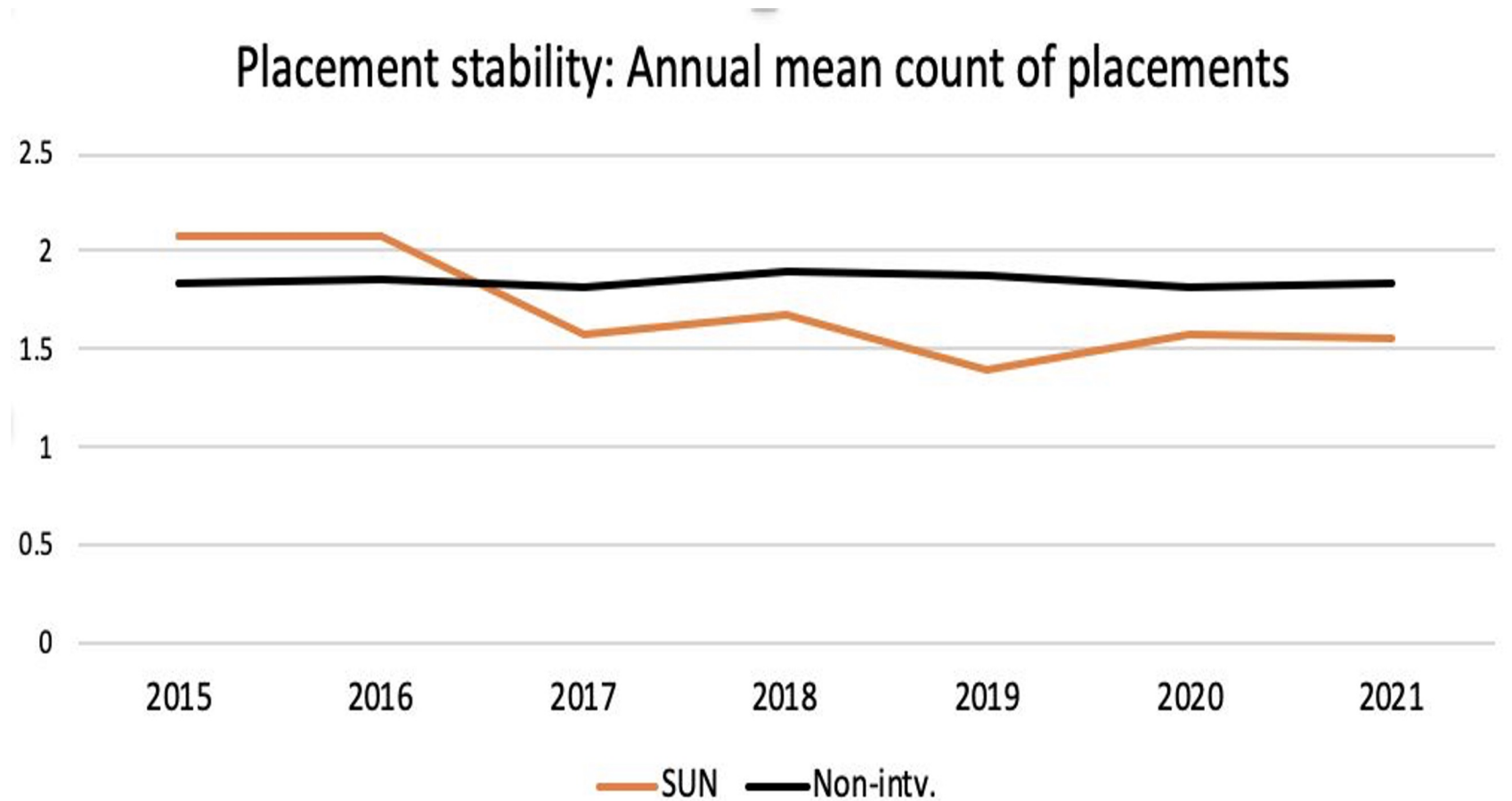
Child Maltreatment County-Level Outcomes

Decrease in # of Days in Out-of-Home Placement



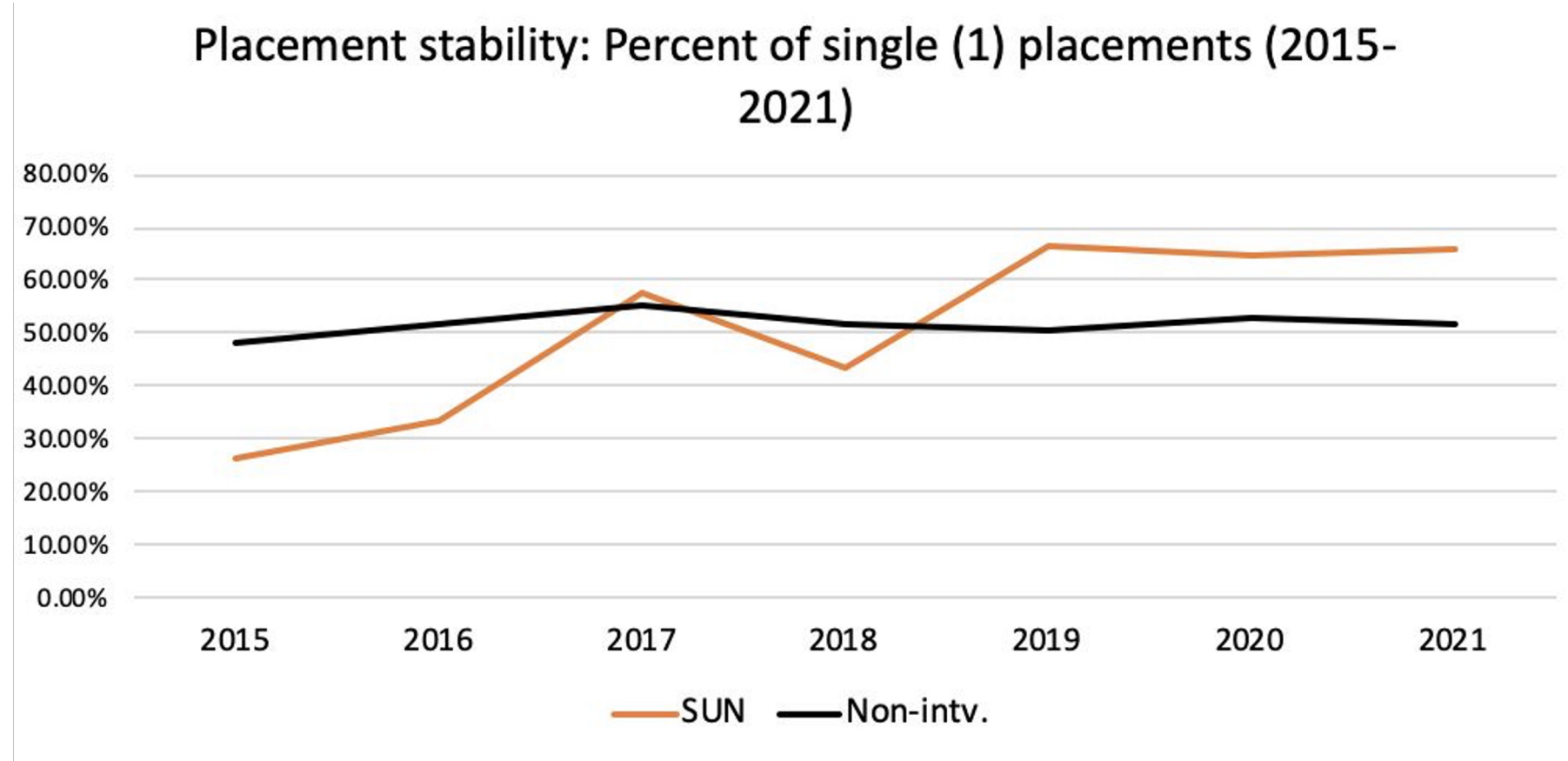
Child Maltreatment County-Level Outcomes

**Improved
Placement Stability**



Child Maltreatment County-Level Outcomes

**Increase in % of
Single Placements**





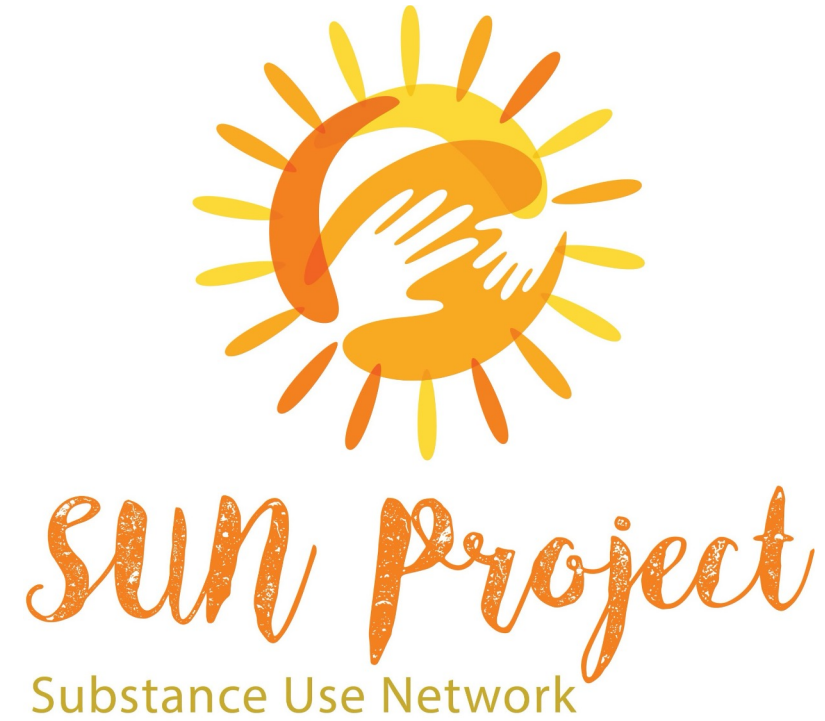
Best Practice & Legal Tools Resources

[SAMHSA Collaborative Treatment for Pregnant Women with OUD Guidance](#)

[SAMHSA Clinical Guidelines for Management of OUD in Pregnancy](#)

[Cross-Sector Collaboration Training Modules](#)

[Multidisciplinary Team Information Sharing Guidance](#)



Gina G. Hofert, CEO
The Suda Institute
Gina.hofert@sudainstitute.org
www.sudainstitute.org
704-953-5619