

Overview of the Acute Care and Addictions Treatment for Mothers and Children Webinar

October 22, 2020 11am PT

The learning objectives for this webinar were:

1. Explore current approaches to addiction medicine, addiction treatment, and acute care for mothers with substance use concerns
2. Consider how the principles, such as being interdisciplinary, honouring mother-baby togetherness, and women's voices, as well as trauma-informed, and harm reduction-oriented practice matter in treatment, addiction medicine, and acute care
3. Provide diverse perspectives about addiction treatment for pregnant and parenting women who use substances

Background:

There is a continuum of substance use and addiction programs that support pregnant women and mothers with substance use disorders and consider levels of harm reduction, treatment, aftercare, and respect readiness to change.

What was covered in this webinar:

In this webinar, Annabel Mead ([BC Centre on Substance Use](#)) introduced participants to addiction medicine, including the biological, psychological, social, and spiritual elements of addiction that addiction medicine specialists address in their work with patients, and the stages of treatment to which they connect patients. Dr. Robert Fox ([Seabird Island First Nation](#)) then provided a vignette of a patient and how to undertake a multidimensional assessment and collaboratively identify patient goals, treatment priorities, and match patients to appropriate treatment settings.

The panelists, Maura Gowans ([Aboriginal Mother Centre Society](#)) and Heather Cameron ([British Columbia Association of Pregnancy Outreach Programs](#)) reinforced the need for specialized, multi-dimensional, and culture-driven services that are safe and trusted. In particular, there is a need to think outside the box of how services have been offered to think about how to provide the least harm to mothers, babies, and the attachment process.

In the second half of the presentation, Lenora Marcellus ([University of Victoria School of Nursing](#)) walked participants through the history and models of acute care for substance use disorders since 1970, highlighting the transformative work of Sheway and FIR Square in offering wraparound and ecological models of care that kept infants as close to their families as possible. Nancy Poole ([Centre of Excellence for Women's Health](#)) closed the presentation by discussing developments in day- and live-in treatment for mothers and children and ways in which programs are trauma-informed, women-centred, and feature mother-baby togetherness.