



# COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT (CARA)



*Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas*

# PURPOSE

## **What is the purpose of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)?**

CARA aims to address the problem of prenatal substance abuse, by helping states address the effects of substance abuse disorders on infants, children and families.

# FOCUS

## What is the focus of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)?

- Identifying and addressing the needs of the infant and family and caregivers to maintain the infant safely in the home
- Intent is not to require states to investigate for abuse or neglect, or to require prosecution for any illegal activity.

# CARA AMENDMENTS TO CAPTA

- 1. CARA Amendment to CAPTA:** Requirement for states *“the development of a plan of safe care for the infant born and identified as being affected by **illegal** substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder” (CAPTA 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)*
  - CARA removed the term *illegal* to include legal (e.g., prescription drugs) and illegal substance abuse.

# CARA AMENDMENTS TO CAPTA CONTINUED

**2. CARA Amendment to CAPTA:** Develop a plan of safe care to ensure the safety and well-being of infants following release from the care of health care providers, by **(1) addressing the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of the infant and affected family or caregiver**

- CARA added the plan must now address the needs of the affected family or caregiver.

# KANSAS PPS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

## **Case Types that will be assessed for a plan of safe care and how the assessment will be done:**

- NAN, which involves a substance-exposed infant
- Pregnant Women Using Substances (PWS)
  - Determine criteria within assigned response time
  - CPS Specialist consultation with health care provider
  - Medical professional determines effect on the infant.

**Begin with focus on “Infant” (birth to 1 year of age).**

# COLLABORATION IS KEY

- Requirements for CARA may involve DCF, Community Family Services Providers (CFSP) and Family Preservation Services (FPS)
- Collaboration is KEY
- Decisions shall be made based on what is in the best interests of the family, and not on what is most convenient for the agencies.

# PPS ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS

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