



Policy Title:	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)
Policy #:	03-001-0115
Effective Date:	07/24/2025
Approved by:	Telly Delor, Chief Operating Officer
Functional Area:	Administrative
Responsible Leader:	Kathleen Gallagher, Chief Clinical Officer
Policy Owner:	Service Directors
Applies to:	Community Agency Contractor, Contracted Network Providers, Directly Operated Programs, SCCCMH Staff, Relevant prevention and education staff providing outreach to men or the general public

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish formal guidelines for the prevention, screening, referral, and education related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) within substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services provided by or contracted through St. Clair County Community Mental Health (SCCCMH).

I. Policy Statement

It is the policy of St. Clair County Community Mental Health (SCCCMH) to integrate FASD prevention into SUD treatment for women, screen children exposed to prenatal alcohol, and refer for diagnostics when necessary. All staff involved in care delivery shall be trained and follow protocols in identifying and responding to FASD risks.

II. Standards

A. Training Requirements

1. All SUD staff shall complete annual FASD training, covering:
 - Signs and symptoms of FASD
 - Risk assessment
 - Screening and referral procedures
 - Sensitive communication strategies with families

III. Procedures, Definitions, and Other Resources

A. Procedures

Actions – Prevention Activities

Action Number	Responsible Stakeholder	Details
1.0	Client Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All women receiving SUD services must receive education about the risks of alcohol use during pregnancy. 2. Men in treatment who are parents should be offered information as well. 3. Curricula from the CDC and SAMHSA (e.g., Project CHOICES, BALANCE, Recovering Hope) should be used.
2.0	Prevention Messaging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Universal and selective prevention strategies must be integrated into individual and group treatment plans. 5. Outreach efforts should promote awareness through printed materials, media, and community campaigns.
3.0	Documentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Prevention discussions and education delivery must be documented in the client record.

Actions – Screening for FASD in Children

Action Number	Responsible Stakeholder	Details
1.0	When to Screen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the mother has confirmed substantial alcohol use during pregnancy. 2. If any of the following risk factors are present: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Facial abnormalities consistent with FAS. b. Growth deficits or developmental delays. c. Central nervous system issues. d. Family history of alcohol-related trauma, child welfare involvement, foster/adoptive placements.
2.0	Screening Tool	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Utilize the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Pre-Screen Form (attached as Appendix A).
3.0	Referral Protocol	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. If screen indicates potential FASD, refer child to an approved FAS Diagnostic Clinic. 5. Provide parents or guardians with referral information and offer case management support.
4.0	Follow-Up	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Maintain contact with referred families and document the outcome. 7. Coordinate with external providers to integrate diagnostic findings into care plans.

B. Related Policies

N/A

C. Definitions

1. *FASD*: A spectrum of physical and neurological impairments in individuals prenatally exposed to alcohol.
2. *IOM Prevention Categories*:
 - *Universal*: General public education.
 - *Selective*: Women of childbearing age who use alcohol.
 - *Indicated*: Pregnant women who use alcohol or who have given birth to a child with FASD.

D. Forms

N/A

E. Other Resources (i.e., training, secondary contact information, exhibits, etc.)

[Exhibit A: FASD Pre-Screen Form](#)

[Exhibit B: Michigan FASD Diagnostic Clinics](#)

[Exhibit C: FASD Prevention Curriculum Resources](#)

F. References

1. FASD Center for Excellence: www.fascenter.samhsa.gov
2. CDC FASD Resources: www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd
3. Michigan Diagnostic Clinics: [Insert up-to-date contact list]
4. Michigan Department of Community Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services, Substance Abuse Treatment Policy #11 (2009)
5. CDC, SAMHSA, NOFAS publications on FASD prevention and diagnostics

IV. History

- Initial Approval Date: 06/2025
- Last Revision Date: BY:
- Last Reviewed Date:
- Non-Substantive Revisions: N/A
- Key Words: FASD, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, SUD