

Oklahoma County Commissioners received \$299,813.63 in 2024 Oklahoma Attorney General Opioid Abatement grant funding and selected The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) through an RFP process to provide Oklahoma County opioid abatement maternal care services.

OUHSC is providing opioid abatement maternal care through a three-way partnership serving pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorders, including opioid use disorder. This partnership bridges two specialized clinics-the STAR Prenatal Clinic and the Infant and Early Childhood's- Attachment Biobehavioral Catchup (ABC Newborn) -with Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO) to deliver coordinated, wrap around support during and after pregnancy. The STAR clinic provides comprehensive prenatal care tailored to the unique needs of pregnant patients with substance use disorders. Through this initiative, they established a seamless referral system to the ABC Newborn, which delivers in-home parent coaching using a modified version of the evidence-based Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (mABC) intervention. This parenting program begins in the third trimester of pregnancy and continues until the infant reaches approximately seven months of age, targeting early adversity and enhancing caregiver-infant attachment-especially critical for infants with prenatal opioid exposure.

*Perinatal substance use and mental health significantly contribute to maternal mortality in Oklahoma. These factors often intersect, leading to a complex set of challenges that increase the risk of death during pregnancy and childbirth.*

*Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that includes prevention, treatment, and support services for women struggling with substance use and mental health conditions. Additionally, improving access to quality healthcare and addressing social determinants of health are essential for reducing maternal mortality in Oklahoma*  
– Stephanie Pierce, MD, MS

To address the legal and structural barriers that frequently disrupt care engagement and long-term recovery, STAR also partnered with Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO) to embed an attorney within their clinics. This medical-legal partnership has helped resolve legal issues such as warrants, licensing barriers, and custody concerns that could otherwise derail treatment or lead to maternal-child separation. The availability of legal support has proven vital in keeping opioid-affected mothers engaged across STAR and ABC services.

*Our clinic provides the highest quality high-risk pregnancy management available. However, due to the complex challenges of addiction and mental health needs, sometimes medical care just isn't enough support. Your funding allows us to address social determinants of health that can be the difference in someone having housing, a valid ID or staying compliant with court orders, during their pregnancy. Overcoming their daily challenges allows both patient and provider to focus on the medical aspects of the patient's healthcare.*

*This funding is essential for the STAR Prenatal Clinic to continue doing the impactful work that we currently offer. – Tracie Clark, MS and Administrative Director, STAR Prenatal Clinic.*

The STAR Prenatal Clinic began in November of 2019 and through September 2025 delivered 430 babies with over 75% discharging into the custody of their families. Fewer than 15% of STAR Prenatal patients are lost to follow-up throughout their pregnancy.

Through Oklahoma County's Opioid Abatement grant, new services started at STAR in August 2025. Since the initiation of the project 22 STAR patients have been offered home visits and 6 have initiated intake. LASO opened 14 new cases indicating the need for these services is significant.

*Oklahoma County is grateful to the Oklahoma Attorney General Opioid Abatement Board for the opportunity to provide these vital services. – Commissioner Jason Lowe*