

# Healing Hearts, Healthy Starts Learning Event



Join us for a full-day learning event focused on supporting pregnant and parenting persons with substance use disorders.

Florian Garden Conference Center, Eau Claire, WI  
Wednesday, November 6, 2025  
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

## Speakers



### Keynote - Dana Bowman

Dana is the proud author of two recovery memoirs: **How to Be Perfect Like Me** and **Bottled: A Mom's Guide to Early Recovery**. She was a recipient of the 2016 Kansas Notable Book award, and she has repeatedly placed first with both the Associated Church Press awards and the Evangelical Press Association Higher Goals awards for her writing. An adjunct writing professor and a prolific blogger, her speaking and teaching take a humorous and authentic look at parenting, recovery, creativity, mental health and more. Dana's publisher, Central Recovery Press, refers to her as the Erma Bombeck of Sobriety, a moniker that she happily accepts.



### Lizzie Hovis, MD

#### **Perinatal Substance Use: Expanding focus from patient-centered to family-centered care**

Lizzie Maxwell Hovis, MD is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin where she specialized in perinatal mental health and emergency psychiatry. She is a maternal health Innovation grant recipient for her work with the MOTHERS Clinic where she works in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team to coordinate the care of patients with perinatal substance use and their children.





**Joelle Puccio, BSN, RN**  
**Harm Reduction is All very Well, but What About the Babies?**

Joelle Puccio is a registered nurse working in the field of Perinatal and Neonatal Intensive Care since 2004. They are a co-founder of the Academy of Perinatal Harm Reduction, whose mission is to improve the lives of pregnant and parenting people who use substances. They are currently pursuing a Master of Public Health, working at a specialized facility for infants experiencing withdrawal, and putting down roots in local harm reduction communities.



**Dara Gell & Lauren Wranosky**  
**Act 292 & CAPTA requirements: Practical and Legal Implications**

Dara Gell is a senior staff attorney with Pregnancy Justice where she litigates criminal and civil cases on behalf of people criminalized for their pregnancies and pregnancy outcomes.

Lauren Wranosky is the Senior Policy and Program Associate at Pregnancy Justice. Before joining PJ, Lauren worked as a social worker in mental health, hospice, and skilled nursing. She earned her MSW from Columbia University specializing in public policy.



**Jill Gamez, MSPH, MBA, CSAC, PS**  
**Approaches to Early Identification Using Technology**

Jill Gamez is the Executive Director at Arbor Place, Inc. and has worked in the area of substance use prevention and treatment for over 25 years. She operates within her professional role with the approach of wanting to learn from research in the field and translating that into improving the delivery of treatment services. She had led two capital expansion projects and secured over 10 million dollars in grant funding over her tenure.

**Panel Presentation**

**Fresh Beginnings: A UnityPoint Health - Meriter Multidisciplinary Class for Birthing Parents with SUD in Pregnancy**

Members of the panel have worked together to bridge the gap between wanting to improve health outcomes for perinatal persons with substance use, to putting action into practice to achieve it. Panel members are a diverse group of healthcare professionals working in the Madison, Wisconsin area and include Leah Matteson, Piper Bacskai, Theresa Rohner, Kari Brosius, Becky Foss, Angela Circe, and Nicolle Hovland.



Learning event cost \$25  
Scan QR Code to Register

