

Here's a short example of what a script might look like for introducing screening and Plans of Safe Care. It doesn't have to take a long time, but should focus on including transparent information and patient-centered language.

Sample Script for Introducing the Screening Prenatally

We talk to all families about substance use, even if it is legal like marijuana or alcohol. We aren't screening or reporting to punish you or your family. Disclosing substance use doesn't automatically mean that child welfare needs to be involved.

We want to have the opportunity to share what we know about the potential risks, recognize and identify any needs you and your family might have and to offer some other options and resources. Creating a Plan of Safe Care together will help us do that.

A Plan of Safe Care is a tool we have been using with [pregnant / parenting] people to help them keep organized, be able to quickly reference information, and demonstrate all that they have been doing to keep themselves, their children, and their family healthy and safe. It is called the Plan of Safe Care. The Plan was originally created for pregnant and postpartum people who have a history of substance use and their infants. We have found, however, that it can be helpful for other families too— families that are coordinating a lot of services from different providers or organizations, families who have engaged with child welfare in the past or think they might in the future, and families going to court. The tool helps keep everything together in one place so that it is easier for you to talk to your doctors, social workers, recovery coaches, case workers, and court staff—all of your providers-- about the things you are doing and the things you still need.

You do not HAVE to use it but I thought it might be helpful to you given your history of [put relevant history here]. If it is ok, let me show the tools and resources in this portfolio binder and you can decide if it is something you want to start using.