Perinatal Substance Abuse:
Supporting Mothers and Infants through Pregnancy and Beyond

DESCRIPTION:
The effects of prenatal exposure to drugs and alcohol are varied and complex with many factors that influence the outcome for the infant. Professionals often struggle with the challenges of parental addiction and engaging mothers to achieve successful treatment outcomes. While behavioral health and child welfare professionals have the best interest of the mother and child in mind, there are real limitations and barriers. This training will help prepare professionals to understand the risks and consequences of specific substances (including opioids) on the baby, what it is like to be born “drug-affected,” and special care needs after birth. Participants will also learn what the mother needs including strategies for engagement and ideas for intervention and treatment. This co-sponsored training will provide an opportunity for behavioral health and child welfare staff to network and collaborate to better meet the needs of the mother and child through pregnancy and beyond.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- List the risks and effects of various substances on unborn children and newborn infants
- Describe factors and issues related to addiction in pregnant women
- Identify strategies for engagement that will assist in building a trusting relationship and improve outcomes for these families
- List treatment options and intervention strategies for mothers
- Summarize post-natal care needs of infants affected by specific substances
- Participate in a collaborative planning process for this population through a case application

TARGET AUDIENCE: Public and tribal child welfare staff.