OPIOIDS and WITHDRAWAL
When reporting on pregnancy, babies, families and substance use
LANGUAGE MATTERS

I am not an addict.
I was exposed to opioids in utero. I am not addicted. Addiction is a set of behaviors associated with having a Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

I was exposed to opioids.
While I was in the womb my parent and I shared a blood supply. I was exposed to the medications and substances they used. I may have become physiologically dependent on some of those substances.

Withdrawal is a temporary and treatable condition.
There are evidence-based pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments for Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal (NOW).

My parent may have a SUD.
They may be receiving Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT). My NOW may be a side effect of their appropriate medical care. It is not evidence of abuse or mistreatment.

My potential is limitless.
I am so much more than my NOW diagnosis. My drug exposure will not determine my long-term outcomes. But how you treat me will. When you invest in my family's health and wellbeing by supporting Medicaid and Early Childhood Education you can expect that I will do as well as any of my peers.

Learn more about Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal at www.nationalperinatal.org