

Humanizing the NICU: Integrating Mental Health Care

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Covenant Children's Background & Context

NICU Mental Health Origin Story



How the position was created & funded
Finding the right fit
Engaging PFAC members

Primary Care Team Model & Workflow

Program Vision:

- Interdisciplinary integration
- Tiered relational MH support
- Universal visibility – referral not required

Program Developments

- Weekly group (“coffee Time”)
- QAPI metrics
- Critical role in NICU & Women’s designation
- Informed consent process
- Edinburgh screening
- Care team support & education

Practical Tips

- Assess NICU resources and care gaps
- Use grant or philanthropy funding to pilot and collect meaningful data
- Clearly define the role and provider type
- Trial different pathway care models to know what will work best for your context
- Include PFAC input
- Build care team relationships – find your advocates

