



Together for Families

Conference



Strong Families



Promising Futures

October 14 - 16, 2020

CO-HOSTS



Since 2012, Be Strong Families (BSF) has partnered with organizations, systems and communities to help families grow stronger from the inside out. BSF offers technical assistance and trainings to help create peer-to-peer discussions that promote vitality, provide emotional healing, and foster peace. These transformative conversations not only prevent violence and fight oppression, they give hope, create amazing leaders and help overlooked communities thrive.



**Center for the
Study of Social Policy**
Ideas into Action

For over 40 years, Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) has worked with policymakers and communities across the country to improve the lives of children and families, particularly those who face the greatest challenges. With Strengthening Families, CSSP engages families, programs and communities in building five key protective factors that all families need to thrive. Using the Strengthening Families framework, more than 30 states are shifting policy and practice to help programs working with children and families focus on protective factors.



For over 40 years, Families Canada (FC) has worked to strengthen Canada's family support sector and improve wellness outcomes for children and families. FC is a membership-based organization comprised of over 500 independent Family Resource Centres - located in 2,300 communities across Canada. FC provides its members with resources, professional development, and opportunities to participate in programming.



Founded in 2011, the National Family Support Network (NFSN) is a membership-based organization comprised of state networks of Family Resource Centers (FRCs). The NFSN currently has 31 Member Networks that represent more than 3,000 FRCs that support more than 2 million people each year. Its mission is to promote positive outcomes for all children, families, and communities by leveraging the collective impact of state networks and championing quality family support and family strengthening practices and policies.

CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Alexandra James
Andrew Russo
Ann-Margaret Webb

Cailin O'Connor
Julie Matusick
Katthe Wolf

Michael Jones
Sarita Sashington
Zindu Salih



Agenda

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 11:00am ET | Zoom Meeting Room Opens
Check-In & Networking |
| 11:30am-1:00pm ET | Opening Plenary Session
Balancing ACEs with HOPE: The Science of Adversity and Resilience
<i>Robert Sege, MD, Ph.D., Director, Center for Community-Engaged Medicine
Tufts University School of Medicine</i> |
| 1:00-1:30pm ET | BREAK |
| 1:30-3:00pm ET | Concurrent Workshop Sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Georgia's Family Support Network and Essentials for Childhood Initiative: A Collective Impact2. Leading with Cultural Competence and the Intercultural Developmental Inventory3. Family Success Centers: A Vehicle to Access those Disproportionately Affected by Social Determinants of Health4. Community Conditions that Strengthen Families5. Building a Countywide Strategy to Engage Children & Families6. Promoting Positive Father Involvement: Research Evidence and Policy Recommendations7. Supporting Families with LGBTQ+ Children |
| 3:00-3:30pm ET | BREAK |
| 3:30-5:00pm ET | Concurrent Workshop Sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Applying CSSP's Anti-Racist Intersectional Frame to Working with Families9. Our Journeys with the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support: Local and State Implementation Experiences10. Protective Factors: Strengthening Children, Families, and Communities11. Measuring the Return on Investment of Family Resource Centers: Outcomes, Challenges, and Opportunities12. Addressing the Needs of Children with Autism in Family Strengthening and the Prevention of ACEs13. The Adaptability of the Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program14. What One Caring Adult Can Do |

Thursday, October 15, 2020

11:00am ET	Zoom Meeting Room Opens Check-In & Networking
11:30am-1:00pm ET	Plenary Session #2 Exploring Family Support in Canada and the U.S. <i>Panel of Canadian and U.S. Representatives</i>
1:00-1:30pm ET	BREAK
1:30-3:00pm ET	Spotlight Sessions: Innovations and Opportunities – Sponsored by Mosaic ⁷
3:00-3:30pm ET	BREAK
3:30-5:30pm ET	Topical Networking Sessions
3:30-5:30pm ET	A More Perfect Union Parent Café

Friday, October 16, 2020

11:00am ET	Zoom Meeting Room Opens Check-In & Networking
11:30am-1:00pm ET	Plenary Session #3 Navigating Philanthropy through an Equity Lens <i>Linetta J. Gilbert, Gilbert & Associates</i>
1:00-1:30pm ET	BREAK
1:30-3:00pm ET	Concurrent Workshop Sessions 15. It's Not All about Money! Co-Creating Sustainable Family Strengthening Centers by Mobilizing Mutual Assistance 16. Supporting Transracial Adoptive Families 17. State Innovations in Implementation of Strengthening Families 18. The Power of Peer Support 19. Advocacy Lessons from the Wizard of Oz: Educating Policy Makers and Telling Our Story 20. Exploring the Healthy Together Family Health Education Program 21. Strategies and Action Planning to Intensify Family Engagement at Your Program
3:00-3:30pm ET	BREAK
3:30-5:00pm ET	Closing Plenary Session Learning from 2020 and Looking Ahead: The Future of Family Support Discussion group with National, State, and Parent perspectives Evaluation & Raffle

Have questions or
need assistance?
support@togetherforfamilies.org



Plenary Sessions

Opening Plenary Session

- Natalie Towns, National Family Support Network & Georgia Division of Family & Children Services
- Cailin O'Connor, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- **Balancing ACEs with HOPE: The Science of Adversity and Resilience**
Robert Sege, MD, Ph.D., Center for Community-Engaged Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine



Plenary Session #2

Exploring Family Support in Canada and the U.S.

Moderator: Zindu Salih, Families Canada

- Kelly Stone, Families Canada
- Increasing At-Risk Women's Financial Literacy Opportunities: An Action Plan for Change – Rebecca Balcerzak, Families Canada
- Social Inclusion of Seniors through Intergenerational Volunteering – David Agbaire, Families Canada

Andrew Russo, National Family Support Network

- Engaging Parents with the Lens of Equity – Alexandra James, Be Strong Families
- Family Support in Health Settings: DULCE – Azieb Ermias, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Plenary Session #3

Navigating Philanthropy through an Equity Lens

Linetta J. Gilbert, Gilbert & Associates



Closing Plenary Session

Learning from 2020 and Looking Ahead: The Future of Family Support

Moderator: Melissa Brodowski, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Discussion Participants:

- Cailin O'Connor, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Katthe Wolf, Be Strong Families
- Mark Kling, Family Resource Center Association (Colorado) & National Family Support Network
- Debra Armstrong, Families Canada
- Tecoria Jones, Parent Advocate, South Carolina



Spotlight Presentations: Innovations and Opportunities

Thursday, October 15, 2020

1:30-3:00pm ET

Explore multiple innovative programs and resources in the Family Support and Strengthening field through a panel of brief overview presentations and then choose two for deeper dive.

- **Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors** - The first evidence-based program developed by and for Latino parents with children ages 0-5 – and adopted by diverse communities across the country
- **Be Strong Families** - workshops, resource materials, trainings, and technical assistance for people, systems, and organizations that are trying to promote healing and prevent violence in families
- **Colorado Family Support Assessment 2.0** - A tool to assess family strengths and needs, monitor progress towards family self-reliance, and track the protective factors that reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect
- **Great Kids, Inc.** - Early childhood education curricula and training for programs who support families to help strengthen families and assure optimal child development
- **H.E.A.R.T. (Helping Everyone Access Resources & Thrive)** - Rural universal home visiting program in Vermont

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Networking Sessions

Thursday, October 15, 2020

3:30-5:30pm ET

These sessions provide unique opportunities for participants to connect with peers with similar interest areas in the U.S. and Canada. Participants can choose one topic from each round to make new connections, peer share, and exchange information, resources, and ideas. The topical expert facilitator of each session will provide initial framing and guidance for the group.

Round One: 3:30-4:25pm ET

- Funder Huddle - by invitation
Facilitator: Linetta Gilbert, Gilbert & Associates
- Multi-Generational Programming
Facilitator: Hilary Allen, Families Canada
- Parent Leadership Development - for Programs
Facilitator: Julie Day, National Parent Leader
- Social Enterprise Models to Ensure Non-Profit Sustainability
Facilitator: Alexandra James, Be Strong Families
- Strengthening Families Implementation
Facilitator: Cailin O'Connor, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Anti-Racism
Facilitator: Ali Jawetz, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Standards of Quality Implementation
Facilitators: Debbie Comstock, CA Network of Family Strengthening Networks & Julie Matusick, National Family Support Network
- Father Engagement
Facilitator: Drew Soleyn, Dad Central Ontario
- Navigating the Pandemic as a Family Support Program
Facilitator: Barbara Leavitt, United Way of Utah County

Round Two: 4:35-5:30pm ET

- ACEs & HOPE
Facilitator: Cailin O'Connor, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Developing New Family Resource Centers
Facilitator: Andrew Russo
- Funding in the Post-Pandemic Era
Facilitator: Natalie Towns
- Parent Leaders - for self-identified parent leaders
Facilitator: Julie Day, National Parent Leader
- Supporting Families in Rural or Frontier Regions
Facilitator: Taryn Yates, Idaho Children's Trust Fund
- Anti-Racism
Facilitator: Ali Jawetz, Center for the Study of Social Policy
- Standards of Quality Implementation
Facilitators: Debbie Comstock, CA Network of Family Strengthening Networks & Julie Matusick, National Family Support Network
- Father Engagement
Facilitator: Drew Soleyn, Dad Central Ontario
- Navigating the Pandemic as a Family Support Program
Facilitator: Barbara Leavitt, United Way of Utah County

A More Perfect Union Parent Café

3:30-5:30pm ET

This interactive session will explore a multi-faceted approach to transformational conversations at the nexus of social justice and parenting in a complicated and often unjust world. Organized around the Strengthening Families Protective Factors, the talking points mobilize shared civic values of freedom, prosperity, safety, justice, and healing to assist parents in talking to their children about difficult issues and brainstorming how to keep their families safe. *Registration limited to 30.*

Presenter: Sarita Sashington, Be Strong Families

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Workshop Descriptions

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #1: Georgia's Family Support Network and Essentials for Childhood Initiative: A Collective Impact

Standards of Quality, System Level

Presenters: Deborah Chosewood and Laura E. Griggs, LMSW, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

This session will provide an introduction of the Georgia Family Support Network and of the Georgia Essentials for Childhood Initiative, both funded and staff-supported through the Prevention and Community Support, Georgia's Children's Trust Fund entity, which is located within the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. Presenters will explain the details and background of the Essentials of Childhood Initiative, which originated from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the related history and role of Strengthening Families Georgia. Participants will understand how the goals and objectives of the Initiative can be aligned with a Family Support Network's goals and objectives, such as utilizing the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support to promote quality programming, using data to frame workplans, and aligning with a state's Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan.

Workshop #2: Leading with Cultural Competence and the Intercultural Developmental Inventory (IDI)

Advancing Equity, Program & Systems Levels

Presenter: Ramón A. Pastrano IV, D.Min., MSM, MATS, ImpactLives, Inc.

The rapid and the unexpected of globalization, unprecedented cultural polarization, inequities and the necessity for collaboration, interdependence and cooperation have exposed our collective inability to solve problems creatively. "We cannot effectively lead in a multicultural world with monocultural mindsets. And, we cannot practice innovation, equity and inclusion without cultural competence and systems thinking." Leaders and management must develop a critical understanding of self, of others, and of our socio-cultural-political and economic realities, then address issues on a systemic integrated basis. Business as usual is no longer an option. The IDI is designed and statistically validated as a "culture-general" measure of intercultural competence. This means that the IDI provides a powerful and accurate profile of respondents' orientations toward a wide range of "other culture" groups, including nationality, ethnicity, gender and other diversity categories.

Workshop #3: Family Success Centers: A Vehicle to Access Those Disproportionately Affected by Social Determinants of Health

Advancing Equity & Family Support, Program & Systems Levels

Presenters: Octavia Shaw, Kiara Streeter, and Dominique Griffin, Families First DC

The presentation will address how the Child and Family Services Agency of Washington, DC is focusing further upstream in disproportionate neighborhoods using a place-based, holistic approach based upon the District's data on child abuse and neglect, healthy outcomes, and crime. The Families First DC initiative three goals are to empower communities and families, integrate services, and focus on upstream prevention through 10 Family Success Centers in the most 'at risk' neighborhoods. The presentation will provide a perspective and rationale on the developments of where we are and how we plan to implement and execute the initiative to increase the Protective Factors and for sustainability.

Workshop #4: Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Strengthening Families, Program & Systems Levels

Presenters: Cailin O'Connor and Charlyn Harper Browne, Center for the Study of Social Policy; Jeffrey Todahl, University of Oregon; Katie Albright, Safe and Sound

Within the Strengthening Families National Network, there is a growing interest in community-level interventions to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote child and family thriving. In this session, attendees will hear from the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the University of Oregon, and Safe & Sound about current work at the community level as well as recent and ongoing research about community conditions that strengthen families, including how protective factors are related to anti-racism across the social ecology. Participants will also have a chance to reflect with peers and share thoughts to help shape this work as it develops.

Workshop #5: Building a County-Wide Agenda to Strengthen Children & Families

Family Support, Systems Level

Presenters: Jeniffer M. Richardson, Katherine Filut, and Audrey Rost, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County

The Ready Kid San Antonio (RKSA) Coalition is focused on convening partners to coordinate family support at a systems level. With organizational support from the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, RKSA was developed five years ago and is comprised of more than 140 leaders, stakeholder and community organizations focused on the vision of "Growing Happy, Healthy and Ready Children" beginning at prenatal through eight years of age (3rd grade). RKSA is committed to creating the first-ever Bexar County Children's Agenda and Results Based Accountability scorecard to establish and display a set of shared results and to streamline family support services. The scorecard has been instrumental in helping funders to decide to invest in advancing the Children's Agenda. This session will focus on the key elements to building a county-wide agenda for young children, including lessons learned, platforms and tools utilized, and how to maintain momentum to achieve the results established.

Workshop #6: Promoting Positive Father Involvement: Review of Research Evidence and Policy Recommendations

Family Support, Program & Systems Levels

Presenter: Drew Soleyn, Dad Central Ontario

This presentation will summarize the current research (2015-present), which reinforces earlier findings that positive father involvement (PFI) is strongly associated with positive outcomes for children, including their social and emotional wellness, academic achievement, physical health, and adjustment to becoming parents themselves. The presenter also will share information about populations that were not well-understood in the past as well as new information about understanding how both direct and indirect PFI impacts children's lives; the effects of fatherhood on men's wellbeing; the effects of PFI on children's mental health outcomes; father involvement and gender equality; and the relationship between PFI and substance use/misuse in young people.

Workshop #7: Supporting Families with LGBTQ+ Children

Family Support, Program Level

Presenter: Vida Khavar, MA, LMFT, getREAL CA & Youth Acceptance Project

This presentation will outline ways in which to support families with LGBTQ+ and gender expansive children. Current clinical research suggests that there are patterns in the way that both initially accepting, and non-accepting families move to places of acceptance and affirmation of their children, supporting them to become successful and happy adults. Family affirmation is important in the health of LGBTQ+ and gender expansive children and health care providers can play an important role in helping families be informed, be affirming and understand the importance of advocating for their children. Using real life examples and lessons learned in California and other states, the presentation will engage the attendees in a meaningful discussion on the need to support families through their journey. The presenter, who comes from a multi-cultural background and LGBTQ expertise, will specifically address the intersection of racism and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression in a challenging and eye-opening manner.

Concurrent Workshops

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #8: Applying CSSP's Anti-Racist Intersectional Frame to Family Support

Advancing Equity, Program & Systems Levels

Presenters: Azie Ermas and Ali Jawetz, Center for the Study of Social Policy

The Center for the Study of Social Policy's Equity, Inclusion and Justice team has spent the last year developing an Anti-racist Intersectional Frame, based on the work of Ibram X. Kendi and Sarah Maiter. This session will explore the frame, which is a conceptual tool to examine institutional and systemic oppression that people of color face because of both their race and other identities, while providing a guiding approach for working with and in communities and systems to create a more just and equitable society. Participants will grapple with elements of the frame in small groups and discuss how it applies to family support work, as well as brainstorm action steps.

Workshop #9: Our Journeys with the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support: Local and State Implementation Experiences

Standards of Quality, Program & Systems Levels

Presenters: Linda George, Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.; Mary Ann Jennings, Kentucky Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers

This session will provide a detailed look at how the New York Resilient Children and Families Community Services with its eight Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and the Kentucky Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers with its 850+ school-based FRCs have implemented the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support. The presentation will follow each step of the journey along the implementation continuum for both states from original interest in and adoption of the Standards to the ongoing training and professional development being provided. Presenters will share challenges, successes, lessons learned, and the benefits both entities discovered along the way. Program benefits have included increased involvement in parent leadership, increased funding, and increased connection with local, state, and the national networks.

Workshop #10: Protective Factors: Strengthening Children, Families, and Communities

Strengthening Families, Program Level

Presenters: Katie Albright and Malcolm Gaines, Psy.D., Safe and Sound

The Five Protective Factors have been shown by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) to mitigate toxic stress associated with abuse and to help families keep their children safe. Beginning in 2013, Safe and Sound piloted CSSP's Strengthening Families framework, that defines Protective Factors and offers a strengths-based approach to child abuse prevention as the starting point. Safe and Sound then operationalized the Strengthening Families approach by developing tools to apply the Protective Factors to assess multigenerational families' strengths and areas of improvement, develop support plans, and assess client progress, as well as to assess the overall impact, focus, and effectiveness of our work. The workshop will provide (a) an overview of Safe and Sound's approach and its impacts on families and policy; and (b) opportunities for participants to apply the Protective Factors framework in strengthening families as well as communities.

Workshop #11: Measuring the Return on Investment of Family Resource Centers: Outcomes, Challenges, and Opportunities

Family Support, Systems Level

Presenters: Peter Pecora and Sara Munson, Casey Family Programs; Paul Bonfanti, Charitable Ventures; Robin Perry, Institute for Child and Family Services Research; Michael Scuello, Metis Associates

This presentation will highlight key findings from a Casey Family Programs study on Family Resource Centers. Discussion will focus on the outcomes of Family Resource Centers as well as the challenges and opportunities for measuring cost-savings and other Return on Investment (ROI) dimensions.

Workshop #12: Addressing the Needs of Children with Autism in Family Strengthening and the Prevention of ACEs

Family Support, Program Level

Presenters: Amy Shapley Moseley, Shapley Consulting; Kate Chappell, Ph.D., MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC, University of South Carolina

This session for family-serving professionals examines statistical findings on the risk and predictive factors of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for families of children with developmental disabilities and identifies evidence-based strategies for prevention of ACEs that strengthen families by tailoring the approach to building protective factors. Participants will receive tools and tactics to apply these strategies in the professional practice and family engagement.

Workshop #13: The Adaptability of the Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program

Family Support, Program & Systems Levels

Presenters: Carmen Paterson-Payne, Families Canada/Public Health Agency of Canada/Youville Centre; Connie Herman, Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, Families Canada/Public Health Agency of Canada

"There are no perfect parents or perfect children or perfect people... We can only do our best, and we all need help once in a while."

Developed in Canada, the Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program aims to advance participants' capabilities to improve and maintain the health of their children, aged 0-5 years. Participants will learn about this Canadian best practice, which has clear measured impacts on positive parenting. Nobody's Perfect is offered in several other countries across the world as it can be readily adapted to other cultures. This interactive session will provide participants with an overview of the Nobody's Perfect program and demonstrate its effectiveness with parents.

Workshop #14: What One Caring Adult Can Do

Advancing Equity, Program Level

Presenters: Debbie Comstock, LCSW, Protective Factors for Utah Families; Barbara Leavitt, United Way of Utah County

It takes more than just being there, it takes BEING there with kids and families for these results to be achieved. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has outlined evidence based trauma informed guidelines. In defining and understanding these guidelines, they can be attached to intentional everyday activities to not only promote a trauma informed approach, but resilience building in some of the most vulnerable children in vulnerable families. Participants will come away with a better understanding of simple neurobiology of trauma and specific intentional activities and interactions to shift the brain from trauma trigger and response. These activities will be demonstrated to fit well with the 5 Protective Factors and Principles of Family Support. Using a tool to crosswalk either of these approaches will help participants walk away with a tool box of ideas and understanding.

Concurrent Workshops

Friday, October 16, 2020

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #15: It's Not All about Money! Co-Creating Sustainable Family Strengthening Centers by Mobilizing Mutual Assistance

Advancing Equity, Program Level

Presenter: Yoland Trevino, PACTL

This session will provide an overview of sustainable approaches for Family Strengthening Centers. The Pasadena Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders (PACTL) will serve as an example of how a community can mobilize members and program participants as contributors to ensure sustainability. Currently, PACTL has more than 100 volunteers, who are in charge of the weekly food pantry and distribution of donated goods. Session registrants will learn: the methodology and approach for galvanizing skills and strengths of our participants; reciprocity as an indigenous value; and the approach of how reciprocity and mutual assistance work in a community setting. The benefits of this approach include opportunities for participants to strengthen leadership, ownership of the organization, and increased services in the community.

Workshop #16: Supporting Transracial Adoption

Advancing Equity, Program Level

Presenters: Anthony Pennant and Ashlyn Douthitt, Antioch University-Seattle

This presentation is designed to support providers, family members and other interested parties in understanding the nuances of transracial adoption. The spirit of this session is to uplift and support the unspoken challenges that families face when speaking about race; moving them from being shame-based to strength-based. The presentation will begin with a brief historical review of transracial adoption in the United States according to scholarly articles. Participants will then be invited to understand some of the challenges that transracial adoptive families face as they progress through life stages of development. Lastly, the facilitators will share examples and positive narratives in navigating these challenges from their experience working first hand with families, support systems, and professionals involved in the care and wellness of transracial families, including medical professionals, adoption lawyers, and educators.

Workshop #17: State Innovations in Implementation of Strengthening Families

Strengthening Families, Systems Level

Moderator: Cailin O'Connor, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Panelists: Sallye Longshore, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention; Tish MacInnis, Alabama Partnership for Children; Connie Dunlap, Wisconsin Supporting Families Together Association; Becky Mather, Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board; Taryn Yates, Idaho Children's Trust Fund

This session will highlight innovative ways that some states are reaching new audiences, shifting practice, and changing systems to better support families in building their protective factors. A panel presentation about efforts in Alabama and Wisconsin will be followed by small group discussion and Q&A.

Workshop #18: The Power of Peer Support

Strengthening Families, Program Level

Presenters: Maria Alejandra Gomez, Jennie Capron, and Polly Jirkovsky, Program for Early Parent Support

As organizations work in their communities supporting families, peer support is the baseline for strengthening communities. In a fast-changing environment, providers need to find ways to help families to be connected, building spaces where they are supported, increasing their knowledge of parenting skills, and helping the development of their kids. PEPS (Program for Early Parent Support) will share its program and its impact for families in different parenting stages during our 35+ years of work in the Seattle area. The session "The Power of Peer Support" will showcase how organizations could offer a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and informative space for families; how offerings are evaluated to provide relevant programs, and how to adapt to the changing needs and environment collaborating with other organizations to meet the needs of our diverse communities.

Workshop #19: Advocacy Lessons from the Wizard of Oz: Educating Policy Makers and Telling Our Story

Family Support, Systems & Program Levels

Presenter: Jim McKay, Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia / TEAM for West Virginia Children

Advocacy can be intimidating, but it is crucial that policymakers hear from people who care about children. Using a fun approach based on the Wizard of Oz, this session features community organizing strategies to build grassroots support and advocate for policies effectively. The session will also include an overview of policies that strengthen families and help children thrive.

Workshop #20: Exploring the Healthy Together Family Health Education Program

Family Support, Program & Systems Levels

Presenters: Michele Hopkins, MSW, RSW, The Bridge Youth and Family Services; Joan L. Bottorff, Ph.D., RN, and Anne Huiskens, MSc, Institute for Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention at the University of British Columbia

Healthy Together© is a program that brings families together to support healthy eating and physical activity as a pathway to healthy weights for children. Healthy Together is designed to be delivered in existing core service programs and is supported by facilitator training and program resources to support healthy lifestyles. To date, 29 community-based organizations across Canada have implemented Healthy Together. Supported offering the program to over 3,400 children, youth, and caregivers in diverse community settings. The workshop will provide (a) an overview of the Healthy Together program, strategies used to support implementation, and first-hand accounts of program experiences in short video segments; b) key findings from the evaluation of the program, and (c) an opportunity to discuss ways to increase the impact and reach of family-centered health promotion programs.

Workshop #21: Strategies and Action Planning to Intensify Family Engagement at Your Program

Family Support, Program Level

Presenters: Anita Harvey-Dixon and Michelle Lee, Start Early, Educare Learning Network

This workshop will explore strategies of a pilot program for intensive family engagement and discuss frameworks and action steps that practitioners can embed into practice to develop an inclusive program environment, build collaborative family partnerships, and explore concrete strategies for goal-setting and reciprocal learning.



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People and children in your community want to belong. They want connection where they live and work, where they go to learn and have fun. You have a role and your actions have an impact, especially on children. Close friend. Caring neighbor. Kind coworker. Your role and actions make your community stronger and more nurturing — where all children grow up safe, people have jobs and provide for those they love, and families receive the care they deserve. It's a place where everyone belongs. What you do, day after day, gives hope for everyone.

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