



Together for Families



Strong Families

Promising Futures

International Virtual Conference October 22-24, 2024

Co-Hosts



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.



NATIONAL Family Support NETWORK

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 41 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.



Family Resource Centre National Forum

Supporting • Strengthening • Empowering

Established in 1998, the Family Resource Centre National Forum (FRCNF) is the national representative body for 121 Family Resource Centres across Ireland. FRCNF works to support and empower FRCs through representation, peer support, and collective action. Funded by the National Family Resource Centre Programme, managed by Tusla, FRCNF promotes family support, community development, and social inclusion. The organization provides training, advocacy, and resources to enhance the work of FRCs and foster positive change in communities.

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Family Resource
Center Association



Positive
Discipline In
Everyday Life



**Prevent Child Abuse
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Logistics Committee

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Julie Matusick

Brandi Nelson

Robyn Shemwell

Pre-Conference



Learning Opportunities

On Demand Webinars

These free webinars will provide key contextual information to support participants to be well-prepared to fully engage in the conference.

Strengthening Families Overview Webinar

Get an introduction to the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and Approach. This webinar will cover the recently updated and expanded definitions of five key protective factors that all families need to thrive, as well as how you can make small but significant changes in your daily practice with children and families in order to help them build their protective factors.

This webinar serves as a pre-conference training for the Together for Families conference (togetherforfamilies.org) but is open to all!

We will also hear updates from CSSP and the Children's Trust Fund Alliance on other work related to Strengthening Families.



From Under the Radar to All the Rage: Family Resource Centers & FRC Networks

What are Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and how are they networked across the country?

What does research show about the positive outcomes FRCs have achieved for children and families? Why are so many public and private funders at the state, city, county, and community levels choosing to invest in FRCs?

Presenter: Julie Matusick, Senior Manager Membership & Events, National Family Support Network



Supporting Families through Best Practice: An Overview of the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support

What does it mean to be a quality Family Strengthening and Support Program?

This webinar provides an overview of the nationally-adopted Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support. It includes examples of how they are being implemented at the systems and program level, including through the Standards Certification Training which more than 16,100 people have successfully completed nationwide.

Presenters: LaDonna Collins, Senior Manager - Standards Training & Implementation, National Family Support Network; Jennifer Johnson - Dungey, Administrative Manager - Standards Training & Implementation, National Family Support Network

Agenda



Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

11:00am ET

Zoom Meeting Room Opens

Check-In & Networking

11:30am-1:00pm ET

Opening Plenary Session: Fatherhood Fireside Chat: Navigating the Journey

In this intimate and authentic fireside chat, a panel of diverse fathers comes together to explore the raw and often unspoken realities of fatherhood. From balancing the pressures of providing for their families to navigating the emotional landscape of fatherhood, each panelist shares their unique experiences, challenges, and triumphs. This candid discussion will dive deep into the evolving roles of fathers, addressing themes of vulnerability, identity, and resilience in the face of modern societal expectations. Participants will walk away with a renewed perspective on fatherhood—one that celebrates authenticity, connection, and the power of presence in their families' lives.

1:00-1:30pm ET

BREAK

1:30-3:00pm ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

1. Evaluation at the Outset: Strategies to Effectively Use Evaluation Practices During the Early Stages of State Network Development
2. Impacts from Family Hui - a Peer-Led, Resilience-Focused Positive Parenting Program
3. Creating Connection: A Head, Heart, Hand Approach to Facilitation
4. Protecting Families and Preventing Maltreatment: Strengthening the Evidence Base for Family Resource Centers
5. Michigan Screen-Out Pathway Initiative
6. The Early Learning Nation Collective: Shifting Power to Local Leaders to Transform their Communities
7. Innovative Approaches to Engaging Parents in Diverse Communities
8. Expanding Educational Equity through Community Partnerships and Families

3:00-3:30pm ET

BREAK

3:30-5:00pm ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

9. Partnering with FRCs to prevent child abuse and neglect and entry into foster care in Washington State
10. Family Threads: A Program Integrating Recovery Support and Family Strengthening and Support.
11. We are the definition of pivot: Applying Bioecological Theory and a Participatory Research Design to Strategies Learned from a Family-Community-University Partnership
12. Empowering Families: Unlocking the Potential of the Strong Families Toolkit for Coordinated Support Services
13. Building and Sustaining Effective Parent Partnerships
14. HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters): A holistic client centered approach to early learning and settlement in Canada
15. Early Connections: Supporting Parent Development Through a Café Approach
16. Grandfamilies 101: Explore a Professional Development Experience for Organizations Partnering with Kin Caregivers
17. Reweaving the fabric of society one conversation at a time

Agenda



Wednesday October 23rd, 2024

9:30-11:00am ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

1. Exploring family strengthening within child care reform in middle income countries
2. Emotional intelligence can help us self-regulate our habits, emotions and mental health
3. LGBTQ+ Issues and Families
4. Full-Service Community Schools: Scaling in Kentucky FRYSC's
5. What? not Why? - asking the right questions
6. Co-Design of PAC Standards for a Statewide Network

11:30am-12:15pm ET

Spotlights

12:15-1:00pm ET

Virtual Table Talks

1:30-3:00pm ET

Plenary: Family Support Then and Now – using an Irish perspective to shed light on the evolution of Family Support as an international field of Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice

1:30-3:00pm ET

Break

3:30-5:00pm ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

7. Mandated Reporters can be Community Supporters: How you can Strengthen Families to Protect Children
8. Weathering Together: Strengthening Families Capacity for Coping with Extreme Weather Events
9. A Crisis to Career Community Model
10. Father Facts: Emerging Research on the Importance of Fathers
11. Grounding Ourselves in the Foundational Values of the Strengthening Families Approach
12. Supporting Parents with Parenting in 2 Cultures Program
13. The Parent Influence: Sustaining Meaningful Parent Engagement

**Have questions
or need assistance?**

info@togetherforfamilies.org

Agenda



Thursday, October 24th, 2024

9:30-11:00am ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

1. Parent Leadership Development: An Intersectional Professional's Journey
2. From Punishment to Mentorship: How 'Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting' (PDEP) Shifts Parents' Thinking
3. Building Strengths-Based Relationships with Families
4. A Multi-Level Approach in Supporting Families and Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect
5. Growing Home Visiting: An invitation to participate in an ongoing learning journey.
6. A Megaphone for Family Support: Unifying Local FRC Marketing Efforts for Greater Impact
7. Nurturing healthy Families in Nature
8. The Standards of Quality: Strategies for to Support Going Deeper for Better Understanding and Implementation

11:00-11:30pm ET

BREAK

11:30am-1:00pm ET

Plenary: Sharing the Message of "Being Enough" Through the Work of Early Relational Health

1:00-1:30pm ET

BREAK

1:30-3:00pm ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

9. Parent Leader Network and The COFI Way: Building Parent Leadership in Early Childhood Systems
10. Enhancing Family Support Programs: A Deep Dive into Success Planning and Family Coaching and advancing policies to support the work.
11. Circle of Parents®: Supporting and Strengthening Families
12. Fathers, Father Figures, and FRCs
13. Let's Win Together!
14. Learning to CRAWL: Getting Childcare Ready for All
15. Building or Enhancing Equity Driven Parent Partnership and Leadership
16. Creative Technology through STEAM for young people in our Community

3:30-5:00pm ET

Closing Plenary: Engaging At Every Age: Connecting the Young and Old Through Shared-site Intergenerational Child Care

Plenary Sessions

Tuesday, October 22nd

Opening Plenary Session 11:30am -1:00pm ET

Fatherhood Fireside Chat: Navigating the Journey

Panel Discussion featuring Gregory Cox, Dave Saunders, Christopher Brown, Drew Soleyn, and Terrance Davis.

In this intimate and authentic fireside chat, a panel of diverse fathers comes together to explore the raw and often unspoken realities of fatherhood. From balancing the pressures of providing for their families to navigating the emotional landscape of fatherhood, each panelist shares their unique experiences, challenges, and triumphs. This candid discussion will dive deep into the evolving roles of fathers, addressing themes of vulnerability, identity, and resilience in the face of modern societal expectations. Participants will walk away with a renewed perspective on fatherhood—one that celebrates authenticity, connection, and the power of presence in their families' lives.

Wednesday, October 23rd

Plenary Session 11:30am-1:00pm ET

Sharing the Message of "Being Enough" Through the Work of Early Relational Health

Junlei Li

Do families ever hear what they do with their children can be "enough"? Do professionals ever feel what they do with families can be "enough"? Whether we are parents and caregivers, or support families, or engage communities, we invest ourselves in building healthy relationships with other human beings. Early Relational Health (ERH) is an inclusive, reciprocal, and ecological concept about the relational foundation of children's and adults' health and well-being. Through this work, there is a message about "being enough" even as we often parent and work in a noisy and "never enough" environment. This presentation is intended as a reflection and a reminder that simple, ordinary things we do with other human beings matter a great deal. They matter in ways that can be seen and felt in small moments when we are really present, and in ways that can be measured over the long run.

Plenary Session 1:30am-3:00pm ET

Family Support Then and Now – using an Irish perspective to shed light on the evolution of Family Support as an international field of Theory, Research, Policy, and Practice

Carmel Devaney

This plenary will give a perspective on the evolution of Irish family support theory, research, policy, and practice and relate this to international developments in the field of family support. A summary of the historical context of Family Support in Ireland with some references to linkages and commonalities with North America will be outlined. Carmel will draw on her own research and that of the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at NUI Galway to build a picture of the emergence of Family Support as a specific area of work with its own theoretical foundation that has led to an associated research and policy focus and in recent decades subject of undergraduate and post-graduate education. Carmel will then track the extent to which this has successfully led to successful program and direct service-level innovative work with families; and systems/policy - successful policy and systems-level innovations drawing on recent work in the Irish national and European context. Carmel will conclude by highlighting the potential for further development of Family Support as an area of international collaboration.

Thursday, October 24th

Closing Plenary Session 3:30-5:00pm ET

Engaging At Every Age: Connecting the Young and Old Through Shared-site Intergenerational Child Care

Panel Discussion featuring José Alejandro Fernandez Cruz & Molly Jones

A major theme of this session will be the long-term societal benefits to stakeholders that dedicated, shared-spaces where intergenerational interactions are commonplace and consistent can provide as well as the importance of transitioning away from "visitational" programs which occur for a few hours monthly. This plenary session will explore the vision of intergenerational child care that Andrew Fleck Children's Services and the Council on Aging of Ottawa have been working to implement across 3 unique demonstration sites in Ottawa, as well as the unique opportunities and benefits for children, older adults, program staff and families that consistent, shared-site intergenerational programming offers. For newcomers to intergenerational programming, this session will highlight the first-steps necessary to begin developing a purposeful shared-site intergenerational program. Simultaneously, we will be discussing steps that existing, and long-running intergenerational programs can take to curate a purposeful environment for intergenerational interactions between children and older adults.



Spotlight Presentation and Virtual Table Talk

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

Spotlight 11:30-12:15pm ET

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

- **Child Welfare Information Gateway**
- **Vertical Change**
- **Casey Family Programs**
- **National Family Resource Center Coalition**
- **My Curious Brain**

Virtual Table Talk 12:15-1:00pm ET

A Virtual Table Talk is an opportunity to network with others who are interested in a particular topic and peer share about your current work, resources, and partnership opportunities in relation to it. Please note that Table Talks are facilitated discussions, not presentations or workshops.

- **Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**
- **Engaging Fathers/Male Caregivers**
- **Funder Huddle**
- **Parent Leader Networking - for Parent Leaders**
- **Perinatal Mental Health**
- **Supporting Refugee Families**
- **Providing Multi-Generational Programming**
- **Supporting Families in Rural Regions**
- **Trauma-Informed Care and Culturally Responsive Strategies for Implementing Strengths-Based Prevention**
- **Parental Stress**
- **Networking Lounge**



Workshop Descriptions

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

Concurrent Workshop Sessions 1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #1: Evaluation at the Outset: Strategies to Effectively Use Evaluation Practices During the Early Stages of State Network Development

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

*Presenters: Alana Anderson, OMNI Institute
Nicole Neider, Wyoming Children's Trust Fund
Sara Bayless, Vice President, OMNI Institute*

The Wyoming Family Resource Center Collective is a collaborative statewide network that has been formed to help establish Family Resource Centers or strengthen existing Centers across the state. OMNI Institute is a nonprofit integrated research, evaluation, and capacity building organization with specific expertise in evaluating family support models across the United States. Beginning in 2024, WFRCC and OMNI have partnered to develop an evaluation infrastructure and process that will generate learnings on how the state network supports FRCs and how FRCs support their local communities. In this session, WFRCC and OMNI will share what foundational evaluation tools they have used (including logic models, evaluation plans, process evaluation approaches, and outcome evaluation approaches), as well as how they have balanced key considerations for success, such as (1) assessing progress for the state network as a whole and individual FRCs; (2) establishing evaluation approaches that are appropriate and timely for implementation progress, so the right information is being generated at the right time; (3) designing systems that are feasible for FRCs that vary in capacity, and (4) building evaluation capacity statewide. Attendees will benefit from hearing from subject matter experts in family support system and evaluation speak candidly on what this work really looks like to design, establish, and maintain.



Workshop #2: Impacts from Family Hui - a Peer-Led, Resilience-Focused Positive Parenting Program

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Greg Bourne, Executive Director, Lead4Tomorrow
Geofrey Rucho, Director, Lead4Tomorrow Tanzania*

The session will begin with (1) an overview of our Family Hui (pronounced hoo'-ee) program, describing it's primary characteristics: bi-generational, peer-led, trauma-informed, empathy and resilience focused, 12 topics covered weekly focused on school preparedness, designed for parents/caregivers of children birth to five when 85+ percent of brain development occurs, a curriculum built on the principles of Strengthening Families five protective factors, hui groups of 6-10 families, community-building focused, pre- and post-participation surveys. We plan to follow this with (2) a brief breakout session to have small groups identify what they believe are the major challenges of parenting in their respective cultures. We will provide a mechanism for sharing that input. This will be followed with (3) an overview of how we approached adapting the program for the East Africa setting, and with (4) an overview of impacts from parent participation in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, as well as the U.S. The intent is for the session to be as interactive as possible anticipating a robust discussion.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #3: Creating Connection: A Head, Heart, Hand Approach to Facilitation

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Connie Herman, Provincial Nobody's Perfect Coordinator/Master Trainer & Creating-Connection Facilitator, Member of Families Canada
Carmen Paterson-Payne, Master Trainer and Coordinator, Youville Centre & Creating-Connection*

Creating Connection and Nobody's Perfect Parenting Master Trainers will guide participants through a learning journey of what it means to be an effective facilitator. This interactive workshop will highlight why facilitation is a powerful method to support and empower families. When service providers understand the art and science of effective facilitation, they become more equipped to help parents program parents to feel safe. This leads to enhanced personal awareness, motivation, engagement and strengthened group relationships. This workshop will highlight the head, heart, hand approach to facilitation. This approach guides facilitators to ensure that they are offering learning experiences that are relevant, credible, and reliable (head knowledge), along with opportunities to process feelings, beliefs, and values (heart knowledge), and providing space to practice using information, tools, and strategies (hand knowledge). This approach is not only effective for running parenting programs, but can extend into all aspects of one's professional and personal life.

Participants will receive a foundational understanding of how adults learn, the stages groups go through, and how to design engaging and collaborative learning environments. Particular focus will be given to guiding facilitators to be trauma-informed, participant-driven, and how to use experiential learning and universal design approaches that focus on expanding access to equity, diversity and inclusion, decolonization, reconciliation and anti-racist practices.



Workshop #4: Protecting Families and Preventing Maltreatment: Strengthening the Evidence Base for Family Resource Centers

WIDENING ACCESS TO CONCRETE AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS TO NARROW THE DOOR TO CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTION

*Presenters: Connie Dunlap, Family Support Manager, Supporting Families Together Association
Rebecca Mather, Prevention Education Specialist, Wisconsin Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Board*

The primary prevention of child abuse and neglect is a major public health priority. Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are community hubs that have tremendous primary prevention capacity because they offer comprehensive supports and services to roughly two million US families each year. Common services include parent education and skills training, developmental screening, home visiting, substance use and violence prevention, and basic needs assistance, all of which are validated strategies for reducing the risk of abuse and neglect. FRCs are universal interventions that have the capacity to support families across the socioeconomic spectrum while tailoring services to match the type and amount of support they need. This prevention strategy, known as targeted universalism, balances equality of access with equity of resource allocation. Voluntary, universal programs like the FRCs are also less likely than targeted programs to stigmatize families, making it more likely that they will accept services and referrals.



Workshop #5: Michigan Screen-Out Pathway Initiative

WIDENING ACCESS TO CONCRETE AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS TO NARROW THE DOOR TO CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTION

Presenter: Emily Adams, Family Resource Center Coordinator, Children Trust Michigan

Emily began her career as a foster care case manager dedicating herself to supporting families within the child welfare system. Transitioning to the role of project coordinator for the Healthy Families Kent County team in Michigan, which is affiliated with Healthy Families America. Emily helped support the team in quality improvement projects to benefit the community. Now, as the Family Resource Center Coordinator at Children's Trust Michigan, Emily oversees 11 family resource centers across the state. Her work involves collaborating on initiatives like the Michigan Screen Out Pathway, empowering FRCs with knowledge and resources to enhance their impact. Emily's commitment to serving vulnerable families underscores her passion for making a difference in the lives of others.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #6: The Early Learning Nation Collective: Shifting Power to Local Leaders to Transform their Communities

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

Presenters: *Esther Hernández, Program Analyst, Center for the Study of Social Policy*
Anthony Queen, Co-Founder, Center for the Study of Social Policy's Parent Leader Network
Caillin O'Connor, Senior Associate, Center for the Study of Social Policy

The Early Learning Nation (ELN) Collective launched earlier this year as an innovative partnership across seven national organizations (Center for the Study of Social Policy, Children's Defense Fund, Hunt Institute, National League of Cities, Save the Children US, Start Early, and Unidos US) working collaboratively with local leaders to transform communities across the United States to be more supportive of young children's early learning and healthy development. In this session we will describe the ELN Collective and its innovative approach to funding, design, and decision-making all with local leaders in the driver's seat, and share some of the ways that local leaders and local early childhood coalitions are engaging with the ELN Collective - including ways participants might be able to get involved if they are in the US. We will then walk participants through an informal assessment of how well their communities currently support young children and their families, presenting the Building Blocks of an Early Learning Community (ELC) and using parts of the ELC Assessment Tool and a focus group discussion guide to engage in reflection and discussion.



Workshop #7: Innovative Approaches to Engaging Parents in Diverse Communities

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenters: *Louise Renwick, Powerful Parenting Coordinator, Childhood Development Initiative*
Denise Lakes, Literacy and STEAM Co-ordinator, Childhood Development Initiative

This session will focus on unique strategies for parental engagement and relationship building based on the evidence-informed work of the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI). The session will comprise two components. The first component will present participants with Parental Engagement and Relationships (PEAR), CDI's innovative toolkit, developed to support front-line staff working in early learning and care services to develop and maintain strong partnerships with parents. The presentation will outline CDI's model of Parental Engagement based on six strategies, all of which have been informed by the on-the-ground work of our Parent Carer Facilitator (PCF) team with participants gaining practical and useful strategies to improve parental engagement.

The second component will comprise a presentation on the Doodle STEAM programme which is targeted for parents of children aged 6 to 8 years of age. This 8-week programme engages parents through practical STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) activities, with the aim of enhancing their capacity and confidence. Further, the programme aims to positively impact the home learning environment. Programme development, research findings and engaging activities will be presented, with participants gaining hands-on strategies for engaging parents of this cohort.



Workshop #8: Expanding Educational Equity through Community Partnerships and Families

INTEGRATING FAMILY VOICE, PARTNERSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP

Presenter: *Jennifer Joyce, Vice President of National Programs, Reading Partners*

Through highlighting our nearly 25 years of community mobilizing, our attendees will receive an exclusive look into our family engagement Powered by Reading Partners program. This includes our family literacy workshop series that trains and empowers parents and caregivers in the importance of reading aloud, modeling fluent reading, and recognizing literacy milestones among many other best practices. Beyond our workshop series, we'll also explore our rich suite of family literacy resources including literacy packets for each of our three curriculum levels, one-page literacy tip handouts, and the ongoing strategic support we provide our partners in implementing our programming. In our mission to create lifelong readers, our programming strives to empower communities through the power of partnership to equip families in creating literacy driven homes. Attendees will learn about our individualized approach to literacy through community partnerships.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions 3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #9: Partnering with FRCs to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect and Entry into Foster Care in Washington State

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

*Presenters: Jenni Olmstead, Primary and Community Prevention Lead, Department of Children, Youth and Families
Caitlin Thompson, Family First Prevention Program Consultant, WA State Department of Children, Youth & Families
Lyndie Simmonds
Marilyn Gisser, Prevention Specialist, DCYF*

This session will highlight how DCYF partners with FRCs on prevention and share our vision for elevating our partnerships with FRCs in our prevention investments. We will engage participants in discussion about how FRCs and public agencies can partner more strategically so that all children and youth grow up safe, healthy, and thriving. The Washington State Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) was created in 2017 with the goal of producing better outcomes for children and youth. Agency responsibility spans a large range of policy and program areas including early learning, family support and prevention, child welfare, and juvenile rehabilitation. The agency's first strategic plan includes a focus on implementing and expanding prevention to reduce entries into foster care. DCYF is developing a more focused prevention framework that includes FRCs. Historically, DCYF programs have partnered with and funded individual FRCs to provide specific services, such as parent education, home visiting, and early learning. We are working toward partnering more strategically with FRCs and the new Washington Family Support Network. We will specifically highlight the vision for partnering with FRCs in the Family First Prevention Services Act program, Help Me Grow and other resource and referral networks, and in the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention program.



Workshop #10: Family Threads: A Program Integrating Recovery Support and Family Strengthening and Support.

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Michelle Lennon, President & CEO, Archways
Karen Welford, Family Threads Consultant, Family Threads
Ashley Woolweaver, Research Manager, OMNI Institute*

Family Threads programming integrates the practices and values of Family Strengthening and Support and Peer Recovery Support within a Family Resource Center. Family Threads services families with a member in recovery or seeking to initiate recovery with a child under 18. Families enrolled in Family Threads can access any and all supports provided by the Family Resource Center. The structure of Family Threads is firmly grounded in the principles of universal, community-based programming to address prevention interventions in the context of poverty, family, and early childhood, utilizing the Two-Generation Approach. The content is a multi-component model based on the principles of Peer Recovery Support, Family Support, Caregiver Capacity Building, and Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors. The delivery of Family Threads requires cross training providers in Recovery Support and Family Strengthening and Support and offering Family Resource Center core services and core Recovery Support services. Family Threads integrates Recovery Support and Family Strengthening and Support through customized services including individual, group and community activities. Family Threads is committed to affect change through building individual/ family skills and capacities, and programmatically designing and delivering programs that strengthen the Strengthening Families Protective Factors™. The New Hampshire Center of Excellence's Service to Science Initiative has designated Family Threads as a Promising Practice and the program is currently undergoing the evaluative process in partnership with the OMNI Institute of Colorado in preparation for an application as an evidence-based program.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #11: We are the Definition of Pivot: Applying Bioecological Theory and a Participatory Research Design to Strategies Learned from a Family-Community-University Partnership

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Presenter: Katy Gregg, Associate Professor of Human Development & Family Science, Georgia Southern University

Local to Savannah, Georgia, Parent University (Parent U) is a unique community organization designed to support, guide, and empower parents and their children (from birth to 18 years old). This non-profit has successfully partnered with families, schools, and other community organizations for over 20 years. As an interdisciplinary University research team, we have supported Parent U in some capacity for almost 10 years to help tell their story through various research-based designs. In this session, we will delineate the characteristics of the program's sustained success through the lens of Bronfenbrenner's bioecological theory. Participants will have the opportunity to apply this popular and useful model for examining family systems, development, educational outcomes, and the interconnections between contexts to their programs looking for strengths, strains, and mediators across the different levels. Next, we will provide an illustrative example of how this partnership between a University and a community-based program worked to co-create a PAR process with parent researchers and program leaders. Attendees in this session will follow the journey we experienced in piloting a PAR design including topics such as choosing a research model for program goals, co-leading brainstorming sessions, creating training modules, hiccups in initial data collection, and related topics. Through sharing our journey, we will engage session attendees in dialogue on how to implement a similar process with flexibility and adaptation. In following the PAR tradition, we will follow attendees' lead on depth of topics and which need more or less time through interactive surveying.



Workshop #12: Empowering Families: Unlocking the Potential of the Strong Families Toolkit for Coordinated Support Services

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenter: Shannon Gnam, Director of Community Collaboration, Together for Arizona

Family and child welfare professionals joined forces through Together for Arizona to create the Strong Families Toolkit, a resource dedicated to enhancing family resilience using the protective factors framework. This toolkit contains a wealth of information about Arizona's services that correspond to each protective factor, empowering families with knowledge and tools to track the services they receive in a centralized document. This not only aids families in understanding and managing their support services but also assists service providers in gaining a clearer understanding of the family's unique needs.



Workshop #13: Building and Sustaining Effective Parent Partnerships

INTEGRATING FAMILY VOICE, PARTNERSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP

*Presenters: Kara Georgi, Lead Senior Associate of Parent Partnerships, Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Churmell Mitchell, Parent Leader, Children's Trust Fund Alliance)*

Parents who have faced and overcome challenges are critical partners with staff in supporting resilient and strong families and communities. Their life experiences, wisdom and skills are integral to creating high quality programs and effective policies. It is becoming common practice for organizations and systems with missions that impact families to recognize the importance of partnering with parents in all aspects of their work, from initial planning through full implementation and evaluation. This interactive workshop will explore how change is possible within these types of partnerships.



Workshop #14: HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters): A holistic client centered approach to early learning and settlement in Canada

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenters: Reem Abdulkader, Director

Monique Best, Director of French programs, Mothers Matter Canada

HIPPY has been working in Canada for 24 years, supporting vulnerable, low-income and marginalized families provide a strong early learning start to their pre-schoolers. The program creates employment for mothers of young children, and supports settlement for the most vulnerable families in Canada. The session will dive into:

- The HIPPY model
- The impact (quantitative and qualitative)
- Good practices in client engagement and retention
- How the program adapts to ensure client centrality.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #15: Early Connections: Supporting Parent Development Through a Café Approach

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenter: *Rebecca Parlakian, ZERO TO THREE, Senior Director of Programs*

Research confirms the effectiveness of parent education interventions. A meta-analysis from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/CDC identified evidenced-based key components of effective parent training programs for parents of children from birth to 7, including: (1) teaching parents emotional communication skills; (2) teaching parents positive parent-child interaction skills; (3) teaching parents to respond consistently to their child and (4) teaching parents to interact positively with their child. The Early Connections Curriculum from ZERO TO THREE includes an emphasis on each of these components; for example, the curriculum provides opportunities for parents to master strategies for promoting healthy social-emotional development and offering responsive, nurturing parent-child interactions; providing consistent, age-appropriate responses to child behavior; and recognizing and regulating their own and their child's emotions.



Workshop #16: Grandfamilies 101: Explore a Professional Development Experience for Organizations Partnering with Kin Caregivers

WIDENING ACCESS TO CONCRETE AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS TO NARROW THE DOOR TO CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTION

Presenter: *Kathy Kinsner, ZERO TO THREE, Senior Family Resources Manager*

If your organization serves families, chances are good there are grandparents and other kin caregivers among them.

Many grandfamilies and kin caregivers (relatives and close family friends who are raising children when their parents cannot) embark on this journey with little time to plan. They may receive little to no financial help, and all too frequently, little to no guidance on how to navigate a complex array of social services that vary depending on location. No matter your role, you can help connect them with the services they need.

Developed by ZERO TO THREE in collaboration with the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, Grandfamilies 101 is a 90-minute professional development experience introducing issues frequently facing grandfamilies and kin caregivers, with a focus on legal, educational, and financial needs. It is ideal for professionals who would benefit from a greater understanding of the strengths and needs of kinship families. Organizations may wish to deliver the entire workshop in 90 minutes or use a modular approach to address each topic separately over the course of several meetings. In this presentation, we'll explore what's included in these professional development materials from multiple points-of-view: grandparent testimonials on the kind of help they need most, workshop activities as a participant might experience them, and an account from the content creators as to why these materials are so desperately needed.



Workshop #17: Reweaving the fabric of society one conversation at a time

WIDENING ACCESS TO CONCRETE AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS TO NARROW THE DOOR TO CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTION

Presenters: *Tecoria Jones, Parent Leader, Be Strong Families*

Letchia Holmes, Chief of Staff, Be Strong Families

In today's fast-paced world, cafes serve as more than just places to grab a coffee or a bite to eat—they are structured, small group conversations that hold space for transformation and healing within families, build community, develop peer to peer learning and engage parents as partners with the agencies that serve them. This workshop delves into the multifaceted ways in which Be Strong Families cafes play a significant role in supporting families and ensuring the well-being of families for children and communities everywhere.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

9:30-11:00am ET

Workshop #1: Exploring family strengthening within child care reform in middle income countries

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

Presenters: *Beth Bradford, Maestral International,, Senior Associate*
Joanna Wakia, Maestral International, Senior Associate
Crispus Natala, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, KENYA PROGRAM, CASE MANAGEMENT ADVISOR
Manoranjan Dash, Catholic Relief Services, Technical Associate

Changing the Way We Care is a global initiative promoting safe and nurturing care for children through strengthening child protection and care systems. Through demonstration efforts in Guatemala, India, Kenya, and Moldova, CTWWC has successfully promoted the inclusion of family strengthening services and support as a part of child care system reform which often primarily focuses on improving family-based alternative care and the transition/closure of residential care. CTWWC's demonstration approach to family strengthening services and support is strengths-based, focused on protective factors, and recognises the importance of community-level support. CTWWC has been intentional to build an evidence base showing the linkages between protective factors and child well-being outcomes within families reintegrating a child from residential care, providing alternative family-based care or identified as at risk of separation. CTWWC uses learning from demonstration interventions to inform the reform of child care systems, including components such as policy, public financing, social service workforce development, and direct services. By undertaking this work in diverse middle-income countries, CTWWC is generating new insights into systems reform and the opportunities and challenges faced when pursuing a family strengthening focus. The proposed session will showcase practices and evidence from the four countries, fostering dialogue on family strengthening's role in child care system reform. It will explore the protective factors framework's significance, the implementation of family strengthening in diverse contexts, and methods for measuring family resilience. Discussion and interaction will enable participants to apply these principles in their own settings.



Workshop #2: Emotional intelligence can help us self-regulate our habits, emotions and mental health

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenter: *Dr. Manoj Krishna, HappierMe, Founder*

Imagine a single solution that could address these problems families face: Stress 80% Anxiety 40-60% Relationship conflict (50%) Substance abuse - 15% Teen mental health problems: 25% Depression - 10% Anger issues - 10% All of them begin in our thinking, in how our mind automatically reacts to our circumstances. If we had a better understanding of our own mind we can be in charge of it, prevent and overcome these problems and respond to our challenges with a calm mind. I will talk about the many resources available in the HappierMe app to help families deal with their many challenges - to help them feel better now and then explore the root cause of problems for long term benefit. By understanding that deep down we are the same human being we can have greater compassion for ourselves and others. I will demonstrate several first aid techniques for dealing with emotional distress and everyone can participate. We can run an active Q&A session and workshop with assembled delegates using Mentimeter software to keep them engaged. The session will include video interviews with adults and teens on how to develop this emotional intelligence and apply it practically to manage your own mental health, have happier relationships and self-regulate our habits. There will be time for questions at the end. Delegates should leave the session with some actionable insights.



Workshop #3: LGBTQ+ Issues and Families

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Speaker: *Helena Roderick, Northwell Health/ Hofstra School of Medicine, Lead Psychologist*

Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ often encounter significant obstacles to acceptance even within the context of their own family environments. Such obstacles exacerbate their experience of marginalization, in a space where family members are meant to feel safe, valued, and loved. In this session, we will explore why families benefit from learning about LGBTQ+ issues (including concepts such as sexual orientation and gender identity). In doing so, we will examine the growing prevalence of such identities in the U.S. today. Moreover, we will highlight the profound risks with respect to mental health and other domains of functioning that sexual and gender minority communities face, particularly when ostracized. Nuanced concepts such as microaggressions and intersectionality will also be presented. We will proceed to articulate active steps that can be taken to convey acceptance of family members who identify as LGBTQ+, to strengthen their resilience as they face the challenges of building a meaningful and healthy life in the complex modern world.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

9:30-11:00am ET

Workshop #4: Full-Service Community Schools: Scaling in Kentucky FRYSC's

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

Presenter: *Katie Morris, Kentucky Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, Full-Service Community Schools Grant Manager*

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence has been awarded a \$47 billion dollar grant to support collaboration between local school-communities to establish effective and evidenced-based "community schools" for students and families most in need of removing barriers to learning. Partnering with 20 KY school districts and 40 schools, efforts are being made to create community conversations about need and greater alignment and coordination of existing services. Kentucky's Family Resource and Youth Services Centers play an integral role in this work, as this grant will build on over 30 years of the FRYSC's work in KY schools to remove non-cognitive barriers to learning. Full-service Community Schools are built on four pillars: Integrated Student Supports, Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities, Active Family and Community Engagement and Collaborative Leadership and Practices. This session will provide an overview of the first year of this work; lay out goals for the next 4 years; provide examples of on the ground implementation.



Workshop #5: What? not Why? - asking the right questions

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenter: *Sarah Weisbarth, Director, Discover You with The ROCK Center for Youth Development*

Sarah is a dedicated professional facilitator, trainer, and coach with a passion for youth development. At Discover You with The ROCK Center for Youth Development, she focuses on enhancing resiliency skills and implementing Positive Psychology principles within educational systems. With extensive experience in instructional design and a commitment to personal and professional growth, Sarah empowers individuals and organizations to inspire transformational change. Her coaching certification and background in Health and Fitness further enrich her approach, fostering authentic connections across diverse communities.



Workshop #6: Co-Design of PAC Standards for a Statewide Network

INTEGRATING FAMILY VOICE, PARTNERSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP

Presenter: *Katherine Logan-Dinco, Children Trust Michigan, Family Coordinator*

Michigan has worked with its founding 11 FRCs to co-design the network PAC standards. It was a process where we identified and defined common language about parent/caregiver engagement, what constitutes parent/caregiver engagement for PAC members, and the structure of the PAC. As Michigan looks to increase the number of FRCs across the state, we want to ensure that all FRCs have a minimal set of PAC standards that correlate to the Standards of Quality (SoQ) and are uniform across the network. This will allow not only PAC members but community members who relocate inside Michigan, to have a known common PAC presence to allow for the comfortability of engagement to occur across the network. One thing that is commonly expressed is that as families move across county lines the programming is so vastly different and there is no continuity. By having all FRCs follow the SoQ and then having the same language around parent/caregiver engagement parents and caregivers can seamlessly engage in their new FRC. Also, having a standard with the same definitions of PAC members allows all PAC members to have similar access to structure, engagement requirements, and responsibilities so that they are all prepared for continued work as parent/caregiver leaders in Michigan.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions 3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #7: Mandated Reporters can be Community Supporters: How you can Strengthen Families to Protect Children

WIDENING ACCESS TO CONCRETE AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS TO NARROW THE DOOR TO CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTION

Presenter: Claire Louge, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, Executive Director

The 'Considering Yourself a Community Supporter' Training was designed by Prevent Child Abuse Arizona in collaboration by Onward Hope, a Black-led organization founded by a person with lived experience, the Arizona ACEs Consortium, and the Arizona Department of Child Safety's Office of Prevention. Through this training, professionals who work with families and children will examine how they can protect children from adversity by examining their own natural biases and connecting families to what they need, when they need it, shifting their lens from focusing solely on their role as mandated reporters, to one in which they consider themselves community supporters. The strategies and techniques explored are rooted in the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework, an approach that recognizes when families have access to the supports needed to deal with life's stressors, children thrive.



Workshop #8: Weathering Together: Strengthening Families Capacity for Coping with Extreme Weather Events

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Stefania Maggi, Associate Professor, Carleton University
McKenna Corvello, MA candidate, Carleton University*

Extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, rising sea levels, heat waves and forest fires, are becoming common occurrences across North America and Europe. Experiencing prolonged exposure to an extreme weather event such as a drought or rising sea levels; or surviving a hurricane or a forest fire has both short-term and long-term impacts on families, children, and youth.



Workshop #9: A Crisis to Career Community Model

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

*Presenters: Paul Chapman, Executive Director, Restore Hope
Karen Phillips, Associate Director Community Development, Restore Hope*

100 Families is a community-led initiative to help move families out of crisis, into stability, and onto a career using existing community resources. The initiative does this by: - engaging community partners - training agencies on a collaborative case management system, - and recruiting case managers to respond when a family is in crisis. Families enrolled in 100 Families work together with several different community agencies to create a plan based on their unique situation. Data is collected to track outcomes out of crisis into stability and thriving lives. At the heart of this initiative is HopeHub, a collaborative case management system. HopeHub connects service providers and fosters seamless communication to tailor the best support for each individual.



Workshop #10: Father Facts: Emerging Research on the Importance of Fathers

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenter: Christopher Brown, President, National Fatherhood Initiative

Christopher Brown is an applied anthropologist and president of National Fatherhood Initiative® (NFI). He is the primary developer of NFI's evidence-based and evidence-informed fatherhood programs and resources. He provides technical assistance and strategic planning to organizations and government agencies on father inclusion. He has appeared as a fatherhood expert in major media outlets and is a frequent guest on father- and family-focused podcasts and webinars.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #11: Grounding Ourselves in the Foundational Values of the Strengthening Families Approach

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Cailin O'Connor, Senior Associate, Center for the Study of Social Policy
Charlyn Harper Browne, Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Policy*

In a 2024 report from the Center for the Study of Social Policy, "Expanding the Perspectives and Research Foundation for the Strengthening Families & Youth Thrive Frameworks," Charlyn Harper Browne outlined the seven foundational values of the Strengthening Families approach. These values are:

- Employ a social-ecological approach
- Adopt a strengths-based perspective
- Recognize and respond to oppression and privilege
- Incorporate an intersectional frame of reference
- Demonstrate cultural responsiveness, cultural humility, and intellectual humility
- Amplify constituent voice and power
- Pursue equity and justice for all children, youth, and families.

In this session, we will define and explore each of these values and how they are expressed through our practice with families, with many opportunities for discussion in the group about questions such as: How can these values help us navigate challenges we encounter in our work to help families build their protective factors? How do we stay true to these values in climates where there is pressure not to talk about things like racism, oppression, or privilege? Which of these values are currently fully endorsed in our work, and which ones are not as strong? How can we bolster these values in family support systems and programs?



Workshop #12: Supporting Parents with Parenting in 2 Cultures Program

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Sophia Burton, Intercultural Education Facilitator, Catholic Social Services
Izdhar Gaib, Intercultural Education Facilitator, Catholic Social Services*

Our program is grounded in Intercultural theory, which means we always talk about cultures as complex systems that work in themselves. They are made and lived by human beings and are therefore not static, not perfect, and as history shows, all cultures have challenges. Therefore, no culture is better than the other. Cultures live with our values and how we make meaning of our world. Understanding and reflecting on our own culture is an important part of creating a framework in which we can add Canadian culture and how we can bring both cultures together, that is, the Immigrant culture and the Canadian culture. In collectivist cultures, there is often a strong focus on controlling the behavior of children, while in more individualistic cultures the relationship building is more important because it helps build trust instead of control. Our program focuses on the use of positive discipline which is built on loving affectionate relationships. When relationships are built between parents and children, there will be increased communication which is vital, as both parents and children learn to integrate into the new society with all the different nuances at play. Our program provides a safe and inclusive space for its participants. Parents are able to share their experiences, concerns and successes realizing there are other parents with similar stories, lessening any possibilities of judgement. Participants are encouraged to practice asking questions from a point of view of wanting to learn and understand the differences that may be displayed in our workshops.



Workshop #13: The Parent Influence: Sustaining Meaningful Parent Engagement

INTEGRATING FAMILY VOICE, PARTNERSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP

*Presenters: Sarita Sashington, Director of Engagement & Program Initiatives, Be Strong Families
Dana Johnson, National Parent Café Leadership Team member, Be Strong Families
Pam Herron, Parent Leader, Be Strong Families*

Effective parent engagement is a cornerstone of building strong communities and supporting the holistic development of children. This workshop, facilitated by members from the Be Strong Families National Parent Cafe Leadership team, delves into best practices and strategies for cultivating and sustaining meaningful parent engagement initiatives. Drawing upon the expertise and experience of our team, participants will gain valuable insights and practical tools to foster authentic partnerships with parents/ caregivers.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

9:30-11:00am ET

Workshop #1: Parent Leadership Development: An Intersectional Professional's Journey

INTEGRATING FAMILY VOICE, PARTNERSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP

Presenter: Kathleen Apperson, Texas HHSC Family Support Services Division, Parent Partner

Join us to learn how as you develop parent leaders you build their confidence that they take back to their family and community. This interactive session will take you along an intersectional professional's journey from using services to informing services that bolster the support provided to families in Texas.



Workshop #2: From Punishment to Mentorship: How 'Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting' (PDEP) Shifts Parents' Thinking

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Joan Durrant, Executive Director, Positive Discipline in Everyday Life
Elisa Romano, Associate Professor, University of Ottawa*

PDEP is a made-in-Canada, rights-based, relationship-focused program. It aims to reduce physical and emotional punishment of children by helping parents and caregivers understand children's experience of the world. Through a series of highly interactive activities, it takes parents inside the minds of children, to understand how their brains, emotions, behaviour, and understanding develop from birth to young adulthood. Parents learn a simple framework for problem solving that they can use across ages and situations to gradually replace punishment with mentorship.



Workshop #3: Building Strengths-Based Relationships with Families

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenters: Catherine Knowles-O'Brien National Training Facilitator, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Division of Developmental Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital

Dr. Catherine Knowles-O'Brien is a developmental educator with extensive experience and expertise in the early childhood fields of early intervention, early childhood growth, development, education, and parent, family, and community engagement.

Catherine brings experience as a program and building administrator in EI (IDEA) and public schools working with faculty, staff members, babies, toddlers, young children, and their families, and communities. She worked to develop systems of care, early intervention programs to support mental/behavioral health for young children and families.

Catherine has been with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC) at Boston Children's Hospital since 2015, as a programs integration manager and trainer at the National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement, and as a BTC National Staff Facilitator. She is committed to joining individuals and communities to learn about past and current experiences/stories, and other research, to guide changes in practice(s) that fully support lives of babies, toddlers, young children, and their families.



Workshop #4: A Multi-Level Approach in Supporting Families and Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

*Presenters: Adrienne Ralston, Training Specialist, Kansas Children's Service League
Erica Hunter, Deputy Director for Safety and Thriving Families, Kansas Department for Children and Families*

This presentation will focus on primary prevention strategies that empower mandatory reporters, help-seeking agencies, and all individuals who interact with families in their communities to help alleviate the risks of child abuse and neglect before a hotline report is needed. Through a strengthening families framework, emphasizing protective factors, and individual and agency-wide equity awareness, factors that impact child abuse and neglect can be reduced. This presentation will include perspectives from Kansas Children's Service League and the Kansas Department for Children and Families, who together, have implemented a comprehensive system of support utilizing various programs working together, including 1-800-CHILDREN, Thriving Families, Safer Children, and training professionals in the perspective shift from mandated reporting to supporting families.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

9:30-11:00am ET

Workshop #5: Growing Home Visiting: An invitation to participate in an ongoing learning journey

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Sue Cullen, Home Visiting Implementation and Fidelity Manager, Northside Partnership / Preparing for Life
Louise McCulloch, Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Northside Partnership / Preparing for Life*

An overview of the PFL Programme and its practice principles as well as a snapshot of our learning journey so far 2. Sharing from our learning partners in Ireland as well as in Chicago about their experiences and its collaboration with the Latino community 3. A story to facilitate a deeper understanding of the programme in action and what this might mean for families and communities 4. Small group discussions in breakout rooms leading on from the story and facilitated with a guiding question 5. Full group discussion with sharing of experiences from the previous exercise to facilitate a continued learning and reflection together



Workshop 6: A Megaphone for Family Support: Unifying Local FRC Marketing Efforts for Greater Impact

INTEGRATING FAMILY VOICE, PARTNERSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP

Presenter: Jacqueline (Jackie) Johnson, Burgoon Media, Creative Director

The session will cover the following areas; delivery will include presentation, discussion, use of media and breakout rooms.

- 1: Overview of Service Delivery: Barnardos services delivering family support services to children, parents and families in Finglas:
- Connecting, integrating and complimenting intensive family support work alongside community development and engagement based work in Finglas. - Integrating early intervention, capacity building, school based, family oriented and universal community development and engagement services of the FRC and Better Finglas ABC with the intensive, individualised, in home family, parent and child support work of our targeted intensive family support services. - Highlighting Specific innovative family support service deliveries and initiatives
- 2: Trauma informed services and community - the relational approach
- 3: Coordination and Connection: Coordinated Referral Pathways to support families experiences of integrated seamless service delivery across all Barnardos Services in the area.
- 4: Interagency collaboration and multi disciplinary approach; - Consortium led Service Provision. - Creation of interagency collaborative universal groups in the community across multiple services; example interagency Post Natal Parents Group and interagency Workshops for parents of children with additional needs
- 5: Community Development and Engagement; Working together to engage all families, minority groups and new communities living in the area including particular parenting groups such as parents of children with additional needs and diverse communities and minority groups, including LGBTQI Communities, traveller communities and new communities.
- 6: Impact for families, parents, children, services working in the area and the wider community
- 7: Potential challenges and barriers experienced.
- 8: Learnings for future development of service provision.



Workshop #7: Nurturing healthy Families in Nature

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenter: Hilary Diouf, The common Good Collaborative, CEO The Common Good Collaborative

At a time of global movement, secure attachment to land offers a base for parents to calm their nervous system and restore attention, supporting them in engaging with their children. The multiple outdoor activities from fire starting, shelter building, to water management, and spoon carving ensure every member of the family can shine through their unique contribution. The family becomes a team working together on activities that have meaning and value such as foraging for food and shelter making. Children head off on adventures while parents circle around a fire to be heard and to gain parenting supports. The whole camp come together to create group shelters or communal cob ovens. Connections are formed between families. The camp becomes a community where everyone becomes the village it takes to raise children. The presentation will lead people through the implementation and outcomes of pilot Family Camps run in 2023 and 2024 at the eco park on Manitoulin Island, Canada. This presentation is aimed at inspiring, encouraging and supporting program coordinators to take the leap in partnering with Nature for beneficial outcomes for those of our human and other than human families!

Concurrent Workshop Sessions 9:30-11:00am ET

Workshop #8: The Standards of Quality: Strategies for to Support Going Deeper for Better Understanding and Implementation

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

*Presenters: Connie Dunlap, Family Support Manager, Supporting Families Together Association
Julie Walter, Family Support Specialist, Supporting Families Together Association
Rebecca Mather, Prevention Education Specialist, Wisconsin Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Board*

Join Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA) and the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, as we share our work in supporting local FRC's in their intentional implementation of the Standards of Quality. We will dig deeper as we share tools, resources, and strategies developed to support implementation as well as hear from Wisconsin FRC's on their successes and sometimes challenges regarding implementing the Standards. Information and resources that we will share include using action plan templates, setting SMARTIE (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound, Inclusive, & Equitable) goals, strengthening agency policy and procedures, Parent Leadership development, DEI resources, statewide evaluation components, and the integration of the Protective Factors Framework. This session will provide concrete ideas and next steps to help your network and/or agency bring the standards to life!



Concurrent Workshop Sessions 1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #9: Parent Leader Network and The COFI Way: Building Parent Leadership in Early Childhood Systems

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

Presenter: Graciela Suarez, Community Organizing and Family Issues, Senior Trainer and Finance Coordinator

This workshop will highlight the work of the Parent Leader Network (PLN) and The COFI Way. The COFI Way is a family focused parent leadership and organizing model that helps parents find their inner leader within. The Parent Leader Network builds leadership skills, advances racial equity, and advocates for change in early childhood systems. This workshop will demonstrate how PLN parents have been systems change leaders, and share stories of engaging and organizing parents on equity issues across early childhood systems. This workshop will build participants' knowledge of the ways that The COFI Way builds leadership development in parents and helps them to come together to build and sustain support, create a vision for change, and work with others to impact that change. Participants will gain a better understanding of the role parent leaders can play in building stronger early childhood systems and communities. The workshop will include a small panel of parent leaders from across the United States, who are part of PLN. Aside from sharing system changes stories, these parent leaders will share lessons they've learned along the way and shed light on their own leadership journeys, offering insights to help participants draw connections to their own work.



Workshop #10: Enhancing Family Support Programs: A Deep Dive into Success Planning and Family Coaching and advancing policies to support the work.

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Roeneisha Wallace, Managing Director of Family Services, Omega Cdc
Jasper T. Person III, NONE PROVIDED, NONE PROVIDED
Tracy Sibbing, Managing Director of Strategic Initiatives, Omega Community Development Corporation
Roeneisha Woods*

Session exploring innovative family support practices implemented by Omega CDC. In this session, we will focus on two key components of our comprehensive approach: Success Planning and Family Coaching. Success Planning is a personalized, relationship-based strategy connecting children and youth with adult Navigators to co-create tailored action plans that address their unique needs, strengths, and aspirations. Learn how this approach fosters positive connections with caring adults and empowers youth to navigate their roadmap to success within our two-generation model.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #11: Circle of Parents®: Supporting and Strengthening Families

WIDENING ACCESS TO CONCRETE AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS TO NARROW THE DOOR TO CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTION

*Presenters: Julie Anne Rivnak-McAdam, Program Manager, Circle of Parents, Inc.
Eliza Cooper*

This session will explain how Circle of Parents® works to support families and the advantages that this mutual self-help model provides to parents. The workshop will present the benefits of participating in the Circle of Parents groups and how the Circle model is structured to strengthen all the Protective Factors. Parent leadership development is the key to the success of Circle of Parents groups. Circle of Parents meetings provide a friendly, non-judgmental space where parents can share their challenges and successes with other parents. Group members receive support and acceptance from their fellow group members. Parents encourage their fellow group members through sharing their understanding of having “been there” and come through similar situations with success. Parents become advocates in their family, within the group and ultimately in the communities where they live as well as being offered opportunities for involvement nationally with our National Parents as Leaders (PAL) team. The session participants will learn how the Circle of Parents model fits into the Strengthening Families standards.



Workshop #12: Fathers, Father Figures, and FRCs

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

Presenter: David Bryant, Texas HHSC Family Support Services Division, Special Projects Manager

In this session Many family resource centers have challenges attracting fathers and father figures while others organically draw fathers through programming and partnership at their FRC. What’s the secret? In this session, participants will learn statistics on a father’s involvement in the life of his child. Participants will be challenged to dive into internal biases they may have regarding fatherhood and external bias that may prevent fathers and father figures from walking through the doors or returning to their FRC. Finally, participants will learn about best practices and practical strategies to attract fathers to their family resource center and to keep them returning.



Workshop #13: Let’s Win Together!

INTEGRATING FAMILY VOICE, PARTNERSHIP, AND LEADERSHIP

*Presenters: Alleceia M. Walker, EnTeam & Family Leadership Center
Ted Wohlfarth, Game Designer, EnTeam & Family Leadership Center*

Inclusivity in childcare is vital for supporting children with specific healthcare needs (CSHCN), as many require specific attention and trained providers to manage diagnoses such as allergies, asthma, and seizures. Lack of inclusivity can result in reduced access to reliable childcare for families with CSHCN. Promoting inclusivity benefits children and families, fostering stability and strength through connection to concrete supports and allowing access to activities that enrich both educational and social-emotional development of children. The presentation aims to discuss the dynamic nature of developing and implementing a state-wide program, covering aspects of program development, resource acquisition, marketing and recruitment efforts, long-term sustainability, and funding considerations. Additionally, the presentation will discuss the framework of CRAWl in alignment with a Strengthening Families Framework, highlighting a tailored and focused approach in addressing the specific needs of families with CSHCN to improve childcare access and quality. Insights into the strategies employed to bolster protective factors and support families and childcare providers effectively will be provided. Immediate takeaways for participants include understanding of operationalizing inclusivity in childcare settings, insight into structure and strategies of the CRAWl program, guidance to adapt and recreate similar programs in their own state or region, awareness of the benefits of participating in programs like CRAWl for childcare providers, and strategies for fostering collaboration between childcare providers and families to enhance childcare access and quality. Upon completion, participants will be equipped to advocate for inclusivity in childcare, replicate successful programs like CRAWl, and actively engage childcare providers in supporting CSHCN.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #14: Learning to CRAWl: Getting Childcare Ready for All

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - PROGRAMS/DIRECT SERVICE

*Presenters: Amy Shapley-Farrell, UofSC College Of Nursing CRAWl And BabyCoach
Kate Chappell, Professor, University of South Carolina College of Nursing
Victoria Davis, Co-Program Director, CRAWl*

Inclusivity in childcare is vital for supporting children with specific healthcare needs (CSHCN), as many require specific attention and trained providers to manage diagnoses such as allergies, asthma, and seizures. Lack of inclusivity can result in reduced access to reliable childcare for families with CSHCN. Promoting inclusivity benefits children and families, fostering stability and strength through connection to concrete supports and allowing access to activities that enrich both educational and social-emotional development of children. The presentation aims to discuss the dynamic nature of developing and implementing a state-wide program, covering aspects of program development, resource acquisition, marketing and recruitment efforts, long-term sustainability, and funding considerations. Additionally, the presentation will discuss the framework of CRAWl in alignment with a Strengthening Families Framework, highlighting a tailored and focused approach in addressing the specific needs of families with CSHCN to improve childcare access and quality. Insights into the strategies employed to bolster protective factors and support families and childcare providers effectively will be provided. Immediate takeaways for participants include understanding of operationalizing inclusivity in childcare settings, insight into structure and strategies of the CRAWl program, guidance to adapt and recreate similar programs in their own state or region, awareness of the benefits of participating in programs like CRAWl for childcare providers, and strategies for fostering collaboration between childcare providers and families to enhance childcare access and quality. Upon completion, participants will be equipped to advocate for inclusivity in childcare, replicate successful programs like CRAWl, and actively engage childcare providers in supporting CSHCN.



Workshop #15: Building or Enhancing Equity Driven Parent Partnership and Leadership

INNOVATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PRACTICE - POLICY/SYSTEMS

*Presenters: Bryn Fortune, Founder and Principal, Fortune Consulting
Mia Halthon, Family Network Collaborative, Parent Leader, Nurture Connection*

Building Equity Driven Parent Collaboration" is NOT a "One Size Fits All" framework. This framework is flexible and can meet any organization or system needs. We will share how fidelity is not accomplished through a rigid structure rather foundational principles and characteristics, which are embedded with a set of facilitation practices. Participants will learn how the framework is laid out in five different areas ready for a co-design approach with families (Inform, Participate, Engage, Partner, Steer). In each area descriptions will include the System's Message, System Goal, Parent Experience, Opportunities Parents Gain, and the Key Equity Driver. Each area will be described in detail offering information about what it looks like from the lens of unintentional "tokenism" to "strength-based co-design". Specific examples will be offered across each area and what we are learning from parents. Participants will be given the opportunity during the workshop to engage in simple self-assessment tools to support them to identify current barriers and the opportunity to learn how they can strengthen their current co-design family partnership and leadership work. Participants can learn about a variety of models that have been developed: "Family Network Listserv (site based, culturally relevant); Family Network Collaborative (driven by neighborhoods that have the most to teach); Family Network Co-Design in Research (leading innovation, culturally relevant); and Building Equity Driven Family Network Systems from the Ground Up Learning Series" (partnership teams, culturally relevant). The various models offer the learner the opportunity to understand how intersectional the framework is when put into action.



Workshop #16: Creative Technology through STEAM for young people in our Community

WIDENING ACCESS TO CONCRETE AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS TO NARROW THE DOOR TO CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTION

Presenter: Lisa Foley, Family Resource Centre National Forum (Ireland), FRC Manager

In our presentation we want to share our Journey of achieving an "Organisation of the Year" Award from Kinia at Google HQ on April 19th at the Creative Technology Tech Fest 2024. Using a community-based approach and network funding. We developed a project to help young people broaden their understanding of STEAM. The presentation will be based around the 3 main objectives: 1. Be open to securing Funding for all avenues. 2. Ensuring participatory approaches are embedded in the project. 3. How you use STEAM education to build life skills - evidence based and evidence informed, working smarter and wiser.

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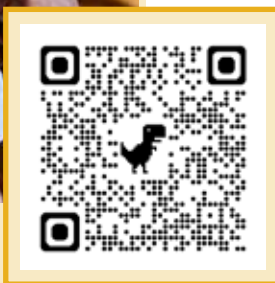
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States increasingly rely on kin caregivers to provide **healthy and safe homes** for children who cannot stay with their parents.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's *Family Ties: Analysis From a State-By-State Survey of Kinship Care Policies*

series identifies opportunities to strengthen support for kinship caregivers and children.



LEARN MORE about policies streamlining licensing of kinship foster parents, supporting unlicensed kinship caregivers, facilitating kinship diversion and engaging and partnering with kinship caregivers, the children in their care and their parents.



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www.aecf.org/series/family-ties

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