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Strengthening Early Relationships

May 2021 | [Webpage](#)

A monthly newsletter to share updates and resources in expanding the Safe Babies Court Team™ (SBCT) approach in Washington State.

Strengthening Early Relationships is a portfolio of work at the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ). CCYJ has a mission to create better lives for generations of children and youth by reforming the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

SBCT Updates

Legislative Updates

- **2SSB 5331 is awaiting the Governor's signature.** We are *thrilled* to see that the [Early Childhood Program bill](#) has passed out of the legislature and has made it to Governor Inslee's desk! Final amendments were incorporated to strengthen the bill's focus on racial equity, parent voice, and safe reunification. We are excited about these changes, and are hopeful that this bill serves as a step toward creating a more holistic and equitable system of care for WA's infants, toddlers, and families. [View bill as passed legislature here.](#)
- **We are deeply grateful for the strong community support in moving this through the legislature.** We can't thank everyone enough for their support, expert guidance, testimony, and encouragement!
- **The Child Care for Working Families Act.** Recently reintroduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA), this bill supports families in accessing quality, affordable childcare. It also invests in high-quality infant and toddler programs, increases training to early childhood educators and supports to mental health consultants. [Learn more about the legislation and how to take action here.](#)

Site Updates

- **Sites continue to rollout the foundations for their local baby court**, and with the Community Coordinator Academy winding down, some SBCT courts are set to launch over the coming months! Spokane County has set a target start date for early May, and Thurston County expects to start hearing cases shortly thereafter. Kitsap has continued to develop their implementation process while hiring for a new Community Coordinator position.
- **Some exciting updates from Pierce County's Best for Babies Program.** Firstly, The Pierce County Council unanimously approved a \$20,000 award to the Best for Babies Program! The County Council discussion is [here, beginning at 1:03](#) This will maintain funding through 2021, as the HRSA grant ends in September. Additionally, Best for Babies was featured in [The News Tribune](#) this month, spotlighting the impact of baby courts in Pierce County. *If you would like to subscribe to weekly Best for Babies updates, please contact Julie Hoffman at Julie@amarafamily.org.*
- **The State Leadership Team continues to focus on the development of the State Advisory Board.** This group will provide broad oversight, guidance, and advocacy to local and statewide SBCT expansion efforts, centering equity and parent perspective throughout. Over the month, the State Team consulted with other states that have developed Advisory Boards to help clarify the Board's overall role and identify stakeholder representation that should participate. Next steps include outlining clear roles and responsibilities, and outreaching potential Board members.

Resource Hub

Education Opportunities

Various Recorded Sessions

- [Spreading HOPE: The First Annual HOPE Summit 2021](#)
About: The Spreading HOPE Summit occurred on 4/19 and delved into rich discussions on HOPE in various sectors, including early childhood and early relational health. You can find a variety of recordings of the plenaries and afternoon sessions on their website.

Listen

- [Podcast: The New Neighborhood – Episode 4: Meeting the Needs of Children Under Three](#)
About: [The New Neighborhood](#), a limited series podcast, explores some of the dramatic changes taking place across the country as people work to reinforce a sense of community, support young children and families, and work to build equity within communities. Each episode features emerging innovations that will create a society where all children and their families can thrive.

Read

- [State of Babies Yearbook 2021: The State of Washington's Babies](#)

Interested in Learning More?

For more information on the SBCT Approach and the current work expanding it to Washington State, visit our newly updated website or send us an email.

CCYJ Website

Strengthening Early Relationships: Expanding the Safe Babies Court Team Approach in Washington State
<https://ccyj.org/our-work/designing-a-washington-state-safe-babies-plan/>

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You are receiving this email because you are on our Safe Babies Design Team listserv. If you would like to unsubscribe to this mailing list, please let me know.