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Strengthening Early Relationships November 2021 | Webpage

A monthly newsletter to share updates and resources in implementing Early Childhood Courts (ECC)* in Washington State.

**Early Childhood Courts are therapeutic courts utilizing the Safe Babies Court Team™ (SBCT) approach in their program structure and operations. ECC reflects terminology used in [2SSB 5331](#), which became effective on July 25th, 2021. Sites may continue using "SBCT" when referring to their court programs, while this newsletter will transition to using "ECC" in reference to this work.*

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



ECC Updates

All sites have formally launched their Early Childhood Court! Kitsap County fully launched in early October - the same day they had their very first court staffing for a potential family. Thurston County also accepted their first family this month. Spokane County has been steadily increasing their caseload, including the addition of their first ICWA transfer case. They continue outreach and engagement of families entering Dependency.

Sites continue to engage the community with opportunities for collaboration and celebration. Kitsap County is currently planning a celebratory kickoff event on 11/8 from 9:30 - 11:00 am in honor of their program rollout. Thurston County will also celebrate a kickoff event on 11/16 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm to share more about the SBCT approach and what their program offers (*See attached event flyers for more information*). Spokane continues to build their community collaborations, with plans to launch their local Active Community Team in January 2022. Spokane's Community Coordinator recently organized a child-parent psychotherapy presentation by local clinicians, allowing their Dependency stakeholders and community providers to learn more about this resource.

Judge Clarence Henderson will be taking over Pierce County's Best for Babies docket in November. Judge Henderson will serve as the presiding judge over the next three years, and has been learning about ECCs and the local program. ***We are grateful for the leadership of Judge Gretchen Leanderson in advancing the work of Best for Babies.*** She has been the presiding judge on the docket since January 2020 and was also involved with the program during her time as the presiding juvenile court judge in 2018-2019.

An initial list of ECC State Advisory Board members has been confirmed, and the group will convene in early November. The State Team will meet with the ECC State Advisory Board to share an overview of ECC work thus far, and to identify state priorities in implementation (*See attached PDF for a list of confirmed Advisory Board Members*).

The State Team is working to develop a data performance management plan for Washington alongside other states. This plan serves to help ECCs develop an in-depth understanding of their local goals, identify performance measures, determine what is needed to obtain data for each measure, and report findings in a way that is easily understood by various target audiences. The components of this plan will be closely matched to sites' local culture to be meaningful and relevant to clients, program activities, and staff.

CCYJ is hiring an Associate Director of Innovation position. CCYJ seeks an Associate Director who will use a race equity lens to support the development, implementation and ongoing management of four portfolios of work: Strengthening Early Relationships, Girls Court, Project Respect, and the eQuality Project. These portfolios operate to improve our state systems to better support infants and very young children, LGBTQ+ youth, and justice system involved girls and to combat child sex trafficking. This is a full-time position. [View the job posting online.](#)

Resource Hub

Upcoming Events

[Virtual Open House for the Advanced Clinical Training Program at the Barnard Center](#)

When: See PDF for open house dates; next cohort June 2022

About: As a way to connect with and get to know organizations in communities across the state, the University of Washington is offering hour-long professional development overview trainings on diversity-informed infant and early childhood mental health and/or other topics of interest related to serving expecting families and families caring for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers (*See attached PDF for more information*).



[State Strategies to Strengthen Infant-Toddler Care as Public Pre-k Expands](#)

When: Tuesday, 11/16, 11:00 am PDT

About: Join ZERO TO THREE on November 16 at 2pm ET for a discussion about how states can protect and expand infant-toddler care, ensuring that families have affordable access to a full continuum of high-quality early care and education.

[NCJFCJ and Soberlink Alcohol Use Disorder \(AUD\) Webinar](#)

When: Wednesday, 11/17, 9:00 am PDT

About: This webinar is designed to provide judges, attorneys, and court professionals a better understanding of Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD), what it is, use of terms, and considerations when managing cases where AUD is present. This webinar explores the facts around AUD and how it factors into developing an optimal parenting plan where the child is safe and healthy.

Listen

[Critical Connections Podcast from the BUILD Initiative](#)

About: Critical Connections gathers state and community leaders to highlight local collaborations in the development of early childhood systems that can make a difference for all children. Critical Connections is available wherever you get your podcasts, with full episodes in English and summary episodes in Spanish.

- **Topics include:** The critical role of parents in Michigan's Great Start Collaborative; the balance of local and state leadership in North Carolina; and community commitment to school readiness.

Watch

[Recording: Improving Birth Outcomes: Strengthening Awareness of and Support for State and Community Doula Networks](#)

About: Doula care is method for improving birth outcomes and reducing rates of maternal morbidity and mortality among birthing people of color. However, in many states doula care is not routinely covered by health insurance and doulas aren't seen as instrumental members of the birthing team. Thus, intentional collective efforts should be made to recognize, promote and compensate doulas for their role in achieving equitable outcomes. In addition, making doula care sustainable is an important step in ensuring that birthing people with the highest prevalence of adverse birth outcomes have the support they need before, during, and after pregnancy. [View presentation slides here.](#)

[Recording: Willis & Friends: Vital Signs of Early Relational Health: Autonomic Emotional Connection](#)

About: In this recording, participants discussed the recently discovered autonomic emotional connection. The connection is an observable state of co-regulation between loved ones when their stress physiology in the body and brain are mutually calmed by the sight, sound, smell, touch, and even taste of one another.

[Recording: Data-Driven Continuous Quality Improvement: Mobilizing Systems to Improve Child and Family Well-Being](#)

About: The Strengthening Families Networking Webinar in September focused on Data-Driven Continuous Quality Improvement: Mobilizing Systems to Improve Child and Family Well-Being, with presenters from Mosaic Network, Inc., the University of California Santa Barbara, and Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, NC. You will need to share your name and email address in order to access the recording. [Presentation slides are found here.](#)



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:
Implementing Early Childhood Court Programs 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 us know