

Expanding the Safe Babies Court Team™ Approach in Washington



center for
CHILDREN & YOUTH
JUSTICE | *Changing the arc of a young person's future*



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE TODAY 2/16 AT 1:30 PDT: The Senate Ways & Means Committee is hearing testimony for [SB 5331 today at 130pm](#). We would love to highlight as much support as possible and are again asking folks to [sign in “pro” to support this bill](#), as they are able! (From the link, Senate; Ways & Means; 2/16/21 130pm; SB 5331)

To note, we have requested further amendments to this bill and are in ongoing contact with legislative staff to ensure the changes are made. We have been informed the edits can be incorporated while the bill is in Ways and Means, or when the bill gets to the Policy Committee in the House. The language amendments we are working to incorporate include:

- *Clarifying that the Community Coordinator can be employed by the court or an outside social service agency*
- *Clarifying that the AOC’s participation in this work is entirely dependent on available funding*

SBCT Updates

Implementation Updates

- **Sites are strategizing ramp-up with the support of ZERO TO THREE (ZTT).** Sites continue to meet with ZTT to build their program structure. Areas of focus include establishing the frequency of judicial hearings and Family Team Meetings; identifying safe and accessible locations for meetings; criteria for program eligibility; and a framework for intake. The Community Coordinators are also participating in an intensive Community Coordinator Academy Learning Community, to dive into the deep details of SBCT implementation.
- **Staffing updates.** Thurston and Spokane’s Community Coordinators continue to work closely with their sites and ZTT to begin implementation ramp up. Kitsap’s Community Coordinator has recently been hired and will be starting in the coming weeks. WA Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is in the process of hiring their Statewide Coordinator position.

- **Collaboration with other states launching new sites.** CCYJ and AOC continue to attend monthly learning sessions led by ZTT, and in partnership with other states also launching SBCT sites. Due to the thoughtful work of the Design Team and various Workgroups past the last year, it's been great to see that much of the foundation needed to begin statewide implementation has already been established (such as logic models and the development of statewide mission, vision, and values statements).

Legislative Updates

- **SB 5331 has been introduced in the Senate.** [This bill](#) standardizes statewide core components of Early Childhood Courts, if such a court program is established. Based off feedback from key stakeholders, the bill has already been amended once, and we are advocating for additional amendments as the bill goes through Ways and Means. The components found in the bill are aligned with the SBCT framework created by ZERO TO THREE.
 - **SB 5331 had its first hearing on Thursday 1/28.** Public testimony in PRO of this bill were given by Rachel Sottile, President & CEO of CCYJ; Representative Ruth Kagi (Retired); and Parent Ally, Heather Cantamessa. [View the recording of the hearing \(beginning at 1:26:00\) here.](#)
 - **This bill also received additional, formal support** a from a variety of partners and stakeholders. We wanted to note our appreciation to folks for taking the time to provide written testimony or sign in PRO; it's through this show of community support that we hope will encourage the bill's passage.
 - **There is a hearing today, 2/16 AT 1:30 PDT:** The Senate Ways & Means Committee is hearing testimony for [SB 5331 today at 130pm](#). Again, **we would love to gather as much public support as possible and ask folks to sign in** "pro" to support this bill, as they are able! (From the link, Senate; Ways & Means; 2/16/21 130pm; SB 5331)
 - [Subscribe to bill updates here.](#)
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Resource Hub

Paid Focus Group Opportunity

- [The Washington Early Childhood Policy Fellowship](#) is a future fellowship opportunity focused on strengthening a pipeline of leaders of color to inform early childhood policy decisions in Washington state. The fellowship is in its design phase and is **looking for diverse and representative participants of color throughout Washington state** to share their experiences and input to inform the fellowship through PAID virtual Focus Group discussions. All selected participants who complete a Focus Group discussion will receive a \$100 gift card (Visa or Target) for their time and input.

- [Please register here](#) if you have interest in participating in one of our Focus Groups
- If you have questions about this opportunity, please reach out to leslie@waecpfellowship.org or leave a comment via the registration link above.

Upcoming Events

- [3rd Annual Washington Fatherhood Summit: Resilient Dads: Fathering in Challenging Times!](#) ([click to register](#))

When: March 16-18 from 8:30 am -12:00 pm

About: This three-morning event will support our mission of lifting the voices of fathers in Washington State by promoting fatherhood inclusion, equity, and value to strengthen families and maximize children's potential. Visit the Council website for more information.

Reading & Video

- **Read:** [Transitioning to Love for All Families](#) by Alise Morrissey
- **Watch:** [Family Connections: King's Story](#). When a child enters foster care, it's traumatic for everyone involved. But two families share how creating deeper bonds with each other can help everyone, especially the child at the center. Learn more about Shrounda, Amy, King, and how they built these powerful family connections.

Education Opportunities

Upcoming:

- [Creating Meaningful Family Time for Young Children and Parents: The Roles of a Caseworker and Supervisor](#) ([click to register](#))

Feb 19, 2021 11:00 a.m. ET:

Previously Recorded:

- [ZTT Recording: Neuro-Relational Development](#)

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/>

Contact:

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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.