



Strengthening Early Relationships January 2022 | [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

Clark County continues to lay the foundation for a spring launch! The Court recently hosted a community kickoff, inviting community members and ZERO TO THREE to celebrate the upcoming program, provide information about the Safe Babies Court Team™ Approach, and share how the new program will positively impact babies, toddlers, and their families. You can view the recording online, [here](#).

Kitsap hosted their first Family Team Meeting (FTM). FTMs are a component of ECCs, designed to engage and support parents in their case plan, identify and address family needs, and increase access to service and supports. The Kitsap team was encouraged to see that the FTM structure created an environment for the mother to be in control and voice her successes and concerns regarding the dependency. Kitsap plans to build from this experience as they continue to host more FTMs.

Thurston County’s program has increased its momentum since rollout. The team continues to enroll new families into their ECC and host multiple FTMs. The Community Coordinator also notes that families are at the center of the conversations and are becoming more familiar with the structure of FTMs.

Pierce County is exploring new community partnerships to strengthen the Best for Babies program and supports to parents. The team is exploring ways to partner with existing teams and programs in the community that could benefit families, including home visiting programs, play therapy, and a local food bank.

Spokane continues to grow their caseload and identify opportunities for community collaboration. The team initiated a new collaboration with an Intensive Outpatient Mental Health Program to serve pregnant mothers during the child's first year of life. Now that their baby court has had time to rollout, the team adapted their intake process to give parents additional time for enrollment. Spokane continues to seek a new Community Coordinator and hopes to hire this role in the coming weeks.

We are excited to welcome Katie Anderson to the State Team! Supported by the legislative funding through SB 5331, the AOC has done some internal shifting and recently brought on a full-time ECC Statewide Coordinator. Katie will continue to share the role with CCYJ, and work alongside the State Team to provide technical assistance to local sites and support statewide ECC initiatives. Sarah Burns will transition out of this role to work with the AOC in a new capacity – **a huge thank you to Sarah for all of your work in supporting ECC rollout across our communities!**

The State Team is finalizing the Data & Evaluation Advisory group. This group consists of experts in early childhood development and learning, early childhood mental health, parenting and well-being, health services, and evaluation methods to provide advice and guidance around ECC program's performance, data management, and data use. Experts represent a range of sectors, including academia, governmental agencies, donor, and nongovernmental organizations. Lead by Arina Gertseva from WSCCR, the initial meeting is on track to be scheduled for February.

Resource Hub

Watch

[Washington State Consultation with Dr. Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM](#)

When: February 16, 2022, 9:00 am PDT

About: With the recent and significant increase in the use of Fentanyl across the state of Washington, please join us for an interactive discussion with Addiction Medicine expert, Dr. Kaitlan Baston. This consultation will provide an opportunity to learn more about supporting families and pregnant women addicted to Fentanyl; its impact on children pre and postnatally; considerations when mixed with other substances such as Methamphetamines or Opioids; as well as, recommended best practices for treatment.



[Foundation for All Future Development: Celebrating Highlights in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health](#)

When: February 3, 2022, and March 3, 2022; 2:00 – 3:30 pm EDT

About: This webinar series will highlight innovations and successes from SAMHSA Infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH), Project LAUNCH, and Indigenous LAUNCH grantees. Grantees from across the nation will showcase examples from their communities and share lessons learned with the broader early childhood field. Webinars include:

- Integrating IECMH into Early Childhood Delivery Systems (2/3/22)
- Strategies Supporting Service Delivery (3/3/22)

Read

[Oregon Establishes Incentive Metric for Social Emotional Health](#)

About: A partnership between Children’s Institute, the Oregon Pediatric Improvement Partnership at Oregon Health & Science University, and Oregon Health Authority has culminated in approval of a first-ever incentive metric for social and emotional health for children under five for the state’s 16 Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO). The new metric will help Oregon’s Medicaid system focus on prevention and increased investment in the state’s youngest children. It will CCO’s to establish a foundation for social emotional health and school readiness by improving care, making quality care accessible, eliminating health disparities, and curbing the rising costs of health care.

Listen

[Building Neighborhood Initiatives with Parents at the Center](#)

About: This podcast series 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. In this episode, leaders in Palm Beach County to hear how they brought community services down to the neighborhood level.



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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