



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



Strengthening Early Relationships July 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's mission to create better lives for generations of children and youth by reforming the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.



SBCT Updates

Site Updates

Kitsap and Thurston Counties recently hired their Community Coordinators!

Training with both ZERO TO THREE and the State Team has begun, to ensure that the coordinators are well grounded in the work and have the tools in place to support this new court approach. Kitsap and Thurston have already built much of their foundational SBCT structures, and it is the hope that following the Community Coordinator training academy, their baby courts will launch in the fall.

Spokane is slowly adding to their caseload as they continue structuring their baby court program.

This month, the site has focused on considerations for building its local Active Community Team, which will provide oversight and strategic support for their SBCT. Community-based agencies continue to be deeply involved with the Baby Court, as they remain actively engaged in the ongoing development and structure of the SBCT program, along with working directly with families. These agencies have additionally found opportunities to directly collaborate with one another to better support Baby Court families.

The Best for Babies Team continues their Baby Court work, with court hearings and family team meetings continuing to occur remotely.

However, most families have resumed with in-person Family Time since late May, and the Community Coordinator has begun visiting with families in-person on as-needed basis, particularly to support resource needs (such as providing diapers and wipes).

The State Team continues to provide individualized technical assistance to sites while coordinating with National ZERO TO THREE. Most recently, these activities include involvement in Community Coordinator interview processes; guidance and coordination regarding the development of local Active Community Teams; and facilitating cross-site Community Coordinator meetings.

The State Team's QI/Data Manager recently submitted a data sharing application request to integrate data between DCYF, AOC, and local courts. A streamlined source for data would contribute significantly to the ongoing performance reporting and outcome evaluation for the SBCT program, support local sites' alignment to the approach, and identify opportunities for improved outcomes for the families they serve.

Legislative Updates

SB 5331 went into effect on July 25. With the enactment of [this bill](#), Early Childhood Court Programs (ECCPs) across the state are required to align with core components outlined in the bill by January 1, 2022. The State Team will continue to work with sites and interested communities to build a structure that maintains alignment to the legislation.



HB 1194 went into effect on July 25. [This bill](#) changes the way the dependency system evaluates and orders family time, by requiring justification for supervision and monitoring. The goal is to provide maximum parent, child, and sibling contact possible, while keeping the child safe. Various educational resources related to this bill are found on the AOC's website, including [training materials](#) and a [statute-by-statute overview](#) of these changes.

Federal Child Tax Credit (CTC). This month is the official start of monthly payments to families from the enhanced Child Tax Credit (CTC) promised through the American Rescue Plan. The CTC has no earnings threshold that families must meet to qualify and provides families who earn up to \$150,000 per year the full monthly payment of \$300 per child under six years old and \$250 per child aged six to seventeen. Many families with incomes above that level will still receive a smaller amount. Learn more about how the expansion helps infants, toddlers and their families in ZERO TO THREE's new fact sheet, [Child Tax Credit Expansion Is a Win for Babies' Early Development](#).



Resource Hub

Upcoming Events

[15th Annual Virtual Cross Sites Meeting \(click to register\)](#)

When: August 17-19, 2021

About: ZERO TO THREE is proud to host the 15th Annual Cross Sites Meeting as part of the Infant-Toddler Court Program (ITCP) National Resource Center. Be transformed by learning about the latest innovations in child welfare and community-based prevention. Be prepared to move your practice forward in our changing and challenging world. A lineup of outstanding speakers will take you to new depths on topics ranging from building systems to support prevention and lift family voices to strategies for advancing equity in child welfare and the broader community. **Registration to this multi-day event is free!**



Transforming Systems to Elevate Family
and Community Voices, Promote Equity,
and Integrate Prevention



Watch

[The Science and Power of Hope | Chan Hellman | TEDxOklahomaCity](#)

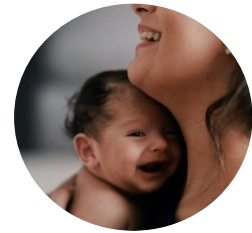
About: Dr. Chan Hellman shares there is both science and power in hope to help people create the change they want in life. Chan M. Hellman is a professor of social work at the University of Oklahoma and Director of The Hope Research Center. Chan's research is focused on hope as a psychological strength helping children and adults overcome trauma and adversity.

Read

[Building New Foundations Blog](#)

About: COVID-19, along with the economic downturn it brought and the racial inequities it exacerbated, exposed cracks in our system of early childhood services. The Pritzker Children's Initiative-funded National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers (NCIT) has put together a series of blog posts based on interviews with 101 early childhood leaders from the front lines. This blog showcases lessons learned to help communities build stronger early childhood systems for the future. Topics range from how to meet the behavioral health needs of marginalized communities to helping policymakers understand families' dire childcare needs to better advocacy for families in the early intervention system.

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:

Michelle Williams (She/Her)

mwilliams@ccyj.org

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.