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Strengthening Early Relationships September 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

By the end of this month, all new sites are expected to enroll families! The Community Coordinators from Thurston and Kitsap counties are wrapping their 8-week training by ZERO TO THREE, which focuses on the foundations for launching a baby court. During this time, the teams have formalized court processes and procedures and developed the necessary internal structures to support an Early Childhood Court Program. Thurston's program started taking families on September 1, and Kitsap plans to take families in mid-late September. Spokane continues to add to their caseload and further structure their baby court program.

The Best for Babies Team continues to streamline community collaboration. A community team meeting was recently held and highlighted the Plan of Safe Care (POSC) pilot program. POSC is a pilot currently in Pierce and Yakima Counties since June 2021, with the goal of supporting substance exposed infants and teens in care with new infants with wraparound services and supportive connections. Presenters from DCYF, Help Me Grow, and Tacoma Pierce County Health Department shared communication materials that were created for service professionals and hospital staff to use when engaging families.

Sites continue to engage in local community outreach. Community Coordinators continue to inform agencies and partners about their baby court program and

explore areas of collaboration. Some activities include: providing educational presentations of the program to local agencies, building the local Active Community Teams, and connecting agencies together to discuss how to streamline work in child-parent psychotherapy (CPP) in Spokane.

The State Team continues to plan and develop state structures, including the State Advisory Board and Data Advisory Group. Formal outreach for the State Advisory Board has begun, and it is expected to convene the group in the fall. The State Team is in the process of identifying the role and potential membership of the Data Advisory Group, and hopes to formally reach out to individuals in the coming months.

Legislative Updates

Preparing for the next legislative session. We are initiating conversations and are in inquiry with our partners in preparation for the 2021-22 legislative session. If you would like to share any legislative updates or are aware of possible legislation that may impact infants, toddlers, and families involved in the child welfare system, please email Nicholas Oakley, CCYJ's Director of Programs and Policy Counsel, at Noakley@ccyj.org.



Resource Hub

Upcoming Events

[Strengthening Families Webinar: Data-Driven CQI](#)

When: September 9, 12:00 - 1:00 pm PDT

About: On this month's Strengthening Families webinar, some of our national partners will share how you can translate the success of their data-driven initiatives during the pandemic to fast-track access to practices focused on equity and wellbeing through your state, regional, and local Strengthening Families efforts. The model that will be shared integrates three elements of importance to the ECE community: (1) a focus on child outcomes; (2) an emphasis on local control and planning, and (3) the development and use of evidence-based indicators. You may find this approach particularly timely and relevant to the current childcare crisis that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Help Me Grow National Forum](#)

When: September 20-23, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm PDT

About: The Annual Help Me Grow (HMG) National Forum is an opportunity for HMG affiliates and early childhood system-building partners to network, learn from one another, and create new connections. The virtual event will include

content sessions, poster presentations, networking events, and distinguished speakers – including leaders from several other Strengthening Families national partner organizations, including CSSP, Be Strong Families, and the HOPE National Center.

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

When: September 22, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm PDT

About: This session will discuss Autonomic emotional connection. Autonomic emotional connection is a recently discovered observable state of co-regulation between loved ones when their stress physiology in body and brain are mutually calmed by the sight, sound, smell, touch and even taste of one another. This is especially important in infancy and early childhood as one of the true "vital signs" of early relational health, with important implications for future social emotional development and wellbeing.

[ZERO TO THREE Virtual Annual Conference 2021](#)

When: October 25-29

About: This is a multi-day virtual conference hosted by ZERO TO THREE, featuring an extensive array of research-informed, competency-based sessions to support your professional development goals. This year's theme is Take Heart.



Watch

[ZERO TO THREE Cross Sites Recordings](#)

About: All of the recorded content from this year's Virtual Cross Sites are available for registered attendees through September 30, 2021.

Read

[Child Welfare Practice With Families Affected by Parental Incarceration](#)

About: This bulletin provides an overview of the intersection of child welfare and parental incarceration; highlights practices to facilitate parent-child visits during incarceration, include parents in case planning, and work toward reunification; and points to resources to help caseworkers in their practice with these children and families. *Find more resources on how to support children and families affected by parental incarceration, including state and local examples [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:

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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