ZERO TO THREE
LEARN Conference
OCT 27-29, 2026 | PORTLAND, OR

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

ShowingUpinChallengingTimes: Trust, Boundaries, and Compassion in Pediatric Care

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Location: B113-116

SYMPOSIUM HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS)

Being a caregiver of a baby or toddler has always been demanding, and right now, many caregivers are experiencing increased, compounding pressures. Providing medical care for families in this environment is exceedingly stressful for professionals, whose work is under threat as trust in systems and health care is being challenged. What can practice staff do to support families and communities? What falls beyond that scope? How can health care professionals care for themselves? How can HealthySteps Specialists both partner with caregivers and support their pediatric teams without overwhelming themselves?

This session seeks to empower pediatric teams with strategies for meeting today's unique challenges. Presenters will address:

1. Providing medical care to families living in fear of deportation and partnering with community resources to share the burden and strengthen support.

2. Addressing trust with caregivers during current challenges to medical expertise and vaccine hesitance.

3. Supporting medical teams struggling with exceptional stress and mental load.

4. Practicing fierce compassion to accept what you can control and set limits for what you cannot.

Speakers



Omolara Thomas
Pediatrician | Strong Children Wellness



David Higgins
Pediatrics | Children's Hospital Colorado



Cherie Craft
Smart from the Start

DigitalDecisions:HowTechnology Is Reshaping Early Childhood and Family Support

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Location: A105-106

PRE-CONFERENCE FORUMS INTRODUCTORY

Technology and artificial intelligence (AI) are changing how families gather information, seek support, and connect with their children. These shifts also affect how professionals across early childhood education, family services, and infant and early childhood mental health deliver services, design learning experiences, gather and interpret data, and make decisions. This interactive forum will explore how digital tools, social media, and emerging AI platforms are influencing parent-child relationships, caregiving practices, and professional roles and responsibilities.

The forum will offer a practical framework for thinking about these changes from multiple perspectives, including personal caregiving decisions, professional responsibilities, and broader societal impacts. Participants will begin with research-informed grounding on developmental and relational effects of technology use, including the ways digital distraction and techno-ference may shape early relationships and workforce practice.

Through real-world examples featuring voices from parenting, research, early childhood practice, program leadership, technology, and a range of cultural and community contexts, participants will examine how families are already using digital tools and AI in daily life. The discussion will highlight both opportunities and concerns, including the quality of relationships, the role of online guidance in caregiving decisions, and how professionals can respond thoughtfully as these tools evolve.

The forum will also explore how cultural traditions and community contexts shape the use and interpretation of digital parenting advice, and how AI may reinforce or reshape long-standing approaches to caregiving across diverse settings. Participants will leave with actionable steps and tools for navigating these emerging changes with clarity, balance, and relationship-centered practice across programs and systems.

Speakers



Julie LeMoine
Assistant Professor | UMass Medical School



Jenny Radesky
Associate Professor of Pediatrics | University of Michigan Medical School



Sunny Liu
Director of Research | Stanford Social Media Lab

Honoring Voices to Drive Change: Turning Lived Experience into Action

8:30AM–3:30PM | Location:A107-109

PRE-CONFERENCE FORUMS INTERMEDIATE

In early childhood programs, families and frontline staff have firsthand knowledge about what communities need and what happens day-to-day. Yet too often, these perspectives are not consistently included in the structures and processes where program and policy decisions are made. Honoring lived experience is not only a strategy for improvement. It reflects a commitment to responsiveness, shared responsibility, and meaningful partnership with the people most affected by early childhood systems. This forum is grounded in the belief that systems are strongest when people feel seen, heard, and valued, and when lived experience is treated as essential knowledge for shaping decisions.

Rooted in ZERO TO THREE's theory of change, this forum explores practical and ethical ways to gather, elevate, and apply lived experience with care, respect, and transparency to strengthen practice, support shared decision-making, and build systems that reflect community experience and priorities. Through case studies and real-world examples, participants will examine what it looks like when lived experience drives meaningful change across programs, community systems, and policy environments.

Participants will leave with actionable steps and tools for embedding an "Honoring Voices" approach into decision-making and scaling these practices to support lasting systems change.
Speakers



Evandra Catherine

Early Childhood Consultant/Research Professor | EC Consulting Group



Carla Caringi

Associate Professor - Research | Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University



Erin Henderson

Executive Director | Association for Infant Mental Health in Hawaii

Transformational Play in Child-Parent Psychotherapy

8:30AM–3:30PM | Location:B110-112

PRE-CONFERENCE FORUMS CPP INTERMEDIATE

Rarely do we have the opportunity to come together and observe a clinical treatment as it unfolds. In this session, participants will engage in deep dialogue while reviewing eight clinical sessions and reflecting together on how catalytic play is used in Child-Parent Psychotherapy as a therapeutic modality to support a family in transforming their experiences.

We will also consider how work like this can be transformative not only for the family, but for the clinician and even the field itself—challenging aspects of what we were taught in graduate school and inviting a ripple of change across systems to become more responsive to the needs of young children who have experienced early danger.

During this session we will explore the following:

- Clinical microinterventions that catalyze dialogue between caregiver and child, strengthen the connection between affect and experience, and help families metabolize and share experiences of past danger through symbolic play

- Archetypal play scenarios and core CPP concepts that help us better understand symbolic play

- The evolution of play scenarios across sessions

- Ways that the CPP fidelity framework guides intervention

- Play as a port of entry to the caregiver's past and to ghosts in the nursery work

Speakers



Chandra Ippen

Associate Director CTRP | Child Trauma Research Program



Katie Stone

Assistant Professor | University of Minnesota Medical School

BONUS PROGRAMMING: Sankofa: Land. Root. Seed. Culture. Community. Film and Dialogue

4:00PM–5:30PM | Location:PortlandBallroom251-258

OTHER

Kick off your LEARN Conference with something you will not want to miss. Join us for screenings and conversations that spark reflection and connection just before the evening reception.

The **Sankofa Infant Mental Health History Project™** is a multi-year effort focused on retrieving the healing and relational wisdom from our pasts, cultures, and communities and telling a fuller history of IMH – including the contributions of professionals and communities of color and the role of power and privilege in the field's development.
Come join us for a special, in-person screening of the film Sankofa Part One: Land. Root. Seed. Culture. Community., along

with robust opportunities for engagement and reflection with colleagues and the Sankofa Steering Collective.
This first of four Sankofa films premiered in 2026 and features interviews with five IECMH professionals and the Sankofa Steering

Collective which includes Eva Marie Shivers, Marie-Celeste Condon, Nucha Isarowong, Aditi Subramaniam, and Natasha Pérez Byars. Visit www.SankofaIMHHistoryProject.com to watch the trailer and for more information on this exciting project.

Opening Reception

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

OTHER

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Morning Yoga

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM

OTHER

Start your conference day with a morning yoga session! Join us at **7:00 AM** for gentle movement, stretching, and a moment to get centered before the day's sessions begin. All experience levels are welcome. **Please bring your own yoga mat or towel.**

MorningMovement: Nature Connection for Caregivers

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM

OTHER

Start your day with a guided nature connection experience in the outdoor plaza at the Convention Center. Through gentle invitations inspired by forest bathing, participants will slow down, engage their senses, and experience the restorative benefits of connecting with the nature available in an everyday environment. This welcoming, accessible session is designed to foster reflection, connection, and well-being while offering a refreshing start to the conference day. No prior experience is needed, and activities can be adapted for different levels of mobility.

Speaker



Jennifer Salinas
ProgramManager | Children & Nature Network

Opening and Practice Plenary: What Comes Into Focus When We Center Relationships? The Safe Babies Lens

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Location: Portland Ballroom

PLENARY/KEYNOTE INTRODUCTORY

Early childhood and child welfare systems are complex and often shaped by transactional and hierarchical relationships. This Practice Plenary explores what comes into focus when relationships lead through the Safe Babies lens.

As a flagship ZERO TO THREE program, Safe Babies integrates practice, policy, and systems change to coordinate across systems, elevate parent voice, and shift interactions toward trust, authenticity, and compassion with families and with providers.

Join this panel of Safe Babies leaders and parent advocates as they share reflections grounded in lived experience and community practice. Participants will examine how relationship-centered practice builds hope and resilience while shaping work across a continuum, from prevention within early childhood systems to intensive, relationship-based interventions for families involved in child welfare.

By naming complexity honestly and highlighting real inroads for change, this session will demonstrate how a relationship-centered, systemic approach creates the conditions for meaningful progress to take hold. Join us to explore what becomes possible when relationships remain at the center of your work and consider how this lens might shape your own practice and partnerships.

Speakers



Darneshia Allen
TrainingandTechnical Assistance Integration Sr. Manager | Safe Babies, A Program of ZERO TO THREE



Crystal Hallock
ParentLeader | Zero to Three Safe Babies



Delaney Jones
CommunityCoordinator- Safe Babies Program of Cuyahoga County | Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

Baby Talks Group A (BT-A): Brain Science and Early Development

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:ExhibitHallA-A1

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

What neuroscience and early experience tell us about supporting infants, toddlers, and caregivers

BT-A1: Parenting on the Brain: What Neuroscience Really Says About the "Baby Brain" and How We Can Support Parent Cognitive Development

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

This Baby Talk distillscurrent neuroscience research on early brain development and caregiving into practical insights for professionals and families. The presenter will challenge common myths about the “baby brain” and highlight how supporting parents’ cognitive andemotional capacity strengthens early relationships. Discussion will focus on how neuroscience can inform everyday interactions,messaging to caregivers, and systems that support families.

Speakers



Ally Butler

Project Manager | Vroom



Jocilyn Brady

Senior Program Manager | Vroom

BT-A2: Bridge Builders: Supporting Immigrant and Bilingual Families in Early Intervention Systems

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

This Baby Talk exploreshow early intervention systems can better serve immigrant and bilingual families. The presenter will highlight common barriersand share strategies that strengthen communication, trust, and engagement. Participants will discuss how culturally responsivepractices can support early development while honoring family language, culture, and experience.

Speaker



Cathy Lopez

Master’s Student, International Education Policy | Harvard Graduate School of Education

LS-A1: Data & the DC:0-5—Data as Story, Data as Gift

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:D137-138

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

For many professionals, experiences with data, evaluation, and measurement have not aligned with infant mental health principles. When approached thoughtfully, however, data can illuminate stories, deepen understanding, and strengthen systems that support young children and families. This Lecture shares Washington State’s mixed-methods evaluation of DC:0–5 implementation and explores how data can be collected, interpreted, and communicated in ways that align with infant and early childhood mental health values. Presenters describe how evaluation findings were used to understand implementation experiences, highlight lessons learned, and inform future system development while maintaining a relationship-based and reflective approach to data.

Speakers



Kimberly "Kiki" Fabian

Senior Research Associate | James Bell Associates



Christine Cole

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist | ZERO TO TTHREE



Alex Busuito

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist | Zero to Three

LS-A2: The Rooted & Ready Safety Response Framework: Distinguishing Risk from Discomfort in Community and Home Visiting

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:OregonBallroom203

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) ADVANCED

Rooted & Ready is a safety response framework designed to help community providers and home visitors make grounded, culturally responsive safety decisions. This Lecture introduces the framework and describes how reflection, gut-instinct awareness, and structured tools support practitioners in distinguishing true danger from discomfort that may arise from bias, unfamiliarity, or personal history. Drawing on experiences implementing the model within a large metropolitan early childhood program, presenters highlight how the framework strengthens reflective decision-making and promotes culturally responsive practice in community and home visiting contexts.

Speakers

Erin Will
Multnomah Early Childhood Program



Melissa Williams
EarlyInterventionSpecialist | Multnomah Early Childhood Program

Hez Rinn
Multnomah County Health Department

LS-A3:InfantandEarlyChildhoodMental Health Consultation and Every Child Belongs

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: C123-124

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

This Lecture highlights how Oregon's early learning and infant and early childhood mental health systems work together to strengthen early relational health across the state. Presenters share how the Department of Early Learning and Care's Every Child Belongs initiative, which focuses on preventing suspension and expulsion in early childhood settings, connects with the Oregon Infant Mental Health Association's statewide competency framework and reflective practice infrastructure. Together, these coordinated efforts demonstrate how aligned systems, workforce development, and reflective supports promote inclusion, belonging, and relational health for young children, families, and early childhood professionals.

Speakers

Erin Kinavey Wennerstrom
ExecutiveDirector | OregonInfant Mental Health Association



Katrina Miller
InfantandEarly Childhood Mental Health Specialist | Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care



Robin Hill-Dunbar
DirectorofChildren, Youth and Families | The Ford Family Foundation

LS-A4:TheInnerChildasOurMuse: Strengthening Trauma-Informed Practice in ECE/ECSE

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: A107-109

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTERMEDIATE

This session invites participants to explore how personal early experiences shape professional caregiving, coaching, and teaching approaches. Attendees will examine reflective self-awareness, classroom application, and coaching and family partnership strategies that strengthen trauma-informed, relationship-based practice. Participants will engage in:

- Personal reflection, guiding participants in considering how protective factors, unmet needs, and early sources of comfort influence present-day caregiving, coaching, and leadership responses.
- Classroom and program application, generating developmentally appropriate activities, co-regulation strategies, routines, and autonomy-supportive practices that respond to common early childhood needs.
- Coaching and family partnership, developing reflective conversation prompts and responsive approaches that support caregivers and educators in meeting infants' and toddlers' emotional and developmental needs.

Faculty will guide discussion that integrates trauma-informed principles, body safety, and respect for children's boundaries. Participants will leave with practical tools and renewed insight into how reflective awareness strengthens empathy, responsiveness, and healing-centered practice.

Speaker



Darian White
NCStatewideConsultant, Birth to Three Specialist | Early Years Inc. | UNC at Charlotte | UNC at Greensboro

LS-A5: What Works for Families? Perspectives from Georgia and Oregon on Medicaid Funding for Infant andMaternal Mental Health

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 201

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Medicaid coverage for families with young children is a critical source of funding for infant and maternal mental health services. This Lecture explores how state Medicaid systems can support family mental health and strengthen access to services for infants, young children, and caregivers. Presenters share perspectives from Georgia and Oregon, highlighting policy strategies, implementation experiences, and lessons learned across different state contexts. The presentation examines how Medicaid and CHIP policy options can expand access to care while also considering emerging federal policy changes that may influence Medicaid coverage for infant and maternal mental health services.

Speakers



Kimberly Gilsdorf
SeniorProgramOfficer | Perigee Fund



Katie Unger
Child,Youth& Families Program Manager | Health Share of Oregon



Callan Wells

SeniorHealthPolicy Manager | GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

LS-A6: Air Quality Breakthroughs: What Caregivers Need to Know to Protect Babies, Toddlers and Their Families

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: B110-112

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Safe air is essential for the health and well-being of young children. With millions of children spending over 40 hours per week in early care and learning settings, it is critical that these environments have healthy indoor air. Since January 2025, a national community partnership has delivered training, mini grants, air purifiers and indoor air monitoring to 58 childcare facilities, advancing health equity. Preliminary results will be shared and can be applied to other environments where young children spend time, such as their homes, churches, or libraries.

Speakers



Hester Paul

Eco-HealthyChild Care® National Director | Children's Environmental Health Network



Kimberly Thai

ProgramManager | Low Income Investment Fund

HS-A1:BridgingtheGap:Level2Autism Screening for Timely Diagnosis and Family-Centered Support

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: B113-116

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

Vista Community Clinic implemented the RITA-T (Rapid Interactive Screening Test for Autism in Toddlers), a validated Level 2 ASD screener, to provide direct-observation results that yield actionable information for families. This session will describe how using RITA-T accelerates referrals — accelerating diagnosis and enabling earlier intervention and informed support for parents and children.

Speakers



Erika Carter

ProgramManager | Vista Community Clinic



Alyson Kaye

AssistantDirector of Pediatrics, Nurse Practitioner Float Supervisor, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner | Vista Community Clinic



Mendy Rayford

LicenseClinicalSocial Worker-Healthysteps Specialist | Vista Community Clinic



Sujana Gunta

DirectorofPediatric Services and Strategic Projects | Vista Community Clinic

HS-A2:HarmonyinourHelpingSystems: Reflective + Relational Practices to Promote Health Equity

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: B117-119

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

This session presents an ecological model for strengthening helping systems in rural communities. Participants will explore the NE TN GROWSS initiative integrating HealthySteps, Strong Roots, and FAN into pediatric settings and engage in interactive activities to apply reflective, equity-centered strategies for cross-system coordination and family engagement.

Speakers



Diana Morelen

AssociateProfessor / Psychologist | East Tennessee State University / Allied Behavioral Health Solutions



Rachel Adams

DirectorofEastTN Services | Allied Behavioral Health Solutions

CPPSynergyCircles(SC-CPP):Applications of Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: E141-144

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) CPP INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circles session explores how CPP is implemented and adapted in complex clinical and community contexts, including working with children on the autism spectrum, supervision, and serving in dual clinical and consultation roles. Through rotating conversations, participants will examine fidelity-informed practices, reflect on cross-system collaboration, and identify practical strategies to support diverse children and families through relationship-based, trauma-informed care.

SC-CPP1: Implementation of Child-Parent Psychotherapy for Children on the Autism Spectrum

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) CPP INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle exploreshow Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) can be implemented with young children on the autism spectrum who have experienced trauma. Faculty will share clinical recommendations and case examples that illustrate thoughtful adaptations while maintainingfidelity to the CPP model. Participants will discuss common barriers to access, considerations related to sensory and communication differences, and strategies to support caregivers within a trauma-informed framework.
Speaker



Lauren Berkovits

Assistant Professor / Clinical Psychologist | Univeristy of Colorado School of Medicine / Children's Hospital Colorado

SC-CPP2: The Gifts and Challenges Navigating the Dual Roles of Child-Parent Psychotherapy Clinician and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) CPP INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle examinesthe experience of serving in dual roles as a Child-Parent Psychotherapy clinician and an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant. Faculty will explore how holding both roles enhances empathy, cross-system translation, and coordinated support for children and families, while also presenting unique challenges. Participants will reflect on strategies for integrating perspectives, utilizing reflective supervision, and strengthening collaboration across clinical and consultation settings.
Speakers

Taylor Bowman

Mental Health Clinician | Instituto Familiar de la Raza



Linda Mora

SPARK Program Manager | Instituto Familiar de la Raza

Sara Briseño Torres

Instituto Familiar de la Raza

SC-CPP3: Applying CPP Core Concepts to Reflective Supervision

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) CPP INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle will highlight howChild-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) core concepts can show up in the supervision hour to support the clinician and promote highquality care for young children and families. Faculty will utilize the CPP fidelity framework with participants to demonstrate howareflective space can address countertransference and emotional processing while deepening clinicians' knowledge baseand refining clinical skills.
Speakers



Jody Manly

Project Director, Sustaining Change | University of Rochester/Mt. Hope Family Center



Alisa Hathaway

Project Director/Supervisor/Trainer | Mt. Hope Family Center, University of Rochester

II-A1: Part 1—Healing the Healers: Rethinking Self-Care & Addressing Burnout

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:OregonBallroom202

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

Professionals who support infants, young children, and families often encourage caregivers to practice self-care, yet many members of the early childhood workforce are experiencing significant burnout. Workforce shortages, high-stress environments, and systemic inequities place increasing pressure on professionals across early childhood, health, and mental health systems. This Issue Intensive examines burnout within the infant and early childhood workforce and reframes traditional notions of self-care by considering the broader organizational and systemic conditions that influence provider well-being.

Guided by the Diversity-Informed Tenets, presenters review national data on workforce burnout and explore how systems and organizations can either contribute to harm or support healing. Participants consider the role of critical consciousness in professional well-being and examine approaches such as Radical Healing principles and diversity-informed reflective partnerships. This Issue Intensive highlights strategies that support individual and collective healing while strengthening relational practice with families and communities.
Speakers



Nucha Isarowong

Director, Advanced Clinical Training Program | Barnard Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, University of Washington



Haruko Watanabe

ClinicalDirector | Cooper House



Carmen Rosa Noroña

ProgramDirector-Center for Excellence in Immigrant Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | Boston Medical Center

II-A2: Part 1—The Power of Professional Networks: How Infant-Toddler Specialists Strengthen Workforce Quality

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: A105-106

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

High-quality infant–toddler care depends on a well-prepared and supported workforce. Yet many early childhood professionals work within fragmented professional development systems with limited access to consistent, relationship-based support. This Issue Intensive examines how statewide professional networks can strengthen workforce well-being, build shared expertise, and improve practice quality across infant and toddler programs.

Using Oregon's Infant-Toddler Specialist system as a case example, presenters highlight how coordinated professional networks support reflective practice, shared learning, and alignment across professional development frameworks. Participants explore strategies for strengthening workforce supports through approaches such as Practice-Based Coaching, Circle of Security, and Motivational Interviewing. The presentation illustrates how intentional network design can promote workforce belonging, improve access to infant–toddler expertise, and strengthen early learning systems.

Speakers



Elizabeth Zinter

InfantToddlerSpecialist | Department of Early Learning and Care



April Westermann

WorkforceSystemSpecialist | Department of Early Learning and Care-State of Oregon



Maidie Rosengarden

PolicyAnalyst/ProgramManager | Department of Early Learning and Care Oregon

II-A3:Part1—TheSankofaIMHHistoryProject: Revitalization for Individual and Collective Healing

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 204

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

History shapes how a field understands its values, knowledge, and future direction. The Sankofa principle, originating from the Akan people of Ghana, encourages us to return to the past to retrieve wisdom that may be at risk of being forgotten. This Issue Intensive introduces the Sankofa Infant Mental Health History Project, a multi-year initiative designed to retrieve and elevate culturally diverse relational wisdom within the infant and early childhood mental health field.

Participants view the first film from the Sankofa film series and explore how historical narratives influence current theory, practice, and systems. The presentation highlights how cultural knowledge, community wisdom, and previously overlooked perspectives can expand the field's understanding of relational health. By revisiting the field's history through a broader lens, this Issue Intensive invites professionals to consider how integrating diverse ways of knowing can strengthen workforce development, reflective practice, and systems change.

Speakers



Eva Marie Shivers

ExecutiveDirector | Indigo Cultural Center



Aditi Subramaniam

Director,InfantandEarly Childhood Mental Health Policy | ZTT Fellows Academy



Natasha Byars

DirectorofRacial Equity Consultation and Training | Indigo Cultural Center

LL-A: Part 1— Executive Leadership: Calm Leadership in Anxious Systems: Reflective Practice for Executive Leaders

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: C120-122

LEADERSHIP LAB (LL) ADVANCED

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a stand-alone session.

Executive leaders in early childhood and infant mental health systems are often asked to lead reflectively within organizations facing financial pressures, workforce challenges, and complex community needs. In anxious systems, leadership decisions, communication patterns, and organizational culture can quickly become reactive. This interactive Leadership Lab explores how executive leaders can apply reflective practice, systems thinking, and calm leadership strategies to navigate complexity and strengthen organizational

functioning. Through reflection, peer dialogue, and real-world application, participants will gain practical tools to recognize system patterns, lead difficult conversations, and cultivate reflective organizational cultures that better support staff, families, and communities.

Part 1—Seeing the System: Reflective Leadership and Systems Thinking

Focus: Understanding how reflective practice and systems thinking help leaders recognize patterns beneath everyday organizational challenges.

- Participants will explore the connections between reflective practice and leadership use of self while applying systems thinking frameworks to identify how events, patterns, structures, and mental models influence organizational outcomes.

Speaker



Chris Amirault

Writer/Coach | Independent

LunchBreak+Exhibitsw/PosterPresentations Live Q&A

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

OTHER

Checkout our featured foodtrucks in the Exhibit Hall, and explore the poster showcase (12:15-12:45)!

Poster Presentations are a vibrant showcase of the latest insights and research in the early childhood field. Designed for and by professionals, posters offer a unique opportunity to dive deep into the nuances of emerging concepts, stories from the field, implementation models and lessons learned. Find a listing of all poster sessions online here on the posters webpage.

Poster Presentations Live Q&A

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster Presentations are a vibrant showcase of the latest insights and research in the early childhood field. Designed for and by professionals, posters offer a unique opportunity to dive deep into the nuances of emerging concepts, stories from the field, implementation models and lessons learned. Find a listing of all poster sessions online here on the posters webpage.

LL-A: Part 2— Executive Leadership: Calm Leadership in Anxious Systems: Reflective Practice for Executive Leaders

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: C120-122

LEADERSHIP LAB (LL) ADVANCED

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a stand-alone session.

Executive leaders in early childhood and infant mental health systems are often asked to lead reflectively within organizations facing financial pressures, workforce challenges, and complex community needs. In anxious systems, leadership decisions, communication patterns, and organizational culture can quickly become reactive. This interactive Leadership Lab explores how executive leaders can apply reflective practice, systems thinking, and calm leadership strategies to navigate complexity and strengthen organizational functioning. Through reflection, peer dialogue, and real-world application, participants will gain practical tools to recognize system patterns, lead difficult conversations, and cultivate reflective organizational cultures that better support staff, families, and communities.

Part 2— Leading in Anxious Organizations: Communication and Leadership Presence

Focus: Developing leadership strategies for navigating organizational anxiety, conflict, and difficult conversations.

- Using frameworks for difficult conversations and calm leadership, participants will practice communication approaches that promote

reflection and reduce reactivity.

Speaker



Chris Amirault

Writer/Coach | Independent

BabyTalk:AdvocacyinAction:Parents,Providers,and the Path to MIECHV Reauthorization

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1 - Sponsor Stage

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

The future of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program will shape the stability and growth of evidence-based home visiting for years to come. This Baby Talk provides a timely update on what to expect in the MIECHV reauthorization process over the coming year, including the anticipated policy timeline, emerging opportunities, and coordinated national advocacy efforts.

Participants will also hear directly from a Changent Parent Ambassador who recently met with Members of Congress to share how home visiting shaped her family's journey. Together, we'll explore how policymakers, practitioners, advocates, and families each play a role in strengthening support for young children and caregivers—and identify practical ways to build authentic family partnerships that strengthen advocacy efforts.

CHAMPION SPONSOR CHANGENT

Speaker



Cam Scott

DirectorofPolicy & Government Affairs | Changent

BabyTalksGroupB(BT-B):Advocacyand Systems Leadership

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

Voice, courage, and shaping systems that work for families

BT-B1:Why I Spoke Up and How You Can Too

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

This Baby Talk sharesa personal story of advocacy and the impact of speaking up within early childhood systems. The presenter will reflect on lessonslearned and practical steps others can take to use their voice effectively. Discussion will invite participants to consider when andhow advocacy can create meaningful change in their own roles and communities.

Speakers



Amanda Perez

SeniorAdvocacy Manager | ZTT



Georgia Smith

ParentEducation Coordinator | Marion & Polk County Early Learning Hub

BT-B2:BuildingSystem Foundations: Oregon’s Policy, Workforce, and Philanthropic Drivers of IECMH

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

This Baby Talk highlights Oregon’s cross-sector approach to strengthening Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. The presenter will share how policy, workforce development, and philanthropy aligned to build sustainable supports. Participants will discuss what system-building strategies might translate to other states and communities.

Speakers



Ingrid Mari Anderson

ProfessorofPractice | Portland State University



Amy Chandler

EarlyChildhoodProgram and Policy Development Specialist | Oregon Health Authority



Robin Hill-Dunbar

DirectorofChildren, Youth and Families | The Ford Family Foundation

HS-B1: Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening with Medically Complex Infants and Toddlers: When, Why,andHow?

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: B113-116

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

This presentation describes the use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) with young children in a pediatric primary care clinic serving medically complex patients with conditions often associated with developmental differences. The clinic’s integrated behavioral health team will share factors considered when implementing developmental screening with this unique population.

Speakers



Alyson Hatten

IntegratedBehavioral Health Clinician | Children's Hospital Colorado



Verenea Serrano

AssociateProfessor, Licensed Psychologist | University of Colorado, Children’s Hospital Colorado

B

Brigitte McClellan

psychologist | University of Colorado

LS-B1:BuildingMeaningfulIntergenerational Connections in Early Childhood

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: C123-124

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Intergenerational programming can strengthen relationships, foster empathy, and enrich learning experiences for both young children and older adults. This Lecture highlights the developmental and social benefits of intergenerational programs for children ages 2–5 while sharing practical strategies for implementation in early childhood settings. Drawing on examples from All Seasons Preschool in Minnesota, an intergenerational program, presenters describe developmentally appropriate activities, program design considerations, and approaches that support meaningful connections between children and older adults. The presentation emphasizes how thoughtfully designed intergenerational experiences can support social-emotional learning, community connection, and positive learning environments.

Speakers



Sarah Kern

Director | All Seasons Preschool



Amy Lemieux

Founder | All Seasons Preschool

LS-B2:EngagingMedicaidPartners:Multi-Level Strategies to Improve Maternal and Child Health

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 203

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Medicaid managed care plans play an increasingly important role in shaping maternal and child health outcomes. This Lecture examines strategies for engaging managed care partners to strengthen early childhood systems and improve health outcomes for families. Presenters highlight approaches for building partnerships across funding, policy, and local practice levels and describe how cross-sector collaboration can advance maternal and child health priorities. The presentation explores practical examples of how stakeholders can engage managed care plans and health partners to align strategies and improve outcomes for infants, young children, and their families.

Speakers



Connie Preciado-Gonzalez

Senior Program Officer | First 5 LA



Nicole Evans

Director, Maternal, Infant and Child Health Equity | Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan



Cathy Mechsner

Manager, Practice Transformation Programs | L. A. Care Health Plan

LS-B3: Envisioning and Actualizing a Child Welfare–Community Partnership Acting Together in the Best Interest oftheChild

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 201

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Effective responses to suspected child maltreatment require coordinated partnerships between child welfare systems and multidisciplinary community providers. This Lecture explores approaches for strengthening collaboration between child protective services and community partners to support family-centered, relationship-based responses to child welfare concerns. Presenters review current child welfare data and examine models that promote stronger coordination, shared decision-making, and more holistic responses to family needs. The presentation highlights how cross-system partnerships can expand options for responding to reports of suspected maltreatment while keeping the best interests of the child and family at the center of decision-making.

Speakers



Sherri Alderman

adjunct faculty | Portland State University

Kara Johansen

Psychologist | Sundstrom Clinical Services

LS-B4: The Important Role of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Leaders in Successful ImplementationofIECMH-C: KeySupports and Tools for Success

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: D137-138

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Scaling infant and early childhood mental health consultation requires strong leadership, cross-sector collaboration, and implementation supports that help systems sustain high-quality practice. This Lecture highlights the role of infant and early childhood mental health leaders in supporting the statewide implementation of consultation services. Presenters share lessons from the Oregon Infant Mental Health Association's work providing implementation support and technical assistance to expand IECMH consultation. The presentation explores strategies that strengthen workforce development, support cross-sector collaboration, and address racial disparities in early childhood suspension and expulsion practices while advancing sustainable consultation systems.

Speakers

Erin Kinavey Wennerstrom

Executive Director | Oregon Infant Mental Health Association



Sondra Stegenga

DirectorofResearch and Innovation | Oregon Infant Mental Health Association

Nichole Paradis

ECBCentralEntity Operations Director | Oregon Infant Mental Health Association

LS-B5: Medicaid's Gold-Standard Pediatric Benefit (EPSDT): State Opportunities to Strategically Tap UnrealizedPotentialforYoungChildren's Health

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: B110-112

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit is a foundational component of Medicaid that guarantees comprehensive, medically necessary care for children, yet it is often misunderstood or underutilized. This Lecture explores how EPSDT can be strategically leveraged to strengthen infant and early childhood mental health systems. Presenters clarify the legal foundations and requirements of EPSDT while sharing practical examples that demonstrate how states can expand access to services, strengthen care coordination, and improve early childhood systems. The presentation highlights policy opportunities and implementation considerations that can help translate EPSDT policy into effective practice that supports young children and families.

Speakers



Alex Busuito

SeniorTechnical Assistance Specialist | Zero to Three



Elisabeth Burak

SeniorFellow | Georgetown University Center for Children and Families



Christine Cole

SeniorTechnical Assistance Specialist | ZERO TO TTHREE

LS-CPP1: Child-Parent Psychotherapy in Child Welfare: Partnering with Courts to Support Young Children and Families

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: A107-109

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) CPP INTERMEDIATE

Judges and legal professionals increasingly rely on clinicians to inform decisions affecting infants and young children involved in child welfare cases. Yet many clinicians receive little training in how to effectively communicate attachment science, trauma, and clinical formulation within legal settings. This session explores how Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) clinicians can partner with courts, guardians ad litem (GALs), and multidisciplinary teams to advocate for the best interests of young children. Faculty will address the intersection of substance use, trauma, and parenting; clarify the distinct and overlapping roles of stakeholders in child welfare cases; and share strategies for effectively translating infant mental health principles into courtroom and case planning contexts. Participants will leave with practical tools to strengthen cross-system collaboration and improve outcomes for child welfare-involved families.

Speakers



Amy Dickson

ClinicalPsychologist/Associate Professor | LSUHSC



Sharon Ross-Donaldson

CEO/President | TheCenter for Health Equity, Inc.

SynergyCirclesGroupB(SC-B):Parent Leadership, Well-being, and Relational Accountability

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: E141-144

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circles session is themed: Parent Leadership, Well-being, and Relational Accountability. It centers caregiver voice, shared leadership, and the relational conditions that support strong early childhood systems. Participants will rotate through conversations focused on protective factors, caregiver well-being as a promotive influence on child development, and navigating moments of relational rupture with reflection and repair. Together, attendees will explore how strengthening parent resilience and fostering accountability deepens trust and builds more responsive, family-centered communities.

SC-B1: From Insight to Action: Increasing Protective Factors and Embracing Parent Leadership

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circle explores how the Protective Factors Framework and parent leadership principles can be translated into action. Faculty will spark dialogue around fairness, family resilience, and community collaboration. Participants will co-create practical strategies to strengthen early childhood ecosystems through shared leadership and collective problem-solving.
Speakers



Arthur Argomaniz

Senior Program Analyst | Center for the Study of Social Policy



Esther Hernandez

Senior Program Analyst | Center for the Study of Social Policy

SC-B2: Maternal Hope and Subjective Well-being as Promotive Factors for Social Emotional Development in Infants and Toddlers

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circle examines maternal hope and subjective well-being as foundational influences on infant and toddler social-emotional development. Faculty will share recent research and facilitate dialogue on how caregiver life satisfaction, happiness, and resilience shape early relationships. Participants will explore practical strategies to center caregiver well-being within prevention, intervention, and advocacy efforts, strengthening parent leadership and early relational health.
Speaker



Amy Korsch

Senior Instructor | Case Western Reserve University

SC-B3: “That’s Not What I Meant”: When Good Intentions Cause Harm and Other Lessons Learned

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circle creates space to reflect on moments when good intentions fall short and cause harm within professional communities. Faculty will guide candid dialogue on impact versus intent, communication repair, and accountability in early childhood systems. Participants will practice strategies for navigating difficult conversations and strengthening trust across diverse networks.
Speakers



Jesse Bernal

Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist | HeartMind Collective: Mental He…



Desiree Yoro Yoo

Program Associate II | WestEd

HS-B2: Part 1—Prioritizing Family Voice Through Attunement: Applying ERH concepts and FAN for Healthy Steps and Pediatric Providers

1:00PM–2:00PM | Location:B117-119

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) INTRODUCTORY

This session highlights the contribution of family voice to the concept of attunement, which is often seen as a clinical strength that can advance Early Relational Health across pediatric and HealthySteps settings. Drawing on parent-led initiatives, presenters will illustrate concrete strategies for parent-practitioner partnership that honor parents’ expertise and lived experience when using FAN-informed attuned communication and reflective practice. Additionally, through examples from pediatric residency education and HealthySteps/FAN training, participants will see how through attunement, FAN builds provider capacity for parent partnership, strengthens relationships, and supports shared decision-making, and provider well-being.
Speakers



Andrea Minor

Associate Director of Professional Learning and Implementation | Erikson Institute



Diane Halberg

Clinical Professor of Pediatrics | UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland



Hope Williams-Burt

Family Lead Manager | UCSF Ready! Resilience! Rising! (R3!)



Barbara Ivins

Program Director, Early Intervention Services, | UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland



Linda Gilkerson
Professor | Erikson Institute

II-A1:Part2—HealingtheHealers:Rethinking Self-Care & Addressing Burnout

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 202

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

Professionals who support infants, young children, and families often encourage caregivers to practice self-care, yet many members of the early childhood workforce are experiencing significant burnout. Workforce shortages, high-stress environments, and systemic inequities place increasing pressure on professionals across early childhood, health, and mental health systems. This Issue Intensive examines burnout within the infant and early childhood workforce and reframes traditional notions of self-care by considering the broader organizational and systemic conditions that influence provider well-being.

Guided by the Diversity-Informed Tenets, presenters review national data on workforce burnout and explore how systems and organizations can either contribute to harm or support healing. Participants consider the role of critical consciousness in professional well-being and examine approaches such as Radical Healing principles and diversity-informed reflective partnerships. This Issue Intensive highlights strategies that support individual and collective healing while strengthening relational practice with families and communities.

Speakers



Nucha Isarowong
Director,AdvancedClinical Training Program | Barnard Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, University of Wash…



Haruko Watanabe
ClinicalDirector | Cooper House



Carmen Rosa Noroña
ProgramDirector-Center for Excellence in Immigrant Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | Boston Medical Center

II-A2: Part 2—The Power of Professional Networks: How Infant-Toddler Specialists Strengthen Workforce Quality

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: A105-106

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

High-quality infant–toddler care depends on a well-prepared and supported workforce. Yet many early childhood professionals work within fragmented professional development systems with limited access to consistent, relationship-based support. This Issue Intensive examines how statewide professional networks can strengthen workforce well-being, build shared expertise, and improve practice quality across infant and toddler programs.

Using Oregon's Infant-Toddler Specialist system as a case example, presenters highlight how coordinated professional networks support reflective practice, shared learning, and alignment across professional development frameworks. Participants explore strategies for strengthening workforce supports through approaches such as Practice-Based Coaching, Circle of Security, and Motivational Interviewing. The presentation illustrates how intentional network design can promote workforce belonging, improve access to infant–toddler expertise, and strengthen early learning systems.

Speakers



Elizabeth Zinter
InfantToddlerSpecialist | Department of Early Learning and Care



April Westermann
WorkforceSystemSpecialist | Department of Early Learning and Care-State of Oregon



Maidie Rosengarden
PolicyAnalyst/ProgramManager | Department of Early Learning and Care Oregon

II-A3:Part2—TheSankofaIMHHistoryProject: Revitalization for Individual and Collective Healing

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 204

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

History shapes how a field understands its values, knowledge, and future direction. The Sankofa principle, originating from the Akan people of Ghana, encourages us to return to the past to retrieve wisdom that may be at risk of being forgotten. This Issue Intensive introduces the Sankofa Infant Mental Health History Project, a multi-year initiative designed to retrieve and elevate culturally diverse relational wisdom within the infant and early childhood mental health field.

Participants view the first film from the Sankofa film series and explore how historical narratives influence current theory, practice, and systems. The presentation highlights how cultural knowledge, community wisdom, and previously overlooked perspectives can expand the field's understanding of relational health. By revisiting the field's history through a broader lens, this Issue Intensive invites professionals to consider how integrating diverse ways of knowing can strengthen workforce development, reflective practice, and systems change.

Speakers



Eva Marie Shivers

ExecutiveDirector | Indigo Cultural Center

Aditi Subramaniam



Director,InfantandEarly Childhood Mental Health Policy | ZTT Fellows Academy



Natasha Byars

DirectorofRacial Equity Consultation and Training | Indigo Cultural Center

LL-A: Part 3— Executive Leadership: Calm Leadership in Anxious Systems: Reflective Practice for Executive Leaders

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: C120-122

LEADERSHIP LAB (LL) ADVANCED

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a stand-alone session.

Executive leaders in early childhood and infant mental health systems are often asked to lead reflectively within organizations facing financial pressures, workforce challenges, and complex community needs. In anxious systems, leadership decisions, communication patterns, and organizational culture can quickly become reactive. This interactive Leadership Lab explores how executive leaders can apply reflective practice, systems thinking, and calm leadership strategies to navigate complexity and strengthen organizational functioning. Through reflection, peer dialogue, and real-world application, participants will gain practical tools to recognize system patterns, lead difficult conversations, and cultivate reflective organizational cultures that better support staff, families, and communities.

Part 3— Shifting the System: Building Reflective Organizational Practice

Focus: Applying reflective leadership principles to real organizational challenges.

- Participants will engage in peer dialogue to analyze leadership dilemmas and identify practical leverage points for strengthening reflective organizational culture, improving communication, and supporting workforce sustainability.

Speaker



Chris Amirault

Writer/Coach | Independent

HS-C2: Part 2—Prioritizing Family Voice Through Attunement: This ses ERH concepts and FAN for Healthy Steps andPediatricProviders

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: B117-119

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) INTRODUCTORY INTERMEDIATE

This session highlights the contribution of family voice to the concept of attunement, which is often seen as a clinical strength that can advance Early Relational Health across pediatric and HealthySteps settings. Drawing on parent-led initiatives, presenters will illustrate concrete strategies for parent-practitioner partnership that honor parents' expertise and lived experience when using FAN-informed attuned communication and reflective practice. Additionally, through examples from pediatric residency education and HealthySteps/FAN training, participants will see how through attunement, FAN builds provider capacity for parent partnership, strengthens relationships, and supports shared decision-making, and provider well-being.

Speakers



Andrea Minor

AssociateDirector of Professional Learning and Implementation | Erikson Institute



Diane Halberg

ClinicalProfessor of Pediatrics | UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland



Hope Williams-Burt

FamilyLeadManager | UCSF Ready! Resilience! Rising! (R3!)



Barbara Ivins

ProgramDirector, Early Intervention Services, | UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland



Linda Gilkerson

Professor | Erikson Institute

HS-C1: Stronger Systems, Stronger Starts: Building Collaborative Partnerships for HealthySteps Implementation andIntegration

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: B113-116

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

This session highlights strategies to strengthen stakeholder collaboration and alignment to successfully integrate HealthySteps into pediatric primary care and beyond. We will discuss overcoming fragmented systems, leveraging cross-department partnerships, and applying Quality Improvement efforts, illustrating how coordinated behavioral health approaches can enhance access, equity, and

outcomes for children and families.
Speakers



Diane Lee

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics and Psychiatry | Weill Cornell Medicine



Nancy Lee

Assistant Professor of Clinical pediatrics | Weill Cornell Medicine



Rachel Wirtshafter

Program Coordinator | Weill Cornell Medicine

LS-C1: The Science of Family Engagement

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: D137-138

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) ADVANCED

Meaningful family engagement strengthens systems of care and improves outcomes for children and youth. This Lecture explores the science and principles behind authentic family engagement and highlights how partnerships among families, youth, and service providers can transform programs and systems. Drawing on research and practical tools such as the Family Engagement in Systems Assessment Tool (FESAT), the presentation examines common barriers to engagement and strategies for building equitable, family-driven practices. Participants will learn approaches for integrating family engagement assessments into organizational processes and strengthening systems that center family voice and leadership.
Speakers



Nikki Montgomery

Director of Strategy and Communications | Family Voices



Allysa Ware

Executive Director | Family Voices

LS-C2: Scaffolding and Unifying Programs, Strategies, Priorities, Policy, and Practice Using an Infant/Child Human RightsFramework

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: A107-109

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) ADVANCED

An infant and child human rights framework offers a powerful lens for aligning programs, policy, and practice to promote dignity, equity, and relational well-being for children and families. This Lecture explores how international human rights principles can guide advocacy, systems development, and cross-sector collaboration in early childhood work. Presenters review key global human rights documents and demonstrate how these frameworks can help reframe existing initiatives, address disparities, and support innovative partnerships that promote infant and early childhood mental health. The presentation highlights practical tools that help professionals integrate human rights principles into policy development, program design, and community partnerships.
Speakers



Sherri Alderman

adjunct faculty | Portland State University



Evandra Catherine

Early Childhood Consultant/Research Professor | EC Consulting Group



Elizabeth Martinez

Executive Director | New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health

LS-C3:UniversalNeeds,Individual Variations—Applied to Fathers

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: B110-112

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Early childhood professionals frequently apply the principle of “universal needs with individual variation” when understanding infant development, yet this framework is rarely extended to fathers. This Lecture reframes paternal engagement using this familiar developmental lens to help practitioners interpret diverse fathering behaviors with greater nuance and understanding. The presentation explores how cultural, relational, and contextual factors shape fathers’ involvement and caregiving experiences. Participants will learn how applying a strengths-based developmental perspective can support more inclusive, responsive engagement with fathers and strengthen partnerships with families.
Speaker



Nicholas Kasovac

TheDADProjects.com

LS-C4:LittleHearts,BigLosses:Enhancing Grief-Sensitive Care for Our Youngest Grievers

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 201

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Young children experience grief and loss in ways that are often misunderstood or overlooked in early childhood systems. This Lecture introduces foundational concepts of grief and bereavement as they apply to infants and young children and examines the developmental and relational impact of early loss. Presenters review theories of grief and highlight culturally responsive and reflective approaches that support families navigating loss. The presentation includes practical strategies and therapeutic tools that help professionals provide sensitive, developmentally appropriate grief support for young children and their caregivers.
Speaker



Celeste Poe
Clinical Assistant Professor | Stanford University School of Medicine

LS-C5: Wondering Before Responding: Practical Tools to Support Relationships in Reflective Supervision and Consultation

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 202

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

LS-C5: Wondering Before Responding: Practical Tools to Support Relationships in Reflective Supervision and Consultation
Speakers



Faith Eidson
Strong Roots Program Specialist, IECMH Reflective Consultant | Zero to Thrive at Michigan Medicine



Katherine Rosenblum
Professor of Psychiatry, OB/Gyn, and Pediatrics, Co-Director Zero to Thrive | Zero to Thrive at the University of Michigan

LS-C6: IECMH Assessment Practices Learning Collaborative: Curriculum Development and Preliminary Outcomes

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: D139-140

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Access to high-quality mental health assessment in the earliest years is essential for supporting children and families, yet many communities continue to face workforce and training gaps. This Lecture presents the development and early outcomes of an eight-month Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Assessment Practices Learning Collaborative designed to strengthen professional competencies and expand access to comprehensive assessment. Presenters describe the collaborative's curriculum, implementation strategies, and preliminary outcomes while exploring how similar workforce development models may support equitable access to early childhood mental health assessment across communities.
Speakers



Mary Wise-Kriplani
Clinical Faculty; Director - ARCh Project | Center for Child & Family Health

Naomi Davis
Associate Professor | Duke University School of Medicine



Crystal Pellom
National Training Manager | Changent

LS-C7:BuildingandSustainingHigh-Impact Interagency Partnerships to Promote Home Visiting

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: A105-106

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Strong interagency partnerships are essential for ensuring families are connected to home visiting services and other early childhood supports. This Lecture highlights the development of FamilyCore, a coordinated referral exchange created by home visiting partners in Yamhill County, Oregon. Presenters share lessons learned from over a decade of collaboration among early childhood programs, healthcare providers, and community partners. The presentation explores key strategies for building sustainable partnerships, improving referral pathways, and strengthening coordinated systems that support families with young children.
Speakers



Jennifer Laine
Early Learning Director | Yamhill Community Care (Yamhill CCO)



Julia Peralta
Outreach and Referral Specialist | Yamhill Community Care (YCCO)



Sean Cavaghan
Early Learning Supervisor | Yamhill Community Care Early Learning Hub

LS-C8:AStrategies-in-ActionResourcefor Stronger Early Childhood Systems

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 204

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Building strong early childhood systems requires coordinated, family-centered approaches that integrate services across sectors. This session introduces a new systems-building resource being developed by the Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems: Evidence to Impact Center. Presenters will describe innovative strategies that support comprehensive, sustainable early childhood systems and highlight resources, measures, examples from states and communities, and the factors that made these efforts work. The presentation explores how the strategies outlined in the resource can help communities strengthen coordination, improve developmental health outcomes, and build locally responsive systems that support children and families.

Speakers



Dawn Stehle

Director, Early Childhood Systems, Policy, and Planning | ZERO TO THREE



Hannah Johnson

Director, Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems: Evidence to Impact Center | ZERO TO THREE

M

Maggie Clark

ZERO TO THREE



Lance Till

Associate Director | James Bell Associates

LS-C9: Healthy Babies Begin with Supported Mothers: Addressing Black Infant Disparities Through MaternalMental Health Care

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 203

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Black infants in the United States continue to experience disproportionately high rates of adverse birth outcomes and infant mortality. While many interventions focus on prenatal care and medical systems, maternal emotional well-being during the postpartum period plays a critical role in shaping infant development and early relational health. This Lecture examines the relationship between maternal mental health and infant well-being, with attention to how maternal stress, depression, and social isolation can influence caregiving relationships and developmental environments. Presenters explore structural factors contributing to disparities in Black infant outcomes and highlight culturally responsive approaches that support maternal well-being, strengthen the mother–baby relationship, and promote healthier developmental environments during the first year of life.

Speakers



Breea Wainwright

Co-Founder & Director of Clinical Services | Black Girls Mental Health Collective

C

Chyna Hill

The Collective (Black Girls Mental Health Collective)



Ebony Staten

Associate Marriage and Family Therapist | The Collective (Black Girls Mental Health Collective)

LS-C10: Competency-Aligned Pathways and Credit for Prior Learning: An Innovative Model for Advancing theECE Workforce

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: C123-124

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

This session explores an innovative higher education model that advances the birth to five early childhood education (ECE) workforce by meeting educators and leaders where they are. Grounded in state and national competencies, the model aligns course design with professional expectations and leverages Credit for Prior Learning (CPL), including professional development, to recognize educators' existing knowledge and expertise. Participants will learn how emerging research and evaluation data are shaping program design, innovation, and the future of teacher and leader preparation at the McCormick Institute for Early Childhood at National Louis University.

Speaker



Lisa Downey

Executive Director | McCormick Institute for Early Childhood

SynergyCirclesGroupC(SC-C):Workforce Pressures and Coaching Support Systems

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: E141-144

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circles session is themed: Workforce Pressures and Coaching Support Systems. It examines the realities facing early childhood educators and leaders as they navigate compliance demands, definitions of quality, and workforce strain. Participants will rotate through conversations focused on the true costs of quality, strengthening coaching infrastructure, and using reflective observation to build capacity and connection. Together, attendees will consider strategies that balance accountability with meaningful professional growth and sustainable support.

SC-C1: The Real Cost of Quality: Compliance, Pressure, and Reality in Birth–5 Work

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle examineshow compliance expectations and monitoring tools shape daily practice and perceptions of quality. Faculty will guide discussionson real-world pressures experienced in birth–five settings and how educators navigate competing demands. Participants will identify practical strategies to sustain meaningful care while responding to policy and accountability requirements.
Speaker

Alethea Etinoff
The Business of Early Childhood Education®

SC-C2: Strengthening Coaching Systems for Early Childhood Leaders

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle invites early childhood leaders to reflect on current coaching supports, identify gaps, and shape future professional development approaches. Faculty will facilitate collaborative problem-solving and peer learning focused on strengthening leadership practice, building sustainable coaching systems, and supporting educator growth.
Speakers



Natalia Ambrozek
Leadership Coach and Training Specialist | McCormick Institute for Early Childhood



Wendy Connell
Manager of Early Childhood Leadership Coaching | McCormick Institute for Early Childhood

SC-C3: Curious and Compassionate Observation

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle engagesparticipants in approaching observation with curiosity, compassion, and a strengths-based lens. Faculty will facilitate dialogueon giving meaningful, actionable feedback that builds capacity, deepens connection, and supports reflective practice. Participantswill explore observation as a tool for relationship-building and growth across diverse caregiving settings.
Speakers



Jeanine Audet
Classroom Educator Partner | Ellis Early Learning



Abby Morales
Coach | Ellis Early Learning



Ida Matuskova
Classroom Excellence Partner/Coach | Ellis Early Learning

Baby Talk: Coaching to Quality

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

This session will explore how job-embedded coaching strengthens educator practice, supports high-quality curriculum implementation, and improves outcomes for children and families. Construct Coaching evidence-based coaching, reflective feedback, and professional learning communities create a culture of continuous improvement. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to maximize coaching opportunities and strengthen instructional quality across their programs.

SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEV. SPONSOR

CPP Baby Talks (BT-CPP): Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Research and Evaluation

2:30PM–3:30PM | Location:ExhibitHallA-A1

BABY TALKS (BT) CPP INTERMEDIATE

Advancing Child-Parent Psychotherapy through research, implementation insights, and real-world application

BT-CPP1: Toward Scalable Dyadic Care: Shorter Durations of Child-Parent Psychotherapy Improves Child Mental Health Outcomes

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) CPP INTERMEDIATE

This Baby Talk highlights evidence that Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) delivered in 20 sessions or fewer can meaningfully reduce behavioral health concerns in trauma-exposed young children. Participants will explore key findings, reflect on clinical implications, and engage in discussion about implications of implementing CPP in fewer sessions for real-world practice settings.
Speakers



Alexandra Sullivan

Assistant Professor, Research Lead | UCSF Child Trauma Research Program



Ann Chu

Director | UCSF Child Trauma Research Program

BT-CPP2: Provider Experiences Implementing Child-Parent Psychotherapy for Latin American Immigrant Families

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) CPP INTERMEDIATE

This Baby Talk explorespractitioners' experiences delivering community-based Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) with Latin American immigrant families. Grounded in the RE-AIM implementation framework, the presenters will highlight key findings related to reach, feasibility, cultural responsiveness, and sustainability. Participants will engage in discussion about lessons learned, adaptations thatsupported engagement, and practical considerations for implementing CPP in diverse community settings.
Speakers



Mihoko Maru

Assistant Professor | University of Hawaii Manoa



Yibin Yang

Doctoral Student | Boston University



Ruth Paris

Professor | Boston University

Research/Science Plenary: Seeing What Matters: Rethinking Development in Complex Times

4:00PM–5:00PM | Location:PortlandBallroom

PLENARY/KEYNOTE INTRODUCTORY

Across early childhood settings, professionals encounter complexity every day. Children's development unfolds within multiple, interacting influences that are not always immediately visible, making it difficult to interpret what is happening and how best to respond.

In this plenary, Dr. Cynthia García Coll brings a powerful, integrative lens to these realities. Drawing on decades of research, she will help participants look again at familiar situations with greater clarity, illuminating how development takes shape across everyday environments and what may be influencing what they see.

This session invites participants to deepen how they understand their work. By strengthening their ability to interpret complexity, participants will be better equipped to make thoughtful decisions, respond with intention, and stay grounded in their role. As the conference turns toward broader systems and structures, this plenary offers a foundation for seeing both practice and policy with greater depth and insight.
Speaker



Cynthia García Coll

Professor Emerita | Brown University and University of Puerto Rico

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Thursday, October 29, 2026

Morning Movement: Nature Connection for Caregivers

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM

OTHER

Start your day with a guided nature connection experience in the outdoor plaza at the Convention Center. Through gentle invitations inspired by forest bathing, participants will slow down, engage their senses, and experience the restorative benefits of connecting with the nature available in an everyday environment. This welcoming, accessible session is designed to foster reflection, connection, and well-being while offering a refreshing start to the conference day. No prior experience is needed, and activities can be adapted for different levels of mobility.

Speaker



Jennifer Salinas

ProgramManager | Children & Nature Network

Morning Yoga

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM

OTHER

Start your conference day with a morning yoga session! Join us at**7 :00 AM** for gentle movement, stretching, and a moment to get centered before the day's sessions begin. All experience levels are welcome. **Please bring your own yoga mat or towel.**

State of ZERO TO THREE

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM | Location: Portland Ballroom

INTRODUCTORY

Join ZERO TO THREE's Executive Director for a look at where we are today—and where we're headed—as we work to ensure all babies and toddlers have a strong start in life. This annual address will reflect on the forces shaping our field, celebrate our collective progress, and share ZERO TO THREE's priorities and vision for the year ahead.

ZERO TO THREE

Speaker



Matthew Melmed

ExecutiveDirector | Zero To Three

PolicyPlenary:ShapingAIBeforeItShapes Them: Policy for the First Three Years

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Location: Portland Ballroom

PLENARY/KEYNOTE INTRODUCTORY

No period in human development carries higher stakes than birth to age three. And no policy conversation is more urgent than the one discussing happens when AI enters that window.

The question is not whether artificial intelligence is coming to the early education space. It's here. The question is how we shape it. New technologies carry enormous promise — enhancing early childhood development, supporting caregivers, and streamlining access to public benefits. But they also carry real threats, chief among them the risk of supplanting the secure attachment and human connection that are the foundation of lifelong well-being.

How can policy amplify opportunities and mitigate the threats? And what is the role of parents, professionals, researchers, and advocates in protecting young children while shaping the promise that AI may unlock? This session takes on those questions.

Speakers



Melissa Boteach

ChiefPolicyOfficer, ZERO TO THREE | ZERO TO THREE



Dana Suskind

FounderandCo-Director | TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health, University of Chicago

BabyTalksGroupD(BT-D):Play,Exploration, and Executive Function

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

BABY TALKS (BT) INTERMEDIATE

How play and challenge build confidence, persistence, and self-regulation

BT-D1:LetThemTry: Risky Play as a Foundation for Executive Function in the First Three Years

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTERMEDIATE

This Baby Talk exploreshow developmentally appropriate risk-taking through play supports executive function in the earliest years. The presenter willshare research and examples that reframe risk as opportunity. Discussion will invite participants to reflect on how adults canbalance safety with exploration.

Speaker



Noelle Cook

EducationalConsultant/ SME | Teaching Strategies

BT-D2: Possibilities in Play: How Simple Toys Spark Big Learning

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTERMEDIATE

This Baby Talk highlights the power of simple, open-ended materials to support learning and development. The presenter will share examples of how everyday objects encourage creativity, problem-solving, and connection. Participants will discuss how play environments shape children's learning experiences.

Speakers



Ana Lorena Carrasco

Executive Director | AVANCE. North Texas



Norma Vargas

Director of Avance - Parent Child Program | Avance Dallas

Baby Talk: Reducing Staff Burnout by Putting Relational Health Tools in the Hands of Every Frontline Provider

10:30AM–11:00AM | Location:ExhibitHallA-A1 - SponsorStage

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

Healing should not get locked in a therapist's office. If an adult touches a child's life — teacher, pediatrician, home visitor, childcare provider — they can carrythe tools that heal. This Baby Talk introduces the power of brief relational-health interventions proven to reduce frontline burnout by82% and increase provider confidence and competency by over 95%. You don't have to be a therapist to be therapeutic. You just needthe right tool, in your hand, at the moment you need it.

AMY KING, PHD, LLC SPONSOR

Speaker



Amy King

CEO/Founder | Amy King, PhD, LLC

HS-D1: Measurement of Early Relational Health (ERH): Implication for Clinicians and Researchers

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:B117-119

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

This session will describe Early Relational Health (ERH) and its critical role in development. Multiple ways to measure ERH will be presented in the context of research findings from two studies with diverse caregivers and their infants-toddlers. The value of parent-report and observations of ERH will be discussed with learners.

Speakers



Alissa Huth-Bocks

Director | Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University



Shannon Franz

Research Development and Support Manager | ZERO TO THREE



Katherine Rosenblum

Professor of Psychiatry, OB/Gyn, and Pediatrics, Co-Director Zero to Thrive | Zero to Thrive at the University of Michigan

HS-D2: How to Share What's Happening: Assessing and Communicating with Families About Child Development

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:B113-116

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

This session will offer an overview of ways to assess and share the progression of development and milestones with caregivers in the exam room by engaging in meaningful interactions that support children as they play, learn, and grow.

Speakers



Sarah MacLaughlin

Parenting Educator | Consultant



Shannon Ayers

Director, Custom Solutions | Lakeshore Learning Materials

LS-D1: Bridging the Gap: Aligning Medicaid and Early Intervention to Better Serve Infants and Toddlers

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:B110-112

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Fragmented Medicaid and Part C early intervention systems can delay access to critical developmental services for infants and toddlers, particularly for families with limited resources. This Lecture examines how policy and systems alignment can improve coordination between Medicaid and early intervention programs. Presenters highlight state strategies that address common barriers to service access and describe approaches that support integrated, family-centered systems of care. Drawing on policy examples and implementation experiences, the presentation explores opportunities for states to strengthen collaboration, reduce administrative silos, and improve timely access to developmental services for infants and toddlers.

Speakers



Alexandra Parma

Director of Policy Research and Development | First 5 Center for Children's Policy



Elisabeth Burak

Senior Fellow | Georgetown University Center for Children and Families



Christine Cole

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist | ZERO TO TTHREE

LS-D2: Breaking through for Babies

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: D137-138

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

You (yes, you!) can Be a Big Voice for Little Kids! Learn principles for engaging policymakers on the issues that matter to babies, families, and early childhood professionals during the upcoming election and beyond. Then develop a short “elevator speech” to easily and effectively make your voice heard.

Speakers

Samantha Cadet

Legislative Director | ZERO TO THREE



Amanda Perez

Senior Advocacy Manager | ZTT

Samantha Martin

Senior Policy Analyst | ZERO TO THREE, HealthySteps

LS-D3: Grief Beyond Borders: How Family Separation Shapes Latiné Children’s Development and Attachment

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 203

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Family separation can have profound effects on young children’s emotional development, attachment relationships, and overall well-being. This Lecture explores how experiences of grief and trauma related to border separation affect Latiné children and their families. Presenters examine the developmental and relational impacts of separation and highlight the importance of caregiver–child relationships in supporting healing and resilience. The presentation also discusses culturally responsive strategies that professionals can use to support affected children and families.

Speakers



Rosario Williams

Family Well-Being Manager | Child Care Resource Center



Erika Alvarez, LMFT

Clinical Program Manager | Child Care Resource Center



Denise Torres

Clinical Supervisor | Child Care Resource Center

LS-D4:TheOregonMomnibusStory: Community-Driven Advocacy for Doulas and Perinatal Health

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: C123-124

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Across the country, Momnibus legislation is emerging as a strategy to address maternal health inequities and improve outcomes for families. This Lecture explores the development of Oregon’s Momnibus legislation and the collaboration between policymakers and community advocates that made progress possible. Presenters share lessons learned from the policy development process and highlight how community leadership and legislative partnerships contributed to advancing perinatal health supports, including doulas and culturally responsive care. The presentation offers insights for states seeking to strengthen maternal and infant health policy.

Speakers



Dana Hepper

Director of Policy & Advocacy | Children's Institute



Lisa Reynolds, MD

StateSenator | Oregon Legislature



Roberta Suzette Hunte

BlackFuturesInitiative,Portland State University

LS-D5:ParentsHaveaStorytoTell:KeyFindings from the ZERO TO THREE National Parent Survey

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 201

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Dive into findings from the 2026 ZERO TO THREE National Parent Survey! Discover how today's parents approach child-rearing and what beliefs guide them. Learn what challenges and questions they face. Hear about the services and supports they want. What's the story with today's parents? Join us to listen and learn!

Speaker



Rebecca Parlakian

SeniorDirectorofPrograms | ZERO TO THREE

LS-D6:ItTakesaTeam:ThePowerof Parallel Process in Strengthening Families

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: D139-140

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Attendees will gain a deeperunderstanding of how reflective care coordination is integrated within a clinical home visiting model, where complementary professionalskill sets are intentionally woven together to support families. Participants will explore how this interdisciplinary partnershipfosters parallel process, promotes resilience and healing, and offers practical, relationship-based strategies that can be applied acrossinfant and early childhood mental health settings.

CHAMPION SPONSOR CHANGENT

Speakers



Gerardo Gomez

FamilyResourcePartner | Easter Seals Port Health/Child First



Chavala Wooden

ChildFirstClinician | Easter Seals Port Health

II-B1: Part 1—Tired, Triggered, and Still Trying? Addressing Moral Injury by Aligning Your Services With Your ValuesOneInteractionat aTime

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 202

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

Many professionals working with infants, young children, and families enter the field with a strong commitment to equity and social change. Yet systemic barriers can create a gap between professional values and daily practice. Over time, this misalignment can contribute not only to burnout but also to moral injury. This Issue Intensive examines how moral injury affects professionals across the prenatal-to-five workforce and explores strategies to strengthen value-aligned relational practice.

Participants learn practical tools designed to deepen attunement with caregivers while addressing systemic barriers that shape family experiences. The presentation introduces the Social Justice Parenting Playbook, communication strategies that support reflective conversations with caregivers, and approaches for integrating social and political analysis into relational work. These tools support professionals in strengthening partnerships with families while maintaining a focus on belonging, equity, and relational care.

Speaker



Nat Nadha Vikitsreth

FounderandHeadMischief Maker | Come Back to Care

II-B2: Part 1—The IECMH Diversity Collective: Transforming Awareness Into Action and National Movement-Building

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 204

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

The National IECMH Diversity Collective is a community of primarily Black and Brown infant and early childhood mental health professionals committed to collective healing and social justice within the field. This Issue Intensive introduces the origins, purpose, and evolving work of the Collective, highlighting how cultivating critical consciousness has supported both individual healing and collective action.

Presenters describe the Collective's guiding pillars and practices that support community, reflection, and justice-oriented professional growth. The presentation highlights how storytelling, relational reflection, and cultural wisdom contribute to practice-based evidence that informs systems change. Participants explore how healing-centered professional communities can strengthen workforce well-being, support more responsive services for families, and contribute to sustained social justice movement building within the infant and early childhood mental health field.

Speakers



Eva Marie Shivers

Executive Director | Indigo Cultural Center



Amittia Parker

Assistant Professor | Georgetown University



Carmen Rosa Noroña

Program Director-Center for Excellence in Immigrant Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | Boston Medical Center

II-B3: Part 1—Leading with Abundance: Reframing Early Childhood Work from Scarcity to Sustainable Strength

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: A105-106

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

Early childhood systems and organizations often operate within narratives of scarcity, focusing on limited resources, workforce shortages, and systemic barriers. While these realities are significant, leaders who intentionally cultivate an abundance mindset can strengthen collaboration, innovation, and workforce well-being. This Issue Intensive explores how abundance-based leadership approaches can shift organizational culture and support more responsive systems for children, families, and the professionals who serve them.

Presenters examine how leaders can center relational trust, shared strengths, and collective problem-solving when navigating complex challenges in early childhood systems. Participants learn strategies for recognizing and amplifying existing community assets, fostering collaboration across disciplines, and creating environments where professionals feel supported and valued. This Issue Intensive highlights how leadership grounded in abundance can strengthen partnerships, improve organizational resilience, and support more equitable and sustainable services for young children and families.

Speakers



Jacquelyn Kleinedler

Executive Director | Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health



Angela Webster

CEO | Raising a Nonprofit



Denise McDrummond

Executive Director | Missouri Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (MOAIMH-EC)

II-CPP: Part 1—Relational Healing in Complex Systems: Fidelity as a Guide for Child-Parent Psychotherapy inChild Welfare

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: A107-109

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) CPP ADVANCED

Implementing Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) within child welfare systems requires balancing fidelity, responsiveness, and the realities of high-stress service environments. This Issue Intensive explores how the Child Welfare Fidelity Tool can be used not only to guide implementation, but also to deepen reflective supervision, strengthen trauma-informed practice, and promote accessible, relationship-based care. Participants will engage in structured discussion and case-based reflection to examine how fidelity-informed supervision supports provider well-being, enhances caregiver engagement, and improves outcomes for infants and young children involved in child welfare. Together, attendees will consider practical strategies for integrating fidelity tools in ways that strengthen both clinical integrity and workforce sustainability.

Speakers



Lili Gray

National Trainer Child Parent Psychotherapy, Reflective Consultation | Child Parent Psychotherapy; Lili Gray Consulting



Michelle Roy

Program Manager | WellPower



Chandra Ippen

Associate Director CTRP | Child Trauma Research Program

Jacqueline Jacobs Tynan

J

LL-B: Part 1— Program and Service Leadership: Supporting Staff, Strengthening Systems: Reflective Leadership for Program and Service Administrators

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: C120-122

LEADERSHIP LAB (LL) ADVANCED

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a stand-alone session.

Program and service administrators in early childhood and infant mental health systems play a critical role in shaping the conditions that influence workforce well-being, service quality, and outcomes for young children and families. Reflective supervision and consultation (RS/C) provides a relationship-based approach that strengthens professional capacity, supports staff retention, and improves organizational functioning through attention to parallel process, professional use of self, and reflective relationships. This interactive Leadership Lab explores how administrators can apply reflective practice principles to strengthen supervision, support staff, and align program structures with reflective values. Through reflection, peer dialogue, and real-world application, participants will gain practical tools to integrate RS/C into their programs, strengthen team functioning, and build reflective organizational cultures that support staff and families.

Part 1—Leading Reflective Supervision: Workforce Support and Relational Practice

Focus: Understanding the core components of RS/C and their relevance for program leadership and supervision.

- Participants will explore key RS/C concepts, including parallel process, reflective alliance, and professional use of self, and examine how these principles influence supervision, team dynamics, and program culture.

Speakers



Noelle Hause

Sr.Manager,Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | ZERO TO THREE



Shayla Winrow

ClinicalDirector | Sunbeam Family Services



Deborah Reno-Smith

ReflectivePracticeMentor/Consultant | WestEd

Baby Talk: Grow Your Childcare Business with Clad

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1 - Sponsor Stage

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

Payrollarriveson a fixed schedule. Tuition rarely does. When families pay late or miss payments altogether, directors cover fixed costs fromanunpredictable income stream, indefinitely postponing growth decisions. This presentation introduces Clad, a platform built to addresstuitioncollection, enrollment, and access to capital as a single problem rather than three separate issues. We will walk through howtheSchoolIncome Guarantee delivers 100% of covered tuition and fees on a predictable weekly or monthly schedule regardless of whenfamiliespay, giving centers dependable cash flow for payroll and day-to-day operations. We will show how Enroll Now, Pay Later removestheupfront cost barrier that keeps seats empty, letting families enroll with nothing due and pay over time at no interest while thecenterreceives tuition in full from day one. We will also cover interest-free funding of up to $100,000 for eligible schools, and how Cladworksalongside the school management platform you already use.

CLAD SPONSOR

LunchBreak+Exhibitsw/PosterPresentations Live Q&A

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

OTHER

Checkout our featured foodtrucks in the Exhibit Hall, and explore the poster showcase (12:15-12:45)!

Poster Presentations are a vibrant showcase of the latest insights and research in the early childhood field. Designed for and by professionals, posters offer a unique opportunity to dive deep into the nuances of emerging concepts, stories from the field, implementation models and lessons learned. Find a listing of all poster sessions online here on the posters webpage.

Poster Presentations Live Q&A

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster Presentations are a vibrant showcase of the latest insights and research in the early childhood field. Designed for and by professionals, posters offer a unique opportunity to dive deep into the nuances of emerging concepts, stories from the field, implementation models and lessons learned. Find a listing of all poster sessions online here on the posters webpage.

LL-B: Part 2— Program and Service Leadership: Supporting Staff, Strengthening Systems: Reflective Leadership for Program and Service Administrators

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: C120-122

LEADERSHIP LAB (LL) ADVANCED

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a stand-alone session.

Program and service administrators in early childhood and infant mental health systems play a critical role in shaping the conditions that influence workforce well-being, service quality, and outcomes for young children and families. Reflective supervision and consultation

(RS/C) provides a relationship-based approach that strengthens professional capacity, supports staff retention, and improves organizational functioning through attention to parallel process, professional use of self, and reflective relationships. This interactive Leadership Lab explores how administrators can apply reflective practice principles to strengthen supervision, support staff, and align program structures with reflective values. Through reflection, peer dialogue, and real-world application, participants will gain practical tools to integrate RS/C into their programs, strengthen team functioning, and build reflective organizational cultures that support staff and families.

Part 2—Leading Reflective Supervision: Workforce Support and Relational Practice

Focus: Strengthening supervision practices to support staff well-being, retention, and professional growth.

- Participants will examine how reflective supervision supports workforce challenges and will identify leadership practices that create safe, consistent, and relationship-based environments for staff.

Speakers



Noelle Hause

Sr. Manager, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | ZERO TO THREE



Shayla Winrow

Clinical Director | Sunbeam Family Services



Deborah Reno-Smith

Reflective Practice Mentor/Consultant | WestEd

BabyTalksGroupE(BT-E):Language,Communication, and Inclusive Interaction

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

BABY TALKS (BT) INTERMEDIATE

How everyday interactions support early communication and learning

BT-E1: Transforming Language and Literacy: The Impact of Dialogic Reading Intervention on Young Dual Language Learners

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTERMEDIATE

This Baby Talk focuseson dialogic reading as a strategy to support language and literacy development for young dual language learners. The presenterwill share key findings and practical insights from implementation. Discussion will consider how interactive reading practices can be adapted across settings and communities.
Speaker



Ekta Ghosh

Researcher | University of Denver

BT-E2:TheVitality Advantage: Redefining Early Language Success

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTERMEDIATE

This Baby Talk challenges traditional definitions of early language success. The presenter will highlight broader indicators of communication, connection, and engagement. Participants will discuss how redefining success can shift practice, assessment, and family expectations.
Speaker



Dr. TaVshea Smith

Assistant Professor | North Carolina Central University

LS-E1:BuildingBridgesforBabies: A Multi-State Policy Coalition Advancing IECMH in the Southeast

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: B110-112

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Regional collaboration can strengthen policy and systems that support infant and early childhood mental health. This Lecture examines the development of the Southeastern IECMH Policy Coalition, a multi-state partnership launched to strengthen IECMH systems across the region. Presenters describe the coalition's origins, guiding principles, and collaborative strategies for advancing policy priorities related to workforce development, funding alignment, and cross-state coordination. The presentation highlights lessons learned and strategies that can help other regions build collaborative policy initiatives that support young children and families.
Speakers



Kerrie Schnake

CEO | SC Infant Mental Health Association

Marcie Ownbey

SCInfantMentalHealth Association



Callan Wells

SeniorHealthPolicy Manager | GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

LS-E2: Supporting Asian Parents of Young Children: Integrating Culture, Trauma, and Evidence-Based Practices

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 201

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Parenting experiences are shaped by culture, migration histories, and the impact of trauma across generations. This Lecture explores how acculturation stress, cultural traditions, and cultural trauma influence parenting practices among Asian families with young children. Presenters examine culturally responsive approaches that integrate evidence-based practices with culturally grounded perspectives. The presentation highlights strategies that support family well-being and strengthen developmental and mental health outcomes for young children.

Speaker



Huiying Jessica Zhou Tull

BilingualChild,Youth,Family Mental Health Clinician and Consultant | Be Well Family Counseling LLC

LS-E3:Medicaid‘Win’forInfant–Early Childhood Mental Health

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: D137-138

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Medicaid is a critical lever for expanding access to infant and early childhood mental health services. This Lecture introduces strategies for using Medicaid policy to strengthen early childhood systems and improve service access for young children and families. Presenters review key components of Medicaid’s Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) entitlement and describe how policy strategies can support IECMH goals. Through case examples, the presentation illustrates how stakeholders can identify opportunities for policy change and pursue a “Medicaid win” that expands services and supports for families.

Speakers



Kimberly "Kiki" Fabian

SeniorResearchAssociate | James Bell Associates



Christine Cole

SeniorTechnical Assistance Specialist | ZERO TO TTHREE

LS-E4: Leading in Hard Spaces: Considering the Application of Reflective Practice Skills in Leadership Positions

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 203

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Leadership in early childhood systems often requires navigating complex relational, organizational, and emotional challenges. This Lecture explores how reflective practice skills can strengthen leadership capacity and support workforce well-being. Presenters examine how reflective supervision principles and parallel process concepts can inform leadership approaches that balance accountability, relational connection, and organizational goals. The presentation highlights strategies that help leaders support staff, address compassion fatigue, and promote effective systems that benefit children and families.

Speakers



Allison Peak

CEO | AlliedBehavioral Health Solutions



Sherry Heller

DirectorNational Center for Reflective Supervision and Practice | National Center for Reflective Supervision and Practice; Tulan…



Rowena Mudiappa, LCSW, IMH-E Mentor-Clinical ®

ProjectPlanner,TrainingDirector | NationalCenterforChild Traumatic Stress, National Center for Reflective Supervision and P…

LS-E5: State Policy/System Strategies for Addressing Prenatal to Three Homelessness and Housing Instability

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: C123-124

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Approximately 450,000 infants and toddlers experience homelessness in the U.S., and nearly 70,000 babies are born to parents who experienced homelessness during pregnancy. One in ten children under five in rental housing face the threat of eviction. This session will share how states participating in Thrive from the Start are tackling homelessness and housing instability for prenatal-three families and offer suggestions for getting involved in your state.

Speakers



Jamie Colvard

Sr.PolicyandSystems Director | ZERO TO THREE



Ashley Richardson

DirectorofHousingLaw | Mississippi Center for Justice



Wendy Lee

SystemsIntegration Officer | First 5 San Bernardino

K

Karen Pascale

HeadStartCollaboration Office Director/Family Community Leadership & Outreach Division Director, CT Office of Early Childhoo…

LS-E6: How We Work Together: Integrating Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Competencies and Practiceswithin EI/ECSESettings

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: D139-140

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

This lecture highlights how the Oregon Infant Mental Health Association and Oregon's Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education partner to think about support for young children's early relational health in the context of their family and caregiving community. Presenters share how the Department of Education and ORIMHA view a statewide IECMH competency framework and might utilize a reflective practice infrastructure relative to the work of EI/ECSE. This conversation will discuss current coordinated efforts around workforce development and reflective support to promote inclusion, belonging, and relational health for young children, families, and early childhood professionals.

CHAMPION SPONSOR ORIMHA

Speakers

E

Erin Kinavey Wennerstrom

ExecutiveDirector | OregonInfant Mental Health Association



Sondra Stegenga

DirectorofResearch and Innovation | Oregon Infant Mental Health Association

L

Lois Pribble

EI/ECSEEducation Specialist | Oregon Department of Education

SynergyCirclesGroupE(SC-E):Emotional Attunement, Communication, and Repair in Practice

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: E141-144

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTRODUCTORY

This Synergy Circles session is themed: Emotional Attunement, Co-Regulation, and Repair in Practice. It explores how early childhood professionals strengthen relationships through acceptance, caregiver attunement, and reflective communication. Participants will rotate through conversations focused on therapeutic presence, the effects of modern caregiving contexts, and navigating moments when good intentions fall short.

SC-E1: Honoring the Whole Child: Deepening Therapeutic Presence through Acceptance and Attunement

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTRODUCTORY

This Synergy Circle exploresrelationship-based caregiving grounded in acceptance, attunement, empowerment, and respectful limits. Faculty will guide discussion on behavior as communication and strategies that promote emotional validation, predictable routines, and child choice. Participants will identify practical approaches to strengthen partnerships with children and families.

Speakers



Shannon Queiroga

SeniorManager,National Training, Child First | Changent



Denise Galford-Koeppel

ClinicalSupervisor | Nurturing Connections



Dana Hillman-Sabato

SeniorManager,Clinical Operations | Changent

SC-E2: Co-Regulation, Caregiver Attunement, and Effects of Screen Use in Early Childhood

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTRODUCTORY

This Synergy Circle examineshow early attachment and co-regulation intersect with growing screen exposure in infancy and early childhood. Faculty will explore research on how screen-use contexts influence caregiver attunement and developmental outcomes. Participants will discuss culturally responsive strategies that strengthen relationships across diverse caregiving environments.

Speakers



Dr. Tatiana Itosu

Clinician | Victor Community Support Services



Marissa L. Viramontes

Bilingual Clinician | Victor Community Support Services



Lisa Prieto

Clinician | Victor Community Support Services

SC-E3: Beyond Tears: Supporting Young Children Through Grief, Family Disruption, and Non-Death Losses

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTRODUCTORY

This Synergy Circle exploresdevelopmentally responsive approaches to supporting young children experiencing grief, family disruption, and non-death losses. Faculty will guide discussion on how early loss impacts behavior, regulation, and relationships, and how adults can respondwith attuned presence and practical support. Participants will reflect on strategies for creating safe spaces for expression, strengthening caregiver guidance, and fostering resilience in children navigating change and uncertainty.

Speaker

Annette Mendez

The Grief Comadre, LLC

HS-E1: Part 1—Elevating the Voices of HealthySteps Families through Co-Creation and Innovation

1:00PM–2:00PM | Location:B113-116

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) INTERMEDIATE

Children's National Hospital and Colorado's HealthySteps State Intermediary (ABCD) share how each elevates family voice to strengthen and sustain HealthySteps. Learn about a statewide family experience survey and co-creation of a Parent Advisory Council, plus lessons learned and early outcomes showing how family feedback drives meaningful, measurable improvements across sites.

Speakers



Melissa Buchholz

HealthySteps State Director | Assuring Better Child Health and Development



Lael Coleman

Program Lead | Children's National Hospital



Shardé Pettis

HealthySteps Clinical Supervisor | Children's National Hospital

Kara Van de Grift

Assuring Better Child Health and Development

Marta Genovez

Clinical Psychologist/HealthySteps Specialist | Children's National Hospital



Rakia Ranney

HealthySteps Program Manager | ABCD

HS-E2: Scaling Dyadic and Dynamic Models of Care: Expanding HealthySteps Across a Large Public Health System

1:00PM–2:00PM | Location:B117-119

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

NYC Health + Hospitals scaled HealthySteps across 17 sites, cumulatively providing well care services for 41,000+ children (0-3) annually, by building centralized operational infrastructure that remained flexible enough for site-level adaptation. This session examines the three pillars driving that expansion — integration, data systems, and financial sustainability — with particular focus on EMR tools and data systems that enabled fidelity at scale while adapting to meet each clinic's resources, workflows and community.

Speakers

Carlotta Low-Sanchez, Carlotta

AssistantDirector,EarlyChildhood Operations | NYC Health + Hospitals

Natalie Cohen

SeniorDirector,Early Childhood Programs | NYC Health+Hospitals

Ariel Charney

II-B1: Part 2—Tired, Triggered, and Still Trying? Addressing Moral Injury by Aligning Your Services With Your ValuesOneInteractionat aTime

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 202

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

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Speaker



Nat Nadha Vikitsreth

FounderandHeadMischief Maker | Come Back to Care

II-B2: Part 2—The IECMH Diversity Collective: Transforming Awareness Into Action and National Movement-Building

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 204

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

The National IECMH Diversity Collective is a community of primarily Black and Brown infant and early childhood mental health professionals committed to collective healing and social justice within the field. This Issue Intensive introduces the origins, purpose, and evolving work of the Collective, highlighting how cultivating critical consciousness has supported both individual healing and collective action.

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Speakers



Eva Marie Shivers

ExecutiveDirector | Indigo Cultural Center



Amittia Parker

AssistantProfessor | Georgetown University



Carmen Rosa Noroña

ProgramDirector-Center for Excellence in Immigrant Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | Boston Medical Center

II-B3: Part 2—Leading with Abundance: Reframing Early Childhood Work from Scarcity to Sustainable Strength

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: A105-106

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

Early childhood systems and organizations often operate within narratives of scarcity, focusing on limited resources, workforce shortages, and systemic barriers. While these realities are significant, leaders who intentionally cultivate an abundance mindset can strengthen collaboration, innovation, and workforce well-being. This Issue Intensive explores how abundance-based leadership approaches can shift organizational culture and support more responsive systems for children, families, and the professionals who serve them.

Presenters examine how leaders can center relational trust, shared strengths, and collective problem-solving when navigating complex challenges in early childhood systems. Participants learn strategies for recognizing and amplifying existing community assets, fostering collaboration across disciplines, and creating environments where professionals feel supported and valued. This Issue Intensive highlights how leadership grounded in abundance can strengthen partnerships, improve organizational resilience, and support more equitable and sustainable services for young children and families.

Speakers



Jacquelyn Kleinedler

ExecutiveDirector | Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health



Angela Webster

CEO | RaisingaNonprofit



Denise McDrummond

ExecutiveDirector | Missouri Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (MOAIMH-EC)

II-CPP: Part 2—Relational Healing in Complex Systems: Fidelity as a Guide for Child-Parent Psychotherapy inChild Welfare

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: A107-109

CPP ISSUE INTENSIVES (II) ADVANCED

Implementing Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) within child welfare systems requires balancing fidelity, responsiveness, and the realities of high-stress service environments. This Issue Intensive explores how the Child Welfare Fidelity Tool can be used not only to guide implementation, but also to deepen reflective supervision, strengthen trauma-informed practice, and promote accessible, relationship-based care. Participants will engage in structured discussion and case-based reflection to examine how fidelity-informed supervision supports provider well-being, enhances caregiver engagement, and improves outcomes for infants and young children involved in child welfare. Together, attendees will consider practical strategies for integrating fidelity tools in ways that strengthen both clinical integrity and workforce sustainability.

Speakers



Lili Gray

NationalTrainer Child Parent Psychotherapy, Reflective Consultation | Child Parent Psychotherapy; Lili Gray Consulting



Michelle Roy

ProgramManager | WellPower



Chandra Ippen

AssociateDirector CTRP | Child Trauma Research Program

J

Jacqueline Jacobs Tynan

LL-B: Part 3— Program and Service Leadership: Supporting Staff, Strengthening Systems: Reflective Leadership for Program and Service Administrators

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: C120-122

LEADERSHIP LAB (LL) ADVANCED

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a stand-alone session.

Program and service administrators in early childhood and infant mental health systems play a critical role in shaping the conditions that influence workforce well-being, service quality, and outcomes for young children and families. Reflective supervision and consultation (RS/C) provides a relationship-based approach that strengthens professional capacity, supports staff retention, and improves organizational functioning through attention to parallel process, professional use of self, and reflective relationships. This interactive Leadership Lab explores how administrators can apply reflective practice principles to strengthen supervision, support staff, and align program structures with reflective values. Through reflection, peer dialogue, and real-world application, participants will gain practical tools to integrate RS/C into their programs, strengthen team functioning, and build reflective organizational cultures that support staff and families.

Part 3—Sustaining Reflective Organizations: Implementation and Program Alignment

Focus: Applying RS/C principles to program structures, policies, and routines.

- Participants will engage in peer dialogue to identify practical strategies for embedding RS/C into their settings, including supervision structures, scheduling, and organizational expectations.

Speakers



Noelle Hause

Sr.Manager,Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | ZERO TO THREE



Shayla Winrow

ClinicalDirector | Sunbeam Family Services



Deborah Reno-Smith

ReflectivePracticeMentor/Consultant | WestEd

BabyTalksGroupF(BT-F):Strengthening Professional Practice and Engagement

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall A-A1

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

Approaches that support how professionals connect, communicate, and grow in their work

BT-F1:MakeItMake Sense: Branding and Social Media

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

Your brand is more than a logo. It reflects your values, your voice, and how families and communities experience your work. This Baby Talk explores practical strategies for creating a clear and consistent brand and using social media as a tool for connection, communication, and trust-building. Participants will consider how thoughtful messaging and digital presence can strengthen engagement with families and support broader outreach in early childhood systems.

Speakers



Claire Selius

MarketingManager | ZERO TO THREE



Suzy Tam

Communications Specialist | ZERO TO THREE

BT-F2:Reflective Practice: Nurturing Practitioner Growth in Early Intervention

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

BABY TALKS (BT) INTRODUCTORY

Reflective practiceisakey part of how professionals grow, sustain their work, and strengthen relationships with families. This Baby Talk explorespractical approaches to reflection that support learning, well-being, and effective service delivery. Participants will consider howreflective practice can deepen engagement with families, enhance day-to-day interactions, and be integrated into early interventionsystems to support ongoing professional growth.

Speakers



Kate Easton

TrainingCoordinator Ed and SC | Penfield Children's Center



Maggie Dietrich

PhysicalTherapist | Penfield Children's Center

LS-CPP2:HoldingonThroughUncertainty: Supporting Young Children Impacted by Immigration Trauma

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: A107-109

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) CPP INTRODUCTORY

Young children and families impacted by immigration often experience stress and uncertainty that can affect development, relationships, and a sense of safety. This session explores practical, culturally responsive strategies to support young children and caregivers in this context. Grounded in a relationship-based and trauma-informed approach, participants will learn how these experiences may influence development and attachment, how to recognize signs of distress, and how to respond in ways that strengthen connection and support well-being. Through real-world examples, the session will highlight strategies to build on families' strengths and communicate with young children about fear, separation, and uncertainty in developmentally appropriate ways.

Speakers



Vilma Reyes

DirectorofTraining and Community Programs | UCSF Child Trauma Research Program



Carmen Rosa Noroña

ProgramDirector-Center for Excellence in Immigrant Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | Boston Medical Center

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Patricia Parada

Children'sHospital Los Angeles with University of Southern California

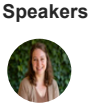
LS-F1:InfantandEarlyChildhood Mental Health Diagnostic Trends

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: B110-112

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Understanding patterns in mental health diagnoses among infants and young children can inform service development, workforce training, and policy decisions. This Lecture presents emerging data from multiple states examining trends in infant and early childhood mental health diagnoses. Presenters compare methodological approaches used across states and discuss variations in diagnostic practices and prevalence estimates. The presentation explores implications for early childhood systems, including assessment practices, service access, and policy development.

Speakers



Kimberly "Kiki" Fabian

SeniorResearchAssociate | James Bell Associates



Alissa Huth-Bocks

Director | MerrillPalmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University



Catherine Wright

EarlyChildhood,Youth and Family Mental Health Systems Coordinator | State of Minnesota

LS-F2:Let'sTeamUp!StrategiestoTakeFamily Partnerships from Challenging to Collaborative

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 201

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Strong partnerships with families are essential for supporting young children's development and well-being. This Lecture explores how Motivational Interviewing (MI) principles can strengthen communication and collaboration between professionals and families. Presenters examine common barriers that influence family partnerships and highlight strategies that help practitioners approach challenging conversations with curiosity, empathy, and shared decision-making. The presentation demonstrates how MI-informed communication techniques can promote stronger relationships and more collaborative partnerships with families.

Speakers



Kristen McLeskey

Learning&Development Specialist | Northwest Center IMPACT



Kelsey Henderson-Wasmund

InclusionSpecialist,InstructionalDesign Specialist | Northwest Center IMPACT

LS-F3: Building Neighborhoods: Reflecting, Connecting, and Supporting Educator Well-being through Communityof Practice

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: A105-106

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Educator well-being is strengthened through meaningful opportunities for reflection, connection, and shared learning. This Lecture explores how communities of practice can support educators by creating spaces for relationship-building, reflective dialogue, and professional growth. Presenters describe a community of practice model that integrates Fred Rogers' six fundamentals of learning and growing: self-worth, trust, curiosity, looking and listening, play, and solitude. The presentation highlights how these principles can support educator well-being, strengthen program culture, and provide practical strategies that enhance relationships and learning environments.

Speakers



Emma Swift

ExecutiveDirector | Fred Rogers Institute



Shellie Grooms

ExecutiveDirector | Shady Lane School

LS-F4: Documenting Impacts of Recent Federal Policy Changes on States, Communities, and Families with Babies

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 202

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

This session examines how recent federal policy changes are shaping the daily realities of states, communities, and families with babies at a time of rapid change and uncertainty. Drawing on national data and on-the-ground perspectives, presenters will highlight emerging trends in access to supports, economic pressures, and community conditions, and consider what these shifts mean for young children and their caregivers. Participants will examine who is most affected, how these changes are showing up in practice, and what responses are needed across systems. The session will also offer practical approaches for using data and community insight to inform decision-making, strengthen supports, and guide responsive action at local, state, and national levels.

Speakers



Samantha Melvin

PolicyResearchDirector | ZERO TO THREE



Yelena Tsilker

Sr.GovernmentRelations and Advocacy Director | ZERO TO THREE

LS-F5:WordWonders:ToolstoSparkJoyful Early Literacy Learning

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 204

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTRODUCTORY

Early language and literacy experiences lay the foundation for later reading success and school readiness. This Lecture explores developmentally appropriate, research-based approaches for supporting early literacy learning in children ages 18–48 months. Presenters examine key early language and literacy skills that predict later achievement and highlight play-centered strategies that promote joyful learning experiences. The presentation draws on the science of reading to illustrate how educators and caregivers can design engaging learning opportunities that support language development and early literacy.

Speakers



Rebecca Parlakian

SeniorDirectorofPrograms | ZERO TO THREE



Lucy Hart Paulson

LiteracySpecialist | NA

LS-F6:EnhancingPrimaryCare'sRole in Early Childhood Mental Health: From Screening to Services

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: D137-138

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

Primary care providers play a critical role in identifying and responding to early childhood mental health concerns. This Lecture examines strategies for strengthening pediatric primary care systems to support early identification, intervention, and referral for young children experiencing social-emotional challenges. Presenters describe a learning collaborative designed to improve screening, intervention delivery, and care coordination across healthcare and community mental health systems. The presentation highlights lessons learned and practical approaches that can help primary care providers strengthen early childhood mental health supports.

Speakers



Colleen Reuland

Director | OregonPediatric Improvement Partnership



Andrew Riley

ProfessorofPediatrics | Oregon Health & Science University



Beth Mossman

Pediatrician | Hillsboro Pediatric Clinic

LS-F7:Noticing,Responding,andSupporting: Sexual Abuse Concerns in Early Childhood

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Oregon Ballroom 203

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

This Issue Intensive examines sexual abuse concerns in early childhood through a developmental and trauma-informed lens. Participants will engage in focused content, guided discussion, and structured reflection to strengthen recognition of indicators of concern and practice-based professional responses that support child safety, caregivers, and relational stability.

Speaker



Cassie Yackley

ExecutiveDirector | Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change

LS-F8:FromVisiontoAction:State Leadership Advancing the Early Childhood Education Profession

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: C123-124

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

Across the country, states are taking concrete steps to strengthen the early childhood education (ECE) workforce—but what does meaningful progress actually look like in practice? This session explores how policy, funding, and systems alignment are shaping the future of the profession. Grounded in the Unifying Framework for the ECE Profession, developed through the Power to the Profession initiative and advanced by the Commission on Professional Excellence in Early Childhood Education, presenters will highlight national trends and "bright spot" examples from states making measurable gains in compensation, preparation, and professional recognition. Participants will examine what's working, where challenges remain, and how these efforts can translate into real change. Through practical examples and discussion, attendees will leave with ideas and approaches they can use to move from vision to action in their own context.

Speakers



Shyrelle Eubanks

SeniorPolicyAnalyst | National Education Association



Lisa Downey

ExecutiveDirector | McCormick Institute for Early Childhood

SynergyCirclesGroupF(SC-F):Early Childhood Systems, Policy, and Learning Environments

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: E141-144

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTRODUCTORY INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circles session is themed: Early Childhood Systems, Policy, and Learning Environments. It explores how policy, data, leadership, and program design shape access to high-quality early learning experiences for infants and toddlers. Participants will rotate through conversations focused on state-level data and access, leadership approaches within complex systems, and how environments and programs can be intentionally designed to support learning, interaction, and family engagement. Together, attendees will consider how systems-level insights can be translated into practical strategies that strengthen communities and expand opportunities for young children and families.

SC-F1: Designing for Play: Integrating Playful Learning into Programs and Community Spaces

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTRODUCTORY INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle exploreshow playful learning can be integrated into early childhood programs and community environments to support development andfamily engagement. Faculty will highlight research on how children learn through play and examine how environments and systems can be designed to support exploration, interaction, and learning. Participants will discuss practical strategies for incorporating playful learning into programs, public spaces, and community initiatives to expand access to high-quality early experiences.

Speakers

Sarah Lytle
Executive Director | Playful Learning Landscapes



Molly Scott
Research Scientist | Temple University

SC-F2: Early Childhood Education for Infants and Toddlers in the US: State-by-State Data on Demand, Cost, Licensing, and Policies

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTRODUCTORY INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle highlightshow access to high-quality infant and toddler care varies across states. Faculty will guide discussion on demand, cost,licensing, and policy differences to inform systems planning. Participants will explore how data can support decision-making andadvocacy to improve access and quality.

Speaker



Laura Wagner
Research Associate | Urban Institute

SC-F3: Reimagining Leadership in Early Childhood Systems: A Collaborative Dialogue Inspired by the First 5 Leadership Institute

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC) INTRODUCTORY INTERMEDIATE

This Synergy Circle engagesparticipants in facilitated dialogue exploring leadership dilemmas within early childhood systems. Faculty will guide reflection oncollaborative leadership approaches that strengthen partnerships and improve outcomes for children and families. Participants will identify actionable shifts to enhance leadership practice across complex systems.

Speaker



Lilea Duran
Director of Leadership Development and Member Engagement | First 5 Association of California

HS-F1: Part 2—Elevating the Voices of HealthySteps Families through Co-Creation and Innovation

2:30PM–3:30PM | Location:B113-116

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) INTERMEDIATE ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

Children's National Hospital and Colorado's HealthySteps State Intermediary (ABCD) share how each elevates family voice to strengthen and sustain HealthySteps. Learn about a statewide family experience survey and co-creation of a Parent Advisory Council, plus lessons learned and early outcomes showing how family feedback drives meaningful, measurable improvements across sites.

Speakers



Melissa Buchholz
HealthySteps State Director | Assuring Better Child Health and Development



Lael Coleman
Program Lead | Children's National Hospital



Shardé Pettis
HealthySteps Clinical Supervisor | Children's National Hospital

Kara Van de Grift
Assuring Better Child Health and Development

Marta Genovez
Clinical Psychologist/HealthySteps Specialist | Children's National Hospital



Rakia Ranney
HealthySteps Program Manager | ABCD

HS-F2: Large Health System Innovations: THREE models, ONE integrated care team, ONE shared goal = a High FIVE for Prenatal-5

2:30PM–3:30PM | Location:B117-119

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION (HS) LECTURE SESSIONS (LS) INTERMEDIATE

This session explores how HealthySteps (HS), Mothers and Babies, and the Chicago Parent Program are implemented together across pediatric primary care clinics. Presenters share practical strategies, HS Specialist perspectives, and sustainability insights to help participants apply approaches to screening, brief intervention, family support, and long-term financing in their own settings.
Speakers



Claire Kingsbury

Sr. Research Program Coordinator | Johns Hopkins University - High Five for P5



LaToya Montgomery

Lead Behavioral Health Specialist | Johns Hopkins University - High Five for P5



Savannah Martinez

HSS | Johns Hopkins University - High Five for P5

Keynote: The Cost of Showing Up Happy: Burnout and the Wisdom of Asking for Help

4:00PM–5:00PM | Location:PortlandBallroom

PLENARY/KEYNOTE INTRODUCTORY

As the implacably happy, beloved host of Nickelodeon's Blue's Clues, Steve Burns was the guy who sang, danced, and cheerfully bolstered your self-esteem. What you don't know is that he was doing so with undiagnosed severe clinical depression. What is the cost of forcing joy? How can one maintain peak-level achievement and be completely burned out at the same time? And once it's all over, how do you re-engage with your own life when the tank is completely empty? Steve Burns shares lessons from his struggles as the Happiest Depressed Person in North America and learns to personally take the messages he gave to an entire generation.
Speaker



Steve Burns

Emmy-Nominated Original Host of Blue's Clues | Keynote Presenter