

Supporting Early Connections

A Court-Community Partnership
Serving Infants, Toddlers and
Their Families


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Today's Representatives

- Catherine D. Brewe M.A., LMHC: Catherine.Brewe@navos.org
Child Parent Psychotherapist, Navos
- Sheri L. Hill, PHD: hill@earlychildhoodpolicy.com
IMH Systems Consultant, Early Childhood Policy Specialist
- Helen Redman, JD: helen.redman@defender.org
Staff Attorney, The Defender Association
- Teresa Sach, MSW, LCSW: TEBU300@dshs.wa.gov
DCFS CFWS Supervisor


Today's Topics

- Seeing the Need
- What is Supporting Early Connections?
- Child Parent Psychotherapy in the Dependency System
- Stories and Outcomes
- Resources



PP Handout at: www.earlychildhoodpolicy.com/courttrain.html

Seeing the Need



National Baby Facts

- National entries into foster care
 - 31% <3 years old (FY 2009)
- National abuse deaths
 - 79.8% <3 years old (FY 2008)
- Approximately half (35-68%) have developmental delays or disabilities.

Melmed, M (2011)
Graham, M. A. (2011)
F. Wulczyn & K.B. Hislop (2002)
Leslie et al. (2005)

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Infants and Foster Care

Fiscal Year 2008

- 22% of new admissions
- Four times more likely to enter care
- More time in out-of-home care
 - 60% spent most of their time in foster care
- Longer stays
 - Longest for entries in 0-3 months



Wulczyn, F, Chen, L, Collins, L & Ernst, M (2011) [Zero to Three](#), (31:3)

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Reunifications and Disparities

- Infants & adolescents reunify more slowly
(Harris & Courtney, 2003)
 - Higher % infants in care => lower regional reunification rates
(WSIPP, 2004)
 - Nearly 1 in 3 reenter care
(Wulczyn et al, 2011)
- The disparity between black and white admissions is greatest in infancy.
(Wulczyn et al, 2011)

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Washington State

- Cases Accepted for Investigation
 - 0-3 Year Olds: 32% of Victims
- Children in Out-of-Home Care
 - 0-3 Year Olds: 29.8%
 - Nichols, Orme (9/16/09) The Children in Washington's Child Welfare System
 - www.accountabilityinchildwelfare.org

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Brain Changing Prime Time

- Newborn – 400 grams
- 3 Year Old – 1100 grams
- Adult – 1500 grams

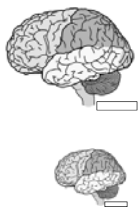
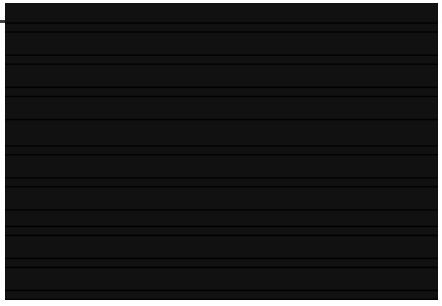


Image: www.brainconnection.com
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Stress and the Brain



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Neglect Can Be Toxic



Neglect in the first two years of life specifically predicted aggression at 4, 6, and 8. Early abuse, later abuse and later neglect did not.

Kotch, et al. (2008) Importance of Early Neglect for Childhood Aggression. *Pediatrics*, vol. 121, pp. 725-731.

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Early Relationships Are Important !!!

"Each achievement – language and learning, social development, the emergence of self-regulation – occurs in the context of close relationships with others."

- *From Neurons to Neighborhoods, National Academy of Science, 2000*

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The Attachment System

- "A healthy, secure attachment generally means the child has been supported in:
 - learning coping skills,
 - helped to adapt to changes
 - learned to contain and soothe distress,
 - and learned to self-regulate their emotions and behaviors."
- *Healthy Attachment for Very Young Children in Foster Care* by JoAnne Solchany and Lisa Pilnik, pg 87.

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Vol 27, No 6 Aug 2008, www.childlawpractice.org
(Available to download on Dr. Hill's website)

Helping Families = Repairing Relationships

"The bottom line is that child welfare practices that are largely focused on child safety often are not structured to promote healthy development and the formation of a secure attachment."

Melmed, M E (2011). A Call to Action for Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care. *Zero to Three Journal*, vol. 31, no. 3, 29-34.

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"It's about the kids. People talk about parents getting their children back. But really, this is about the children getting their parents back."
Judge Douglas F. Johnson of Omaha

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What is Supporting Early Connections?

Supporting Early Connections Project Goals

- Provide early intervention mental health services (Child Parent Psychotherapy) for infants, toddlers and their biological parents.
- Support family/parent engagement.
- Improve systems' knowledge of how to meet the needs of young children and their families.
- Develop an effective, multi-system partnership that is sustainable and can be replicated.

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The SEC Team

- Judicial Officer
- Project Coordinator
- Child Welfare
 - Attorney
 - Social Workers
 - Supervisors
- Parents' Attorneys
- Clinical and System Consultants
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
 - Supervisor
 - Attorney
- Community Mental Health
 - Family Support Specialist
 - Therapists
 - Supervisor

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Education



- SEC Trainings
 - Infant Mental Health
 - Attachment
 - Sharing Our Experiences

www.earlychildhoodpolicy.com/courtrain.html
- Partnered Court Trainings
 - www.uwcita.org
- Cross-System Learning
 - Relationships are Key

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Child Parent Therapy

- Intensive
- Strength Based
- Community Based



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Referrals and Court Orders




Voluntary

- Parents' Attorneys Refer
- Service For the Child

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Providing Critical Information

- Regular Reporting
- Meetings



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Family Support & Engagement



Family Support Specialist


- Intake is Key
- Transportation – So much more than driving
- Practical Skills Need Support

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Child Parent Psychotherapy in the Dependency System

Working in Collaboration
A Different Way of doing Therapy

Child Parent Psychotherapy



- Attachment, Psychoanalytic and Trauma Theories
- Cognitive-Behavioral and Social Learning Therapies
- Attention to Family Cultural Values

Slide 25 Lieberman & Van Horn (2008)

Improvements with CPP

- Dyad
 - Relationship Interactions
 - Attachment Security
- Parent (Typ. Mother)
 - Mood
 - PTSD symptoms
- Child
 - Behavior
 - PTSD Symptoms
 - Attributions
 - Cognitive Functioning

Lieberman & Van Horn (2008)

Miami-Dade CPP

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Placement Is Often Traumatic




Removing a child and/or initiating a dependency is inherently disruptive to relationships.

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Holding the Child In Mind

- Therapy is ultimately for the benefit of the infant or toddler.
- The welfare of the parent directly impacts the welfare of the young child.



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Lots of Players in the Game




Working with the child's entire world.

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Strength Based

Change is most likely to occur in a non-punitive environment.

Build on existing strengths.



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Confidentiality in a Big Crowd



Parents often feel violated by the sheer number of people involved in their life when a child is placed in dependency.

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CPP -- An Opportunity:

- For the therapist to work collaboratively.
- For the child to heal within the relationship where the trauma occurred.
- For the parent to participate in a service that is non-punitive and focuses on their strengths as a parent.

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Stories and Outcomes

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Success Comes in Many Forms



www.king5.com/new-day-northwest/Family-Rebuilds-Thrives-After-Domestic-Violence-98754314.html
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Participating Families - Parents

Participating Parents

- Moms – 36 (61%)
- Dads – 23 (39%)

Relationship Status

- Single moms – 16
- Single dads – 3
- Couples – 20 (40 adults)

Ethnicity

- White – 48%
- African American – 22%
- Latino – 15%
- Asian Pacific Islander – 3%
- Mixed – 10%

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Participating Families - Children

Number of Children

- Males – 23 (59%)
- Females – 16 (41%)

Ethnicity

- White – 41%
- African American – 21%
- Latino – 8%
- Mixed – 31%



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Early Outcomes – Diagnostic Criteria

Children are evaluated to see if they meet DC:0-3R diagnostic criteria for a mental health disorder at enrollment and discharge.

- 91% of children had a diagnosis at entry
- 50% of children had a diagnosis at exit

Note: Due to the partial nature of this analysis, the statistical significance of these outcomes was not assessed at this time.

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Early Outcomes – Global Relationship Scores

The Parent-Infant Relationship Global Assessment Scale (PIR-GAS) is a measure of the overall quality of a parent-child relationship. With scores from 0 to 100, PIR-GAS ranges from grossly impaired (severely disordered) to well adapted.

Enrollment (N=20)

- Mean PIR-GAS score of 45.5
- Median PIR-GAS score of 44.5

Discharge (N=20)

- Mean PIR-GAS score of 66.4
- Median PIR-GAS score of 63.0

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Early Outcomes – Keeping Parents Engaged in the Game



At least one biological parent stayed engaged with SEC for the full ten months of treatment in over 80% of cases.

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Handouts

- SEC – Referral Form
- SEC – Court Order Language
- Child Parent Therapy Overview
- SEC -- Brochure
- SEC – Treatment Update
- SEC – Meeting Contributions

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Resources to Help

Trauma, Child Welfare and Court Related

Many thanks to Dr. Hill for sharing her resource slides, please see her website for other presentations with additional resources. www.earlychildhoodpolicy.com

Please note Dr. Hill retains copyright to all of the remaining slides.

National Court and Child Welfare Projects

- ZERO TO THREE Court Teams for Maltreated Infants & Toddlers
 - Free video: "Helping Babies from the Bench."
www.zerotothree.org/maltreatment/court-teams/index.html
- American Bar Association – Improving Understanding of Maternal and Child Health
www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/projects_initiatives/health_of_infants_toddlers_preschoolers_iunch.html

Don't miss the new Judge's Guide -
[Healthy Beginning, Healthy Futures](#)

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Getting the Courts to Ask: How is the baby or toddler doing?

- *Questions Every Judge and Lawyer Should ask About Infants and Toddlers In the Child Welfare System*

www.ncjfcj.org/store/product_info.php?cPath=21_22_28&products_id=90

- *Ensuring the Healthy Development of Infants in Foster Care: A Guide for Judges, Advocates and Child Welfare Professionals*

www.zerotothree.org/about-us/funded-projects/court-teams/court-teams-popular-resources.html

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Partnering with the Courts Recommended Readings

- ABA/ZERO TO THREE Joint Briefs (2007)
 - Healing the Youngest Children: Model Court-Community Partnerships
 - Visitation with Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care: What Judges and Attorneys Need to Know

www.zerotothree.org/about-us/funded-projects/court-teams/court-teams-popular-resources.html

- Child Centered Practices for the Courtroom and Community: A Guide to Working Effectively with Young Children and Their Families in the Child Welfare System.
 - Lynne F Katz, EdD, Judge Cindy S Lederman, & Joy D Osofsky, PhD
 - Brookes Publishing, 2010

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Special Journal Issues for Courts/Child Welfare

- Juvenile and Family Court Journal, NCJFCJ, Fall 2008 – vol. 59 no. 4. Special Issue – Children and Trauma
- Juvenile and Family Court Journal, NCJFCJ, Spring 2004 – vol. 55 no. 2. Special Issue–Infants and Toddlers in Court
- Infant Mental Health Journal, Jan/Feb 2008 – vol. 29 no. 1. Special Issue – Forensic Issues in Infant Mental Health
- ZERO TO THREE Journal
 - Improving the Lives of Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care – January 2011, Vol 31, no. 3
 - Current Trends in Child Welfare – July 2008, Vol 28, no. 6
 - Coping with Separation and Loss -- July 2007, Vol 27, no.6

Child Welfare Professional Readings/Materials

- Michigan Association of Infant Mental Health
www.mi-aimh.org
 - *Guidelines for Comprehensive Assessment of Infants and their Parents in the Child Welfare System.* (2005)
 - *Supporting Relationships for Infants and Toddlers with Two Homes.* (2010)
- Brenda Jones Harden (2007) *Infants in the Child Welfare System: A Developmental Framework for Policy and Practice.* ZERO TO THREE Press.
- Sheryl Dicker (2009) *Reversing the Odds: Improving Outcomes for Babies in the Child Welfare System.* Brookes Publishing.

Child Welfare and EI CAPTA & IDEA

- National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
www.nectac.org/topics/earlyid/capta.asp
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/service_array/earlychildhood/childwelfare.cfm
- Administration for Children & Families
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/cblaws/capta/index.htm

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Web Resources on Trauma

- Healing Resources.info: Preventing and Healing Stress Related Problems
 - www.healingresources.info
 - Great Video! *Trauma, Brain & Relationship: Helping Children Heal*
- The ChildTrauma Academy
 - www.childtrauma.org
- National Center for Children Exposed to Violence
 - www.nccev.org

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National Child Traumatic Stress Network

www.nctsn.org

Mission: To raise the standard of care and improve access to services for traumatized children, their families and communities throughout the United States.

Tons of great resources for professionals and caregivers and lots of free training options. Includes special resources for military families.

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Trauma Readings

- Ed: Lieberman, AF & DeMartino, R (2006) **Pediatric Round Table: Interventions for Children Exposed to Violence**, Johnson & Johnson Pediatric Institute.
 - Lieberman, AF, Briscoe-Smith, A, Ghosh Ippen, C, Van Horn, P. *Violence in Infancy and Early Childhood: Relationship-Based Treatment and Evaluation*. P. 65-83
www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/reports/HarrisManuscript.pdf
- Ed: Joy D. Osofsky (2005) **Young Children and Trauma: Intervention and Treatment**. Guilford Press
- Solomon, MF, & Siegel, DJ (2003) **Healing Trauma: Attachment, Mind, Body and Brain**. Norton Prof. Books
- Lieberman, AF (2007) Ghosts and Angels: Intergenerational patterns in the transmission and treatment of the traumatic sequelae of domestic violence. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 28 (4) 442-439.

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More Trauma Readings

- Osofsky, J. (2003) *Prevalence of Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment: Implications for Prevention and Intervention*. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, Vol. 6, No 3, pp. 161-170.
- Kathleen Rice & Betsy Groves (Child Witness to Violence Project, Boston Medical Center) (2005) *Hope & Healing: A Caregiver's Guide to Helping Young Children Affected by Trauma*. ZERO TO THREE Press.
- Lieberman, Compton, Van Horn, and Ippen (2003) *Losing a Parent to Death in the Early Years: Guidelines for the Treatment of Traumatic Bereavement in Infancy and Early Childhood*. ZERO TO THREE Press.

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Mary Dozier - ABC Intervention

The Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up Intervention is a training program for caregivers of young children who have been neglected and caregivers of young children in foster care.

<http://abcintervention.com/>

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Child Parent Psychotherapy Basic Books

- Lieberman, A. & Van Horn, P. (2005) **Don't Hit My Mommy! A Manual for Child-Parent Psychotherapy With Young Witnesses of Family Violence**. Washington, D.C.: ZERO TO THREE Press.
- Lieberman, A. & Van Horn, P. (2008) **Psychotherapy with Infants and Young Children: Repairing the Effects of Stress and Trauma on Early Attachment**. New York, NY: Guilford Press.

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Evidence Based Practice

- Dept. of Justice and Dept. of Health and Human Services 2011 Publication
 - Evidence-Based Practices for Children Exposed to Violence: A Selection from Federal Databases
www.safestartcenter.org/pdf/Evidence-Based-Practices-Matrix_2011.pdf
- California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare: www.cebc4cw.org
 - Child Parent Psychotherapy:
www.cebc4cw.org/program/49

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