



Together for Families

Conference



Strong Families

Promising Futures

October 19-21 2022

Co-Hosts



Center for the Study of Social Policy Ideas into Action

For over 40 years, Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) has worked with policymakers and communities across the country to improve the lives of children and families, particularly those who face the greatest challenges. With Strengthening Families, CSSP engages families, programs and communities in building five key protective factors that all families need to thrive. Using the Strengthening Families framework, more than 30 states are shifting policy and practice to help programs working with children and families focus on protective factors.



For over 40 years, Families Canada (FC) has worked to strengthen Canada's family support sector and improve wellness outcomes for children and families. FC is a membership-based organization comprised of over 500 independent Family Resource Centres - located in 2,300 communities across Canada. FC provides its members with resources, professional development, and opportunities to participate in programming.



NATIONAL **Family Support** **NETWORK**

Founded in 2011, the National Family Support Network (NFSN) is a membership-based organization comprised of state networks of Family Resource Centers (FRCs). The NFSN currently has 37 Member Networks that represent more than 3,000 FRCs that support more than 2 million people each year. Its mission is to promote positive outcomes for all children, families, and communities by leveraging the collective impact of state networks and championing quality family support and family strengthening practices and policies.

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Center for the Study of Social Policy

Jennifer Green
National Family Support Network

Kheya Ganguly
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Maureen Bethel
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Department of Human Services

Rebecca Balcerzak
Families Canada

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Pre-Conference



Learning Opportunities

Webinars

These free webinars will provide key contextual information to support participants to be well-prepared to fully engage in the conference.

Strengthening Families Overview Webinar

The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and Approach from the Center for the Study of Social Policy is widely used in the U.S. in the fields of family support, early care and education, and child welfare. This flexible approach can be applied in any context serving young children and their families. This recorded webinar from October 7, 2022 introduces the four big ideas behind Strengthening Families, the five protective factors that all families need to thrive, and what it means to implement Strengthening Families in a program, agency, community, or state. [Webinar Link](#) • [Materials Link](#)



Supporting Families through Best Practice: An Overview of the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support

This recorded webinar from October 5, 2022 provides an overview of the nationally-adopted Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support. These Standards have created a common language across different kinds of Family Strengthening and Family Support programs and are used as a tool for planning, providing, and assessing quality practice. [Webinar Link](#) • [Materials Link](#)



Uncovering America's Best Kept Secret: Family Resource Centers and Family Support & Strengthening Networks

This recorded webinar from October 12, 2022 sheds light on the often under the radar work and impact of the more than 3,000 Family Resource Centers organized into Family Support and Strengthening Networks in 36 states and the District of Columbia that support more than 2 million people annually.

[Webinar Link](#) • [Materials Link](#)

Agenda



Wednesday, October 19th, 2022

11:00am ET

Zoom Meeting Room Opens
Check-In & Networking

11:30am-1:00pm ET **Opening Plenary Session: Building a Parent Nation**

- *Dana Suskind, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, Thirty Million Words Center for Early Learning and Public Health at the University of Chicago*
- *Yolie Flores, National Campaign Director, Parent Nation*
- *Samanthia Moore Valentine, Georgia Parent Advisory Council Member Region 7*
- *Kelly Stone, Strategic Advisor, Families Canada*

1:00-1:30pm ET

BREAK

1:30-3:00pm ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

1. Measuring What Matters: Equity Considerations in Assessment
2. Fantastic Facilitation: Using a Participant-Centered Strengths-Based Approach to Parent Support Groups
3. Advancing Equity through the Promotores Community Transformational Model
4. Reframing Childhood Adversity Training: Promoting Upstream Approaches
5. From Their Voices: Advancing Equity for Families and Their LGBTQ+ Children
6. How to Build The Protective Factors in Fathers
7. Strategies for Parents through Advocacy Trainings
8. What's New with Strengthening Families?
9. The First Social Pediatric Hub in Ontario
10. Developing Family Resource Center Networks: Where Do We Start?

3:00-3:30pm ET

BREAK

3:30-5:00pm ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

11. Parent Engagement Through the Lens of Equity
12. Increasing Refugee Mothers' Parental Agency
13. Life is Full of Choices - Understanding the Science of Behavior and Our Power to Choose
14. Leading System Transformation: Case Studies on the Power of Strategy Maps
15. Culturally Effective Organizations Framework
16. Family Digital Wellness - A New Link in Prevention
17. Parent Leaders of the Alliance
18. How a Family Network Collaborative is Helping to Shape the Early Relational Health Movement
19. Cultivating Hope Through Action: How Public Private Partnerships Are Strengthening Child and Family Well-Being in Los Angeles County
20. SMS4dads - Reaching New Australian Dads Through Their Phones

Agenda



Thursday, October 20th, 2022

- 11:00am ET Zoom Meeting Room Opens
Check-In & Networking
- 11:30am-1:00pm ET **Plenary Session #2: Insights and Innovations from the Development of Ireland's National Family Resource Centre Programme**
- *Fergal Landy, Chief Executive Officer, Family Resource Centre National Forum*
 - *Daniel Quirke, LGBT+ Community Support Worker, Listowel Family Resource Centre*
 - *Ellen Duggan, Manager, Newbridge Family Resource Centre*
 - *Mary Jackson, Project Coordinator, Tacú Family Resource Centre, Ballinrobe*
- 1:00-1:30pm ET **BREAK**
- 1:30-3:15pm ET **Spotlights Part 1 & Virtual Table Talks**
- 3:15-3:30pm ET **BREAK**
- 3:45-5:30pm ET **Spotlights Part 2 & Virtual Table Talks**

**Have questions
or need assistance?**

info@togetherforfamilies.org

Agenda



Friday, October 21st, 2022

11:30am-1:00pm ET Concurrent Workshop Sessions

1. Why Listening to Children is the 'Right' Thing to Do: A Child Rights' Approach to Effective Parent-Child Communication
2. Unlearning Ableism
3. NurtureNW: A Parent-to-Parent Mentor Program
4. Texas Family Support Network - Engaging a Funder's Evolution in Utilization of the Standards of Quality
5. Engaging Fathers – DADS MATTER!
6. They've Got the Spirit: Successful Authentic Parent Leader Integration
7. Building Protective Factors so Adult and Child Survivors of Domestic Violence Can Thrive
8. Parent Leader Network: Creating a Positive Culture
9. Strengthening Family Resource Centers through Innovative Contract Management Tools
10. Understanding Culture through Care of Self, Trauma, and Resilience

1:30-3:00pm ET

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

11. Foundational Understandings of Indigenous Cultural Safety
12. Grand Connections: A Workshop Series to Support Grandparents Caring for Grandkids Under 5
13. Parent Advisory Councils: Building and Sustaining Parent Voice
14. Teddy Bears, Kayaks, Picnics, Interviews, Town Halls and Meetings - A Story of West Virginia Advocacy for Family Friendly Policies
15. Emerging Research: Impact of Family Supportive Services on Family Health and Well-Being
16. North Carolina Child Welfare Family Advisory Council: How Lived Experience Provides the Bridge Between Prevention and Intervention
17. The Importance of Fatherhood Engagement and Developing Resources that Embraces Lived Experience
18. Social Supports During Crisis: Research from The Whole Family Approach
19. Streamlining Access to Family Services: First Five SC
20. Healthy Together: Children's Health Program

3:00-3:30pm ET

BREAK

3:30-5:00pm ET

**Closing Plenary Session:
Spotlight, Mosaic Network, Inc.
Real Talk with Parent Leaders**

- *Tecoria Jones, South Carolina*
- *Sanaa Sharrieff, North Carolina*
- *Melissa Perry, Tennessee*
- *Edward Casillas, Arizona*

Evaluation & Raffle

Plenary Sessions

Wednesday, October 19th

Opening Plenary Session 11:30am -1:00pm ET

Building a Parent Nation

This plenary will feature an engaging conversation with pediatrician and best-selling author Dr. Dana Suskind about the importance of building a society that shares in the responsibility of raising children. Dr. Suskind will discuss the ideas and recommendations that are the foundation of her book, *Parent Nation: Unlocking Every Child's Potential, Fulfilling Society's Promise*. Yolie Flores, National Campaign Director for Parent Nation, will share elements of the media campaign and ways communities can join the Building a ParentNation movement, including how to access free tools to activate and inspire parents to work to create better futures for our children.

The plenary will wrap up with Reflecting on a Parent Nation: Opportunities and Possibilities Panel. Kelly Stone, Strategic Advisor Families Canada, will share a Canadian policy perspective and Samantha Valentine, a Parent Leader from Georgia will instill her passion and insights about better supporting families with young children.



Thursday, October 20th

Plenary Session #2 11:30am-1:00pm ET

Insights and Innovations from the Development of Ireland's National Family Resource Centre Programme

This plenary session will explore the development of Ireland's National Family Resource Centre (FRC) Programme from its inception as a grassroots movement, to its formalization as a national program underpinned by national policy, legislation, and a national support infrastructure. Over the last 20+ years, the Programme has grown to include more than 120 FRCs in communities across the country. The session will highlight examples of their innovative work, including support for families affected by problem gambling, addressing the impact of LGBT+ identity and rural isolation on mental health, "social prescribing" initiatives - when health professionals refer patients to support in the community in order to improve their health and wellbeing, and the development of a sensory garden as a suicide prevention strategy.



Friday, October 21st

Closing Plenary Session 3:30-5:00pm ET

Real Talk with Parent Leaders

In this closing plenary session, diverse parent leaders from across the U.S. will share their perspectives on meaningful community engagement, participation, and leadership development. The panelists will focus on what they believe is important for service providers to hear directly from parents on these topics.





Spotlight Presentations

Thursday, October 20th, 2022

Spotlights Part 1 1:30-2:45pm

Explore multiple innovative programs and resources in the Family Support and Strengthening field through a panel of brief overview presentations and then choose two for deeper dives.

- **Children's Trust Fund Alliance** will share resources on supporting families in building protective factors and building effective partnerships with parents.
- **Child Welfare Information Gateway** will highlight its many resources to support providers in their work with families to build parental capacities.
- **Dad Central** will provide information on the Super Dads Super Kids Program, the My Dad Matters Training for Organizations and Staff, and The Dad Central Show podcast.
- **Elevance Health** will present on serving people across their entire health journey and addressing the full range of needs with an integrated whole-health approach.
- **EndCAN** will share how it advances its mission to end child abuse and neglect in the United States through funding research, prevention, education, and advocacy.

Spotlights Part 2 3:45-5:00pm

- **Alia** will share information about Dear Leaders: A resource of starting points for leaders in child welfare to bring family voice and power to the system and Bright Spots: An online source of child welfare practices reviewed by impacted parents.
- **Be Strong Families** will highlight the newly Revised Parent Café in a Box the All-inclusive Edition, the Be Strong Families Institute: Highly Sensitive People Training, and Questionable: The Family Game.
- **Bethany Christian Services** will present on the Say YES to FAMILY Initiative - (Family Always Matters In the Lives of Youth), the importance of elevating family and youth voice, partnering with other organizations to support kinship caregivers and implement shared parenting strategies, and setting standards around co-creation for families through parent advisory committees and parent cafés.
- **Prevent Child Abuse America** will share its work with Healthy Families American home visiting sites, developing innovative research, and raising public awareness for family friendly policies at the national, state, and local levels.
- **VerticalChange** will provide information on flexible technology that enables social service organizations and public departments to streamline program management, customize data collection, record assessments, and generate powerful reports on outputs and outcomes.



Virtual Table Talks

Thursday, October 20th, 2022

Virtual Table Talks are an opportunity to network with others who are interested in a particular topic and peer share about your current work, resources, and partnership opportunities in relationship to it. Please note that Table Talks are facilitated discussions, not presentations.

Round One: 2:45-3:15pm ET

- Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Engaging Fathers/Male Caregivers
- Funder Huddle - *by invitation*
- Implementing the Standards of Quality – Program Level
- Implementing the Strengthening Families Approach – Program Level
- Moving Beyond ACEs: Implementing Strengths-Based Prevention with Families
- Parent Leader Networking - for Parent Leaders
- Supporting Families in Perinatal Phase
- Supporting LGBTQ Families
- Supporting Refugee Families

Round Two: 5:00-5:30pm ET

- Addressing Compassion Fatigue
- Culturally Responsive Strategies for Addressing Traumatic Stress
- Developing New Family Resource Centers
- Implementing the Standards of Quality – Systems Level
- Implementing the Strengthening Families Approach – Systems Level
- Parent Leader Networking - For Parent Leaders
- Providing Multi-Generational Programming
- Supporting Families in Rural Regions
- Supporting Parent Leadership Development - for Programs
- Working with Families Who are Using Substances



Workshop Descriptions

Wednesday, October 19

Concurrent Workshop Sessions 1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #1: Measuring What Matters: Equity Considerations in Assessment

Advancing Equity for Families

Presenters: Aimée Duncan, Research Specialist, Early Childhood Precision, Innovation, and Shared Measurement at the Institute for Child Success

Katherine Hammond, Director of Science Communication, EC PRISM at the Institute for Child Success

Early childhood and family services have traditionally relied on measures that may not reflect the experiences of all families, particularly children and families of color. Measurement approaches have traditionally been created by academic researchers who often lack the lived experiences of those who participate in early learning programs. The role that measurement has played in the past, as well as to this day, continues to promote racist policies and practices. This presentation will explain how the IMPACT Measures Tool was created to change traditional power structures between those who measure and those who are measured, demystify the measurement process, and empower service providers and others to advocate for more appropriate measurement practices. Specifically, the tool uses a scoring system to rate measures on cultural relevance and can be used to advocate for more culturally appropriate measures. Participants will also have opportunities to share their own experiences with measurement in their work and give examples of how measurement has been used, both intentionally and unintentionally, as tools to continue systemic racism in the United States.



Workshop #2: Fantastic Facilitation: Using a Participant-Centered Strengths-Based Approach to Parent Support Groups

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenter: Carmen Paterson-Payne, Master Trainer & Provincial Coordinator, Nobody's Perfect Parenting - Youville Community Health Centre

This session is intended to be a professional development opportunity for a variety of community-based personnel to come together and hone their adult group facilitation skills. Participants will leave with some innovative, creative, and practical ideas for delivering vibrant sessions. Fantastic Facilitation techniques are based on adult education principles that can be transferred to all types of settings, such as staff training, community educational sessions, and board, staff, or other team meetings. This workshop will help participants understand adult learning styles and develop ideas to use in their own programs. They will discover that when adults are involved and having fun, they are more likely to be engaged and motivated to learn. Good facilitation is the key to getting the most out of program participants, time, and money. Participant-centered methodologies, interactive approaches, and applying new delivery techniques can turn a group session into something that inspires and initiates change in others.



Workshop #3: Advancing Equity through The Promotores Community Transformational Model

Parent Leadership Integration

Presenter: Lady Freire, Institute Coordinator, Vision y Compromiso

During this workshop, participants will learn about Promotores throughout history and how the Promotores Community Transformational Model reduces disparities and promotes health equity.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #4: Reframing Childhood Adversity Training: Promoting Upstream Approaches

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenters: Amy Templeman, Director of Within Our Reach and of Practice Excellence, Social Current

Jennifer Devlin, Owner, Jennifer Devlin Consulting

While Americans agree that child abuse and neglect is unacceptable, and are more likely than ever to consider child development an important policy issue, it can be difficult to build the public understanding and political commitment that advocates need to effectively prevent, identify, and address childhood adversity such as abuse and neglect. Champions for children and families still encounter persistent dilemmas in how to frame the issue, including deciding what to say, how to say it, and how to move people to action through these messages. Understanding the need for fresh, powerful framing strategies, Social Current and Prevent Child Abuse America asked the FrameWorks Institute to update framing recommendations originally developed in 2004. The result is a new strategic brief, *Reframing Childhood Adversity: Promoting Upstream Approaches*, which is a highly accessible, actionable guide that takes recent science and current communications contexts into account, speaks to racial and social justice, and aligns with efforts to reimagine child welfare systems into child wellbeing systems. The brief also offers guidance for communicating about adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and strategies for helping the public to see how prevention works. The session is accompanied by a toolkit of resources, including social media posts, infographics, video elements, media templates, and more that can be used by organizations year-round in their efforts to communicate around childhood adversity.



Workshop #5: From Their Voices: Advancing Equity for Families and Their LGBTQ+ Children

Advancing Equity for Families

Presenters: Curt VanderWaal, Chair and Professor - School of Social Work, Andrews University

David Sedlacek, Professor of Family Ministry and Discipleship, Andrews University

This session highlights findings from a study of Conservative Christian (Seventh-day Adventist) parents whose LGBTQ+ child came out to them within the past 10 years. The findings suggest that the conservative Christian parents in this sample were able to circumvent and, in some cases, overcome the barriers of their faith tradition to understand and support their LGBTQ+ child. Further, the parents' journeys toward acceptance and support often included researching sexual orientation and sexual identity as an important step in the process. Finally, parents' advocated for their children in their religious schools and churches to improve inclusion and equity. The presentation will focus on three research questions: 1. What are the experiences of conservative Christian parents whose LGBTQ+ child comes out to them? 2. How does the data point to promising practices in the advancement of inclusion for families of LGBTQ+ children? 3. What are some areas of entry to break down barriers for inclusion among these families?



Workshop #6: How to Build The Protective Factors in Fathers

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenter: Christopher Brown, President, National Fatherhood Initiative

This session will cover the keys to building protective factors in fathers and how those keys differ from building them in mothers. The presenter will highlight case studies from Texas and other states on how organizations and statewide networks that focus on the protective factors have used specific programs and resources that are effective with fathers in group and one-on-one settings, such as home visits. The session will also highlight independent research that shows how the National Fatherhood Initiative's evidence-based 24/7 Dad program builds the factors in large, diverse groups of fathers.



Workshop #7: Strategies for Parents through Advocacy Trainings

Parent Leadership Integration

Presenters: Yanela Montoya, Director of Advocacy, Dallas Afterschool

Olga Gonzalez, Vice President of Program Services, Dallas Afterschool

Dallas Afterschool has created a 6-course Spanish-language advocacy series offered to parents whose children participate in their partner organizations. This course teaches parents how to become better advocates for their children and their community and covers the fundamentals of advocacy, how to advocate within the school district, advocacy at the municipal level, and ends with workshops where parents begin building their chosen advocacy campaign. During each course, parents test their knowledge, share their experiences, and explore topics of interest. This session workshop will introduce participant to strategies to create their own parent-focused course.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #8: What's New with Strengthening Families?

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenters: *Cailin O'Connor, Senior Associate, Center for the Study of Social Policy*

Charlyn Browne, Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Throughout 2022, the Center for the Study of Social Policy and partners have been refreshing materials and content related to the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and Approach. The updates reflect a greater emphasis on how community conditions and policies affect child and family well-being and protective factors, as well as reflecting up-to-date understanding of how foundational relationships and positive childhood experiences interact with adversity to influence outcomes. These new materials also articulate the impact of racism on child development, and stress the importance of anti-racist policies and strategies in order to advance equity. Learn about what's new, what's still to come, and what all of this means for your work.



Workshop #9: The First Social Pediatric Hub in Ontario

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenters: *Stephanie Fragman, Director of Family Services, Vanier Community Services Centre*

Sue Bennett, Co-medical Director, Vanier Social Pediatric Hub and Social Pediatrics Director, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

The Vanier Community Services Center, in partnership with key community partners, opened the first Social Pediatric Hub in Ontario in August 2017. It offers services by referral for children and youth (0-17 years) with complex psychosocial needs in Vanier, an underserved neighborhood in Ottawa. The Hub is based on the model developed by Montreal pediatrician Dr. Gilles Julien and provides integrated health and social care, all under one roof, for the neighborhood's children and youth, with support for their families. Many of these families were falling through the cracks utilizing the traditional service system. Quebec has recognized this model as a best practice and there are now over 40 social pediatric centers across the province. The Vanier Social Pediatric Hub aims to assist children and youth in achieving their fullest potential, with respect and promotion of their human rights in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This session will be an opportunity for participants to learn about this innovative model of practice and its potential to expand to other jurisdictions to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.



Workshop #10: Developing Family Resource Center Networks: Where Do We Start?

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenter: *Andrew Russo, Co-Founder & Director, National Family Support Network*

What are the steps for developing a Network of Family Resource Centers? How can public and private funders and/or community-based organizations support families in their city, county, or state by developing a Network of Family Resource Centers? What resources are available to support the development of these Networks?

Family Resource Center Networks have emerged across the country in cities, counties, and states as an effective means of ensuring coordinated quality support for families. These Networks connect, organize, and support Family Resource Centers. Serving as the backbone entity to leverage the collective impact of their members, they create opportunities for service providers to exchange information, develop relationships, build capacity, and address challenges that no one organization could on its own.

Some of these Networks have been started by public or private funders, others by community-based organizations, and some by a combination of these and other stakeholders recognizing the value of coming together. Funders have an especially key role to play in terms of resourcing and strengthening the capacity of both Family Resource Centers and Network infrastructure.

Whether you are a funder or a community-based organization interested in developing a Network, this session will provide information and tools to support your next steps.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #11: Parent Engagement Through the Lens of Equity

Advancing Equity for Families

Presenter: Sarita Sashington, Senior Strategic Relationships Manager, Be Strong Families

Session participants will build upon their strengths in developing and nurturing positive, healing relationships between providers and parents, explore the barriers they are encountering, and will design practical solutions for overcoming these barriers. Attending concretely to will multiple dimensions of equity (political, social, economic) in everyday program practices can enhance them. A better understanding of power dynamics and implicit biases can help to form working partnerships. Participants will also learn how to enhance their effectiveness in designing and implementing actionable, co-creative strategies for inclusive budgeting, governing, and planning with parents.



Workshop #12: Increasing Refugee Mothers' Parental Agency

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenters: Debbie Bell, President & Chief Executive Officer, Mothers Matter Centre

Fatima Alsamak, Manager of Professional Development, Mothers Matter Centre

Refugees face significant challenges, with histories of violence, abuse, gender discrimination, and isolation. Their forced migration journey often leaves them traumatized and in need of targeted support. Women, young people, and children are especially vulnerable. Settlement services must be context-sensitive and responsive to their unique needs. Reviving Hope and Home Program of the The Mothers Matter Centre (MMC) serves refugee mothers in Canada, highlighted gaps in addressing these needs. There is a deficiency in understanding refugee women as well as a gap in knowledge of the impact on the refugee mothers' role in the family. MMC conducted a research workshop in May 2019 with refugee women on how they viewed parental agency, their capacity to make decisions as parents, before, during, and after forced migration. The participants' experiences and the context of their needs are unique and differ from men and other newcomer women. This confirmed that economic insecurity, isolation, low literacy, and gendered barriers prevent women from fully engaging in society. These challenges are further amplified for newcomer and refugee mothers with the spread of COVID-19. Mothers are first to be impacted economically, socially, and emotionally, but they are also uniquely positioned to solve problems. This session will share research findings and facilitate conversations about using the Reviving Hope and Home program model as a best practice for how settlement agencies can serve refugee families through parental engagement to support their successful resettlement.



Workshop #13: Life is Full of Choices - Understanding the Science of Behavior and Our Power to Choose

Parent Leadership Integration

Presenters: Sarah Weisbarth, Discover You Director, Reaching Our Community Kids (ROCK) Center for Youth Development

Every behavior is an expression of a need. Understanding those needs in ourselves and others leads to deeper self-awareness and a foundation for self-management and relationship development. Examining the Status Certainty Autonomy Relatedness Fairness (SCARF) Model, brain reaction to behavior, suspending assumptions and examining reaction versus response through intentionally applied tools will help participants deescalate their own thinking patterns of themselves and others.



Workshop #14: Leading System Transformation: Case Studies on the Power of Strategy Maps

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenters: Bill Barberg, President & Founder, InsightFormation, inc.

Diana Lowe, Director, Reforming the Family Justice System

Paul Chapman, Executive Director, Restore Hope

People often talk about breaking down silos, changing systems, or accomplishing collective impact to benefit families, but most coalitions struggle with actually doing it. This session shares inspiring examples of coalitions making real progress in collaborative work and system transformation on systems that have a major negative impact on children: foster care and the adversarial legal system for couples getting divorced. Both coalitions worked with Bill Barberg, a consultant who trains coalitions to use community strategy engagement techniques to achieve improved alignment and teamwork to address complex social issues. At the heart of this approach is the development and use of strategy maps that establish a framework that enables many different stakeholders to co-align around a strategy that is bigger than any individual organization or funding source. The session introduces the concept of strategy maps, and the leaders of the two coalitions will share their journey to collaborate with their many stakeholders to develop a zoomable strategic framework that is helping them achieve system change and impact. This approach allowed organizations to leverage their strengths to contribute to a larger strategy rather than working in silos. The presenters will share the benefits that have resulted from their improved success in achieving collective impact.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #15: Culturally Effective Organizations Framework

Advancing Equity for Families

*Presenters: Maria Doyle, Consultant, Family Resource Information, Education, and Network Development Service
National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (FRIENDS)*

*Carolyn Abdullah, Training/Technical Assistance Coordinator, Family Resource Information, Education, and
Network Development Service National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (FRIENDS)*

For family support and strengthening practice to work, everyone must have equal opportunity to thrive. Organizations strive to ensure this opportunity by providing high-quality services that are accessible to all, yet achieving this can be challenging. Many have simply not had access to training about an effective approach that would turn our goals into broader success. The Culturally Effective Organizations Framework is such a roadmap. Session participants will hear a brief overview of the framework and the research that informs it. The workshop will involve hands-on exploration of the framework and the tools to implement it. The Framework was created by the Institute on Assets and Social Policy at Brandeis University and further refined by the New Hampshire Equity Collective with an emphasis on healthcare. FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention adapted the framework to be more applicable to family support and strengthening programs and other community-based organizations.



Workshop #16: Family Digital Wellness - A New Link in Prevention

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenter: Justin Donofrio, Director of Programs, Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance

Parents and caregivers today are among the first generation to raise children in a physical and digital world simultaneously. In many instances, we have parents and caregivers who were raised with little to no exposure to digital technologies as youth, raising children with the most exposure and access to digital technologies and environments than any previous generation. While the focus tends to be on the many benefits of digital technologies, there is no doubt that negative impacts can accompany a child or family's unhealthy use of digital technologies. It will take time to determine exactly how today's children are impacted by immediate exposure to digital technologies and environments. However, the pandemic has certainly accelerated the use of digital technologies and early data is beginning to show us the negative impacts it has on today's teenagers and young adults, producing higher levels of mental health concerns, stress, and anxiety. These negative impacts, along with the growing challenges that parents and caregivers are facing related to digital technologies, can become risk factors for child abuse and neglect. Band-aid methods such as limited screen time and parental controls are no longer sustainable approaches to healthy digital use and interactions. A more comprehensive, strengthening, and preventative approach is needed going forward. Family Digital Wellness is a framework which addresses the digital wellness through a family-strengthening and child abuse prevention scope. This framework aims to educate, support, and strengthen families and professionals who interact daily with digital technologies.



Workshop #17: Parent Leaders of the Alliance

Parent Leadership Integration

Presenters: Kara Georgi, Parent Partnership Associate & National Parent Leader, Children's Trust Fund Alliance

Tecoria Jones, National Parent Leader

The parent leaders of the Alliance have worked to increase standing, momentum, and sustainability for the valuation of parent voice. Collaborative efforts work. This session will welcome all those who want to talk transformation, healing, and miracles.



Workshop #18: How a Family Network Collaborative is Helping to Shape the Early Relational Health Movement

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenters: Cailin O'Connor, Senior Associate, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Bryn Fortune, Coordinator, Early Relational Health Family Network Collaborative

Mia Halthon, Parent Leader, Early Relational Health Family Network Collaborative

Tish Macinnis, Strengthening Families Coordinator, Alabama Partnership for Children

The Family Network Collaborative (FNC) is an innovative approach to gathering parent and family perspectives to inform the Early Relational Health (ERH) movement as it takes hold across the United States. In this session, the FNC coordinator and members of the FNC will share what they are doing and what they are learning as they gather insights from parents in different geographic location and demographic groups around the country, and bring those insights together to inform the development of materials and approaches at the ERH Hub at the Center for the Study of Social Policy. Participants will have the opportunity to give input on ERH materials in development.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

3:30-5:00pm ET

Workshop #19: Cultivating Hope Through Action: How Public Private Partnerships Are Strengthening Child and Family Well-Being in Los Angeles County

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenters: Wendy Garen, President & CEO, Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Tamara Hunter, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families

Monica Banken, Policy Deputy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Government and philanthropy often share common goals and a capacity to enable wide-scale systems change. When they work together, they make ideal partners – philanthropy contributing nimbleness and a spirit of experimentation, while government commands the resources to sustain what works. In Los Angeles County, such collaboration was catalyzed by the tragic murder of an 8-year-old boy in 2013. Since then, an increasingly durable and agile spirit of collaboration in L.A. has fueled an ability to test new ideas, assess their effectiveness, and bring them to scale in ways that significantly impact child welfare reform.

A primary vehicle for this is the Center for Strategic Partnerships, a first-of-its-kind public-private venture that helps governments and philanthropy partner more effectively to transform systems, promote equity, and improve the lives of children and families. The next iteration of this partnership is the work to facilitate L.A. County's transformation from a child welfare system to a child and family well-being system. A child and family well-being system broadens the traditional child welfare construct, shifts the narrative of how we holistically support vulnerable children, youth, families, and communities, and strives to cease active harm caused by systems.



Workshop #20: SMS4dads - Reaching New Australian Dads Through Their Phones

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenter: Chris May, Senior Researcher and Program Manager, University of Newcastle

SMS4dads is a text-based intervention for new fathers. Messages are primarily focused on relationships. His relationship with his baby, his partner, and himself was developed at the University of Newcastle, NSW Australia. The program has recently received government funding to support fathers living in rural and remote locations across Australia. Other projects, emanating from SMS4dads, have been conducted in Spain, Colombia, and Kenya.

The ongoing development of SMS4dads has seeded several other projects while also paving the way for specific modules of messages such as those for dads raising a child on the autism spectrum, new dads trying to support a partner with perinatal anxiety/depression, dads who have experienced pregnancy loss, dads whose baby is in neonatal intensive care and first nations (indigenous) dads. This workshop will delve into the message development process and the feedback that fathers and mothers have provided while also sharing what has been learned about scaffolding support in parenting partnerships for both mothers and fathers.

Participants in this workshop are expected to develop a reasonable understanding of the program; why it was developed, how it operates, the codesign process for message development, how it responds to participant feedback and how the program links and connects fathers to information and services.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

11:30-1:00pm ET

Workshop #1: Why Listening to Children is the 'Right' Thing to Do: A Child Rights' Approach to Effective Parent-Child Communication

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenters: Stefania Maggi, Associate Professor, Carleton University

Sebastiano Pocchi, Lead Researcher, Be Your Best Self - Revolutionary Empowering Technology

The session is divided into four parts, an overview of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 12, definitions and examples of active and supportive listening, neuroscience and psychological evidence of benefits to the child of being listened to, and best practices and strategies to improve active and supportive listening in day-to-day interactions with children. This session workshop will be interactive with opportunities for participants to ask questions, practice active listening, and collaborate with other participants in smaller groups.



Workshop #2: Unlearning Ableism

Advancing Equity for Families

Presenter: McKinley McPheeters, Coach/Consultant, Rise to Resilience

This session builds on a foundation of ableism using a comprehensive definition by TL Lewis and the 10 Principles of Disability Justice. Session participants will learn three models of disability to develop their understanding of ableism in practice. From this base, they will then learn how to identify ableist practices that are perpetuated in schools and identify tangible action steps to engage in for challenging ableism. It is possible that participants may experience discomfort during or after the presentation as we learn how we have perpetuated ableism ourselves. Discomfort is a normal experience as part of growth and the (un)learning process.



Workshop #3: NurtureNW: A Parent-to-Parent Mentor Program

Innovative Family Support Practice

Speakers: Jennifer Duval, Senior Program Manager, Committee for Children

Beth Graves, Senior Community Outreach Manager, Committee for Children

Farah Khan, Project Coordinator, Committee for Children

Sherri Widen, Research Manager, Committee for Children

NurtureNW began in April 2020 with the knowledge that one of the best ways to help young children thrive is to support their parents as they navigate the social and emotional transition to parenthood. NurtureNW matches experienced parent mentors with new and expecting parents, all through text. Mentors help new parents be more mindful of their emotional health through a set of toolkits, delivered as conversation starters via a secure text-based messaging platform designed by NurturePA of Pittsburgh. Participants will learn about this innovative program bringing nonjudgmental peer-to-peer support to new and expecting parents.



Workshop #4: Texas Family Support Network - Engaging A Funder's Evolution in Utilization of the Standards of Quality

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenters: Tameka Caldwell, Family Support Project Coordinator, Texas Center for Child and Family Studies (The Center)

Anjulie Chaubal Bonilla, Director of Programs, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention,

Chelsy Alexander, Family Support Network Coordinator, Texas Center for Child and Family Studies

The Texas Family Support Network began in 2018 within the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) division of the Texas child welfare agency to bring the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support framework to local family counseling programs. Since then, PEI expanded the use of the Standards to include the majority of its programs. In September 2021, PEI began funding Family Resource Centers (FRCs). In this sessions, learn how a state agency funder has incorporated the Standards into program design, funded family support programs, and contracted with a third party to expand the Texas Network. That partner, the Texas Center for Child and Family Studies (The Center), will discuss future planning and next steps for the Texas Network. Recently established Texas FRCs will also share what they have learned in the process.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

11:30-1:00pm ET

Workshop #5: Engaging Fathers – DADS MATTER!

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenter: Karla Rawluk, Activities/Community Connection Coordinator, South Winnipeg Family Information Centre

This session will encourage participants to discuss the benefits and challenges of piloting or continuing father/male-based parenting programs. Engaging Fathers – DADS MATTER is a fun, informative, and interactive online presentation. Participants will be given the opportunity to network, build skills, and share knowledge on how to engage and support fathers/male caregivers. This session encompasses discussions and ideas around child development activities, the importance of fathers, facilitator choices (male/female), challenges of engagement, and welcoming fathers.



Workshop #6: They've Got the Spirit: Successful Authentic Parent Leader Integration

Parent Leadership Integration

Presenters: Monica Gaines, Consultant, CZG Consulting

Effie Alofoje-Carr, Consultant, CZG Consulting

Sarah Zyburt, Consultant, CZG Consulting

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This interactive session will provide examples and instruction for starting, growing, and/or sustaining positive system and program changes through authentic integration of parents, not only as participants, but as leaders and decision-makers. Discussions will be shared using real-life examples from lived experience and necessary, recommended, and best-practice components of parent integration.



Workshop #7: Building Protective Factors so Adult and Child Survivors of Domestic Violence Can Thrive

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenter: Shellie Taggart, Program Director, Children and Youth Team, Futures Without Violence

Research and practice have shown that the safety and well-being of children exposed to domestic violence and co-occurring child maltreatment (child survivors) are closely connected with the safety and well-being of their parent who has been harmed by domestic violence (adult survivors). When practitioners and policymakers intentionally and actively build protective factors with survivors of domestic violence (DV), those survivors can experience better outcomes. While incidents of DV typically trigger protective and social services or law enforcement and legal involvement, the impact of DV on adult and child survivors must also be vigilantly addressed by relevant practitioners in order to advance safety, well-being, and healing. Aligning the work of collaborating partners around protective factors expands options for helping. DV protective factors that reduce the negative impacts of DV on both adult and child survivors, and promote their healthy development and well-being are safer and more stable conditions, social, cultural and spiritual connections, nurturing parent-child Interactions, resilience and a growth mindset, social and emotional abilities. This session will present these five protective factors and offer concrete, practical strategies for building them, to illustrate opportunities for prevention and early intervention with families impacted by co-occurring domestic violence and child maltreatment.



Workshop #8: Parent Leader Network: Creating a Positive Culture

Parent Leadership Integration

Presenters: Sanaa Sharrieff, Parent Liaison / Center for the Study of Social Policy Consultant, Guilford Ready for School, Ready for Life / Sanaa Sharrieff Business Clothing Music Group, LLC

Elizabeth Szczepanek, Parent Leader, First Five Ventura County, California / Center for the Study of Social Policy

Brandon Lavin, Parent Leader, BRIDGES

Eugene Penn, Parent Leader, Guilford Ready for School, Ready for Life

This session will focus on building a culture in which parents feel heard, understood, and supported by creating a space for self advocacy, so that they feel comfortable to share stories, learn from one another, and support their peers. Participants will also learn how to promote equitable action and what that looks like for parents as the experts.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

11:30-1:00pm ET

Workshop #9: Strengthening Family Resource Centers through Innovative Contract Management Tools

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

*Presenters: Megan Toohey, Director, Children & Families Practice, Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab
Octavia Shaw, Program Manager, Families First DC, DC Child and Family Services Agency*

Contract management often focuses on compliance: Were forms completed accurately and on time? Did providers spend down their budgets? Active Contract Management (ACM) is a set of tools to improve the delivery of contracted social services. ACM practices help government agencies or other contract managers shift attention to performance: Are we engaging priority participants in services each month? Are services meeting the needs of families? Through ACM, government and service providers collaborate to identify and implement improvement strategies by looking at data that matters to understand performance, collaboratively uncovering what's working and what isn't, and taking action, testing changes to improve outcomes. This session will introduce ACM approaches, drawing on examples from communities that have deployed these tools to strengthen the performance of Family Resource Centers or other upstream prevention programs, and introducing sample ACM tools through interactive activities.



Workshop #10: Understanding Culture through Care of Self, Trauma, and Resilience

Advancing Equity for Families

Presenter: Kheya Ganguly, Director of Trauma Prevention and Resilience Development, State of Vermont

In order to care for others, we must also care for ourselves. How do we create a culture of resilience, community care, and self-care? During this presentation, we will discuss the links between culture, trauma, resilience, care of self, and community care. We will explore ways to apply this topic to ourselves and how to share with others.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #11: Foundational Understandings of Indigenous Cultural Safety

Advancing Equity for Families

Presenter: Harley Eagle, Consultant, Harley Eagle Facilitation

Originating in the medical and health services field by Māori Indigenous Health care professionals over 30 years ago, Cultural Safety, and an emergent secondary concept, Cultural Humility, have since spread to many areas of the globe, primarily where Indigenous Peoples still maintain connections to their lands. These concepts, while remaining significant to the health care world, have spread beyond to other areas of society, such as the child welfare system and children and youth- and family-focused agencies, education, policing, justice, for-profit companies, and governance systems at all levels. In Canada, it has proved to be a helpful concept for embracing and building respectful and meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples, communities, and organizations, especially for advancing Truth and Reconciliation efforts in regard to the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and the 94 calls to action. Indigenous Cultural Safety works to address societal disparities by noticing and correcting the power imbalances brought about by colonization. This includes surfacing and addressing biases, attitudes, and behaviors within oneself and within the structures of systems. Utilizing relational practices rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing and being, Indigenous Cultural Safety seeks to create a safe learning setting where participants can increase their awareness of the history and ongoing impacts of colonization, increased self-awareness, and strengthen intercultural behaviors and skills based on Indigenous perspectives and analysis of patterns of systemic oppression. This interactive workshop will explore foundational understandings of Indigenous Cultural Safety.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #12: Grand Connections: A Workshop Series to Support Grandparents Caring for Grandkids Under 5

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenters: Kathy Kinsner, Senior Manager, Parenting Resources, ZERO TO THREE

Leonor Garcia, Program Manager, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

In the absence of accessible and affordable options for working families, grandparents have increasingly become the cornerstone of early child care in the U.S. One out of four children under the age of five is cared for by a grandparent while a parent works or goes to school. The number of multi-generational families (three or more generations living in the same household) is up. The number of families in which grandparents are raising grandchildren has jumped up as well. This session will discuss the joys and challenges of grandparents caring for young grandchildren and introduce the new, one-of-a-kind curriculum available for free designed to meet grandparents' needs. Seven 90-minute workshops provide a chance for grandparents to connect and learn from each other, explore the latest child-rearing advice, and develop strategies for collaborating with their adult children on child care. Each workshop also includes a 30-minute picture book and activity grandparents and grandchildren can enjoy together. Grandparent handouts and slide decks are available in both English and Spanish for download without charge.



Workshop #13: Parent Advisory Councils: Building and Sustaining Parent Voice

Parent Leadership Integration

Presenters: Kara Georgi, Parent Partnership Associate & National Parent Leader, Children's Trust Fund Alliance

Churmell Mitchell, Member of Alabama Parent Advisory Council, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/Children's Trust Fund

Samanthia Moore Valentine, Parent Leader, Georgia Parent Advisory Member Region, Georgia Division of Family and Childrens Services

Parents who have faced and overcome challenges are critical partners with staff in supporting resilient and strong families and communities. Their life experiences, wisdom, and skills are integral to creating high-quality prevention and intervention programs and effective policies. It is becoming common practice for organizations and systems with missions that impact families to recognize the importance of partnering with parents in aspects of their work, from initial planning through full implementation and evaluation. It is through structures such as a parent advisory council that organizations are able to build relationships between staff and parents and provide various supports. Organizations can benefit from the collective wisdom of the council members as well from the expertise of individual parent members in meeting their mission and goals. Some examples of benefits include: (1) Serving as mentors and/or trainers on leadership skill development; and (2) Sharing the parent perspective on programs or services that work for families, those that need improvement, and identifying gaps in services or programs. Session participants will also learn about key roles that council members may take on such as: (1) Developing and/or reviewing policies, practices, and publications/brochures; and (2) sharing their life experiences to their community via social media, public media, and other media campaigns. Participants will learn about providing supports to council members, such as paying an honorarium for their contributions, offering coaching, and covering out-of-pockets expenses.



Workshop #14: Teddy Bears, Kayaks, Picnics, Interviews, Town Halls, and Meetings - A Story of West Virginia Advocacy for Family Friendly Policies

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenter: Jim McKay, State Director, Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia, Team for West Virginia Children

Over the past year, West Virginia parents, grandparents, faith leaders, and organizations working with children and families have mobilized on an unprecedented level. This session will share the importance of the policies these moms and dads have supported like the Child Tax Credit, making childcare more affordable, and Paid Family Medical Leave. Participants will learn how advocates used community organizing, media outreach, and creativity, including over 500 teddy bears, kayaktivists, picnics, meetings, and thousands of calls and emails to lawmakers to increase attention on these policies to build support that will persist.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued) 1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #15: Emerging Research: Impact of Family Supportive Services on Family Health and Well-Being

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenters: Melissa Richmond, Vice President, OMNI Institute

Teri Haymond, Program Director, Family Resource Center Association

Sara Bayless, Director, OMNI Institute

Family Resource Center Association (FRCA), the statewide network of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in Colorado, developed the Family Pathways Framework to support consistency across FRCs in providing responsive services that are tailored to meet family needs. The Framework is based in research demonstrating that family-centered practices that are responsive to individualized family needs and involve family choice are associated with improved parent, child, and family outcomes. The goal of the Impact of Family Development Services on Family Health and Well-being Study – conducted by the OMNI Institute in partnership with FRCA, was to rigorously test whether goal-setting meetings with a trained family support worker, in addition to access to programs and services, leads to improved family health and well-being. The study was conducted in three FRCs in rural and urban regions of Colorado, each with decades of experience serving families in their communities. This session will provide an overview the study design and key findings, including how COVID-19 affected study implementation, service delivery, and family outcomes. An interactive discussion will focus on implications of study findings for evidence-building in the field, and how FRCA and individual FRCs are using findings to inform practice in Colorado.



Workshop #16: North Carolina Child Welfare Family Advisory Council: How Lived Experience Provides the Bridge Between Prevention and Intervention

Parent Leadership Integration

Presenters: Jeanne Preisler, Interim Program Manager, North Carolina State University Center for Family and Community Engagement

Deborah Day, Community Prevention Team Administrator, North Carolina Division of Social Services

Melissa Russell, Family Partner, North Carolina Child Welfare Family Advisory Council

The North Carolina Child Welfare Family Advisory Council (CWFAC) was established in 2018 to provide a continuous and systematic connection between child welfare practice and families with lived experience. The CWFAC, embedded in the Child Welfare Family Leadership Model, provides an avenue for family leadership development and partnership with state child welfare leadership. This session will highlight the core principles, structures, and leadership development activities supported by North Carolina child welfare in their partnership with families on the CWFAC. The role of the CWFAC expands beyond traditional advocacy by engaging families as full partners in collaborative planning, policy guidance, and implementation design. CWFAC Family Partner contributions to child welfare reform, including the Family First Prevention Services Act, will be shared as examples of engaging families with lived experience in redefining how child welfare and prevention services should support families. Presenters will include a member of child welfare leadership, CWFAC membership, and a member of the family leadership development program team. The presentation will emphasize the importance of system readiness, leadership commitment, and support for family leadership development as fundamental building blocks for authentic family engagement and system improvements. CWFAC membership will discuss the leadership skills and supports that have made them successful partners and essential contributors to child welfare reform.



Workshop #17 : The Importance of Fatherhood Engagement and Developing Resources that Embraces Lived Experience

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenter: Joey Cordero, Owner, Cordero Parenting Consulting Group

Fathers are underserved when it comes to family programs, especially in the child welfare system. This session will speak to the barriers that fathers experience, as well as the barriers that programs and direct service providers experience. This session will offer four strategies that can help shift the culture of Fatherhood Engagement and lead more fathers to be involved in their children's lives.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions (Continued)

1:30-3:00pm ET

Workshop #18: Social Supports During Crisis: Research from the Whole Family Approach

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenters: Jackie Edwards, Vice President of Strategic Engagement, Pascale Sykes Foundation

Ross Whiting, Associate Director, Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers Camden

Elena Ragusa, President, Drive Evaluation Studio, Inc.

Vulnerable populations, such as low-income families, first-generation immigrants, uninsured and undocumented citizens, and non-English speaking members of communities were placed at disproportionately greater risk by the COVID-19 pandemic and its related shutdowns. In this session, we will explore how the Whole Family Approach (WFA), an asset-based and family-centered social service approach implemented in rural and urban communities in New York and New Jersey, protected families against impacts of the pandemic. Session participants will learn about the central pillars of the approach, which include an emphasis on social capital, holistic service delivery, the focus on the whole family, and its family-driven, goal-orientated approach. Discussions will focus on how these pillars strengthened family resilience and helped protect against the negative impacts of the pandemic, as uncovered through evaluations conducted by researchers in multiple WFA communities. These concepts can be applied to work with families as well as in community-based research.



Workshop #19: Streamlining Access to Family Services: First Five SC

Shaping Policies & Systems to Enhance Community Conditions that Strengthen Families

Presenter: Rachal Hatton-Moore, Two-Generation Coordinator, Early Childhood Advisory Council, SC First Steps

This session will explore the development and utility of First Five SC, a technology solution to assist parents of children ages birth – five in increasing knowledge and choice in locating publicly-funded services in South Carolina. First Five SC includes a common eligibility screener for 44 early childhood programs and services across 10 state agencies, and a common application for services. The presenter will discuss how agencies were onboarded, how common eligibility was determined, how information is maintained, and how technology is being used in order to promote system efficiencies in support of families. The presenter will also lead session participants in thinking through possible ways to implement some of its principles for high-impact programming.



Workshop #20: Healthy Together: Children's Health Program

Innovative Family Support Practice

Presenters: Brenda Sheppard, Executive Director, Burin Peninsula Brighter Futures

Zindu Salih, President & CEO, Families Canada

Healthy Together is a family education program that engages the entire family in addressing nutrition, money management, moving more, and family connections. In a world of growing obesity rates and increased chronic disease, Healthy Together offers practitioners and community resource groups the right tools and content to improve health outcomes for families. The Healthy Together program was originally developed in 2011 as an in-person training program. And over the last 10 years, the program has successfully trained hundreds of Healthy Together facilitators across Canada and supported the promotion of improved health outcomes for thousands of families. This innovative facilitator training program is now available online. This session will introduce the Healthy Together program to family service providers and any organizations or individuals working with families to promote health and nutrition. Session participants will hear about the program background, history, and evolution, its intended participants, a description of the facilitator training, the facilitators' role, and the program's impact.

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