

All In For Kansas Kids



Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas

WEBINAR MAY 17, 2023



WELCOME

- Welcome everyone!
- Quick Updates
 - Don't forget our new monthly webinar schedule
 - Sign up to receive our All In For Kansas Kids e-Newsletter on the Children's Cabinet website – www.kschildrenscabinet.org
 - Happy Belated National Provider Appreciation Day!
- Child's Voice Project Presentation by Stef Sloan, PhD of KU-CPPR
- Early Childhood Systems Updates

Agenda



2023 Webinar Schedule

~~January 11~~

~~February 8~~

~~March 8~~

~~April 19~~

May 17

June 14

July 12

August 9

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 13



**Strengthening Families
through Legal Service
Interventions:
Child's Voice Project**

Stef Sloan, PhD

University of Kansas
Center for Public Partnerships &
Research

KU

Legal Services as Child Maltreatment Prevention

.....
Preventative Legal Services can...

- Help families access, secure, and maintain basic needs
- Prevent destabilization and strengthen families
- Increase protective factors that buffer Adverse Childhood Experiences
 - Nurturing and attachment
 - Positive family functioning
 - Access to basic needs
 - Supportive social networks

Preventative Legal Service Model

- Serves families with young children
- Addresses basic needs cases (housing, debt-collection, education benefits, and SSI benefits)
- Uses a holistic model
 - Attorney
 - Case manager/client advocate
- Addresses legal issues while getting the family resource connected

Kansas Preventative Legal Service Projects

- CAPTA funded Community-based prevention grants (CBCAP):
 - Kansas Holistic Defenders preventative legal service project
 - Serving Shawnee County
 - Kansas Legal Services preventative legal service project
 - Serving Finney County
 - Family Strong Universal Primary Prevention
 - Kansas Legal Services (KLS) preventative legal services
 - Serving Southeast Kansas

Family Civil Legal Needs Survey

- Designed to identify legal service needs and gaps and substantiate the investment
- Key Finding: Custody cases are serving as a catalyst for other court cases AND causing significant destabilization for families
 - Of 524 respondents, 93% identified having a custody dispute that resulted in significant family destabilization
 - Almost half of all respondents had a child custody case along with another type of case (housing, debt-collection, domestic violence, education/SSI benefits, etc.)

As a result of legal problems, families are...

- Accumulating significant debt, losing income, and experiencing lasting economic insecurity
- Experiencing housing instability
- Experiencing food insecurity
- Unable to pay for medical care
- Struggling to parent effectively
- Experiencing disruptions in social support

Children involved in complex custody litigation...



- Experience significant stress and strain
 - Accumulate stressful events, ranging from tolerable to toxic
 - Ambiguity and unpredictability from the changing family system
 - Additional stressful factors (conflictual litigation, economic strain, domestic violence, child maltreatment, etc.) can exacerbate stress
- Can benefit from agency and developmentally appropriate engagement
 - Toxic stress can be buffered by engagement in meaning making, communicating, and metacognitive thinking (Boss, 2006; Walsh, 1998; 2003)

What is the solution?

Child's Voice Project

- Model: North Carolina Legal Aid's The Child Advocate Program
 - Provides an attorney specifically for the child **at no cost**
 - Uses a child-centered approach
- Project aim is to determine feasibility of replicating the Child Advocate approach

What does it mean to be child-centered?

- Centering the child's views and experiences
- Prioritizing impacts to the child
- Giving children a say in what happens
- Maximizing developmentally appropriate child engagement in problem-solving and decision-making

Child Development and Capacity



Skills needed for active participation

- Listening and communication skills
- Metacognition
- Reasoning
- Adequate recall

By middle childhood (age 6-8)

- Greater awareness of their place in the world
- Can consider more than one aspect of a problem
- Demonstrate problem-solving skills
- Increased short and long-term memory
- Demonstrate more awareness when communicating with others
- Develop an understanding of fairness and sense of justice
- Demonstrate empathy and compassion

Child Development Considerations



- There are numerous theories of development, each with strengths and weaknesses
- Development is highly individualized
- All children benefit from being active participants in their lives
- Scaffolding with developmental strengths can help maneuver around weaknesses

Agency and Active Participation is a Protective Factor

- Being a part of the problem-solving and decision-making process buffers stress
 - Child welfare studies support the use of a child-centered model for improving outcomes for children and families.
 - Pilot studies with custody litigants have indicated promising reductions in dysregulation and increases in positive self-perception
- Developmentally appropriate child engagement develops resilience in the face of family conflict
 - Coping skills are increased, as children engage in solution-based thinking
 - Children enhance their communication skills as they express their experiences and needs
 - Children develop self-efficacy through engaging as active problem-solving participants

Mitigating Undue Influence or Overinvolvement

- Concerns about the influences on child preference
 - Legitimate preferences versus not (bond/relationship, avoidance of disruption, desire to avoid contact with abusive parent)
 - Determining underlying reasons or motives
 - Identifying coercion: How to ask the right questions, in the right way, at the right time
 - Partnering with mental health professionals

References

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Questions?

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCES

- [BUILD 2023](#) July 11-13, 2023 in Anaheim, CA. ([Register Here](#))
 - Registration Fee \$650
- [NAEYC's Annual Conference](#) November 15-18, 2023 in Nashville, TN. Registration and Housing information coming soon!
 - Sessions from the 2022 Annual Conference are available virtually! List of [Conference Sessions](#).
 - Member \$30 each or \$245 for all 9 sessions
 - Non-member \$35 each or \$285 for all 9 sessions
 - Certificates of completion will be offered for each session
- See a list of [all upcoming conferences](#)

**Professional
Development**



KPATA MONTHLY TRAINING SERIES

- Monthly training series for teachers and educators, all trainings are **FREE** and available to all current KPATA members.
- Become a member today to take advantage of future trainings! ([Register Here](#))
- Each month featured a different topic relevant to early childhood and family issues:
 - May 17th- Substance Use Disorder: Impact on Parent-Child Attachment ([Register Here](#))

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TRAINING SCHEDULE

PARENT EDUCATORS AND COORDINATORS
KPATA BRIGHT FUTURES 2022-23

JULY podcast PRACTICE SELF-COMPASSION 7/28 1:00-2:30 PM	AUGUST <i>Teeth for Two</i> - Oral Health Coalition - 8/18 PAOLA, KS 9/15 HUTCHINSON, KS	SEPTEMBER BREASTFEEDING & MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH - KS BREASTFEEDING COALITION - 9/22 1:00-2:30 PM
OCTOBER Postpartum Depression - Next Steps After Screening - 10/20 1:00-2:30 PM	NOVEMBER ACES TRAINING - KCSL - 11/17 1:00-3:00 PM	DECEMBER <i>POSITIVE SUPPORTS</i> <i>Impact On Family Well-Being</i> 12/15 1:00-3:00 PM
JANUARY ORAL HEALTH 1/19 1:00-2:30 PM	FEBRUARY POSTPONED TO MAY Racial Equity A FOUNDATION OF UNDERSTANDING 5/4 1:00-2:30PM	MARCH <i>Domestic Violence</i> - IMPACT ON YOUTH - 3/2 1:00-5:00 PM
APRIL <i>Child Abuse & Neglect</i> KCSL 4/20 1:00-3:00 PM	MAY <i>Substance Use Disorder</i> Supporting Families 5/17 1:00-2:30PM	JUNE No Training This Month

 **kpata**
KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities:** KCCTO offers a variety of trainings and other professional development opportunities for early childhood care & education professionals. [Scholarships are available!](#) Explore the [KCCTO website](#) to see what offerings might match your needs!
- **Kansas Children's Service League:** Since their founding in 1893, KCSL's mission has been to protect and promote the well-being of children. Working to create and restore healthy parent-child relationships. Visit the [KCSL website](#) for more information.
 - Save the date! 47th Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect will happen in-person on October 18-20, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, KS.
 - Stay tuned for 2023 Parent Leadership Conference information!
- **Greenbush:** Greenbush is an educational service center and has a wide variety of virtual and in-person trainings, workshops, conferences, and continuing education for educators in Kansas! Find out more about Greenbush and explore their calendar of events [here](#).

Professional
Development



REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

- **Early Childhood Recommendations Panel Meeting**

Friday, May 19th, 9-11:30 am

- **Children's Cabinet Meetings**

Friday, June 2nd, 9-12:00 pm

Friday, June 23rd, 1-3 pm *(special meeting to approve Child Care Capacity Accelerator grants)*

- **Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar**

Wednesday, June 14th, 12-1:00 pm

You can find **all** of these meetings and more on our Children's Cabinet [YouTube channel!](#)

Stay Connected!





Thanks!





Stay Up to Date



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