



2025 Social Work Conference Recentering on the Heart of Family Engagement

March 11-13, 2025

Columbus Marriott Northwest 5605 Paul G. Blazer Memorial Parkway, Dublin, Ohio 43017

Head Start families are significantly impacted by increasingly complex systems, issues and structures. Staff must possess an understanding of human and professional dynamics and apply expert skills in engaging and partnering with families and community partners. Highly qualified presenters from diverse areas of academia and social service will help participants understand the unique issues faced by the families we serve, the provision of services within Head Start’s Performance Standards framework, and engage participants in strategies to improve their professional practice by strengthening relationships and building skills.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

- Participants will increase understanding of cultural and societal issues that impact families and individuals.
- Participants will explore components of effective parent engagement and apply principles to their individual practice.
- Participants will practice skills that will increase their effectiveness in working with families

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Individuals who work closely with families such as Family Services Staff, Supervisors and Home Visitors, and especially those who are responsible for assisting families in setting and achieving goals.

<i>Tuesday, March 11</i>	<i>Wednesday, March 12</i>	<i>Thursday, March 13</i>
8:30 am to 10:00 am Registration	8:45 am to 12:00 pm Concurrent Sessions	8:45 am to 12:00 pm Concurrent Sessions
10:00 am to 12:00 pm General Session	12:00 pm to 1:15 pm Lunch on your own	12:00 pm to 2:00 PM Luncheon and Keynote Address
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Luncheon	1:15 pm to 4:30 pm Concurrent Sessions	
1:00 pm to 4:15 pm Concurrent Sessions		

Conference has been submitted to the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board for 15 CPEs for **Social Workers and Counselors**.

IACET CEUs will be available for all sessions.

*OA Session has been submitted/is approved for **Ohio Approved hours**.*

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For more information about OHSAI CEU Policies and Procedures, and for more information about preparing for your conference experience, visit https://ohsai.org/professional_development_infor.php

Tuesday, March 11

8:30 am to 10:00 am

Registration

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

General Session

Resilience: Reorienting and Recalibrating in Times of Uncertainty

2 CPEs/0.2 CEUs/OA submission for 2 hours

*Colleen Wallace, MS, OIMHP-III, and Katlin Carpenter, MSW, LISW-S
Early Childhood Mental Health Program, Nationwide Children's Hospital*

During a time of uncertainty, we have the opportunity to practice and strengthen our resiliency muscles. This session will provide an overview of what resiliency is and participants will gain a better understanding of its connection to stress. Participants will explore the concepts of compassion fatigue, secondary trauma and burnout and learn a few strategies to mitigate risk associated with these experiences.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe why supporting adult mental wellness through times of change and adjustment is important.
2. Identify potential impacts of compassion fatigue, secondary trauma and burnout.
3. Identify strategies to mitigate and cope with stress related risks to avoid burnout.



12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Luncheon (provided)

1:00 pm to 4:15 pm

Breakout Sessions

Enhancing Your Reflective Practice with Motivational Interviewing Strategies

Heather Mansell, MSW,STG International

3 CPEs/0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

Integrating reflective practices into Head Start programs can demonstrate a commitment to everyone's overall well-being. Used effectively, reflective supervision boosts staff wellness, which leads to better outcomes for staff and the children and families they support. Join us to explore the benefits of tools to use in your reflective practices, highlighting motivational interviewing principles, and supportive tools.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand reflective practice and its benefit for organizations and individuals
2. Describe strategies to enhance reflective practice
3. Identify motivational interviewing (MI) strategies and how they enhance reflective practices

Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) Framework 101

THIS SESSION WILL REPEAT ON WEDNESDAY MORNING

Tammy Riley, MS, STG International

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

The Office of Head Start (OHS) has prioritized Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) as an essential piece of our work to promote optimal health and learning in all children. The PFCE Framework is a road map for progress in achieving the kinds of outcomes that lead to positive and enduring change for children and families. It is a research-based approach to program change that shows how an agency can work together as a whole — across systems and service areas — to promote parent and family engagement and children's learning development. In this session, we will explore ways that programs can use this content to assess and enhance their high-quality services to children and families.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Deepening understanding of the OHS PFCE Framework.
2. Exploring family involvement and family engagement.
3. Explore cross-cutting strategies to implement the PFCE Framework in your program.

Building Your Bounce; Strategies for Adult Resilience

Katlin Carpenter, MSW, LISW-S

Early Childhood Mental Health Program, Nationwide Children's Hospital

3 CPEs/0.3 CEUs/ APPROVED for 3 hrs

What fills your pitcher as you spend your day supervising and coaching staff, nurturing children and supporting families? Promoting your own "protective factors" will keep you passionate and fulfilled in your work. Learn about adult protective factors and discover a simple formula to plan for your own resilience.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Recognize the important role adults play in the lives of children and families.
2. State the link between adult stress and its potential impact on an adult's ability to care for children.
3. Define the term resilience and reflect personally.
4. Define risk factors and protective factors, and the categories in which they fall.
5. Identify protective factors present in your life.
6. Describe the purpose of the DARS
7. Identify the 4 adult protective factors on the DARS
8. Reflect on your current level of resilience using the DARS

Child Abuse and Neglect: Ethical Considerations and Your Role and Responsibility

THIS SESSION WILL REPEAT ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Sally Fitch, MSW

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

The impact of child abuse and neglect can resonate throughout a child's life. As mandated reporters, you play a vital role in safeguarding vulnerable children. Throughout this training, you will be introduced to indicators of abuse, ethical and effective ways to support a family in your community when you have a concern about the potential for abuse or neglect to occur, and how to make a report. Throughout we will discuss ethical dilemmas that may arise when considering whether to report suspected abuse and how to navigate them, referencing the NASW and NAEYC Codes of Ethics.

This workshop is designed to meet the State of Ohio Counselor and Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board requirement for 3 CPE's for ethics.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify physical, behavioral, and emotional indicators of child abuse and neglect.
2. Understand their legal and ethical responsibility to report suspected child abuse and neglect.
3. Discuss the ethical dilemmas that may arise when considering whether to report suspected abuse and how to navigate them.
4. Respond to disclosures of abuse including active listening and supportive communication.

Wednesday, March 12

8:45 am to 12:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

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Getting REDI: Roles and Resources for First Generation Equity Practitioners

THIS SESSION WILL REPEAT ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Dr. Gabrielle Johnson, Dr. Melissa Ross, Dr. David Julian, Jessica Hurtt, Beth Crawford, & Marcie Kamb

OSU Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Team

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

Join The Ohio State University's Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Team from the Center on Education and Training for Employment (CETE) as they examine what it means to be a first-generation equity practitioner within your organization. The history of the REDI Movement and collaborative work with OHSAI REDI will be reviewed along with the new "Getting REDI Module Facilitation Guide." The Module Facilitation Guide works in tandem with the six (Ohio-Approved) online, self-paced modules developed in 2023, customized to the context of Head Start with focus on social justice, diversity, racism, biases, accountability, and growth (including correction).

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the basic foundations of the REDI Movement and the related work OHSAI has been engaged in for the last four years
2. Identify key strategies for effectively navigating and advocating for equity initiatives as a first-generation practitioner in your organization
3. Learn the fundamental components of the Getting REDI Module Facilitation Guide and its intended use

The Intersection of Mental Health, Trauma and Domestic Violence

Cheryl Stahl, M.Ed. LPCC, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs

Intimate partner and sexual violence are major social issues that impact our safety and our health, and common mental health issues are often exacerbated by domestic/intimate partner violence. This workshop will explore the common mental health disorders associated with trauma and domestic violence, how this can impact a person's ability to participate in and be successful in services, and practical strategies for program staff for working with individuals with mental health experiences including de-escalation, case management and goal setting.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify common mental health disorders associated with trauma and common symptoms of these disorders.
2. Articulate an understanding of the stigma associated with mental health and how that can impact service provision.
3. Identify components of mental health coercion leveraged by abusive partners.
4. Identify and practice de-escalation strategies for intervention in a mental health crisis.
5. Identify strategies for case management and goal setting with individuals with mental health experiences.

Engaging Fathers: Tools, Tips and Strategies to Strengthen Family Support Practices

Kimberly Dent, MA, and Ashiko Hudson, Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Carlos Christian, Starts Within Organization

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs

Fathers play a pivotal role in shaping strong, supportive family dynamics, yet their unique contributions are often overlooked in family support practices. This presentation, Engaging Fathers: Tools and Strategies to Strengthen Family Support Practices, explores various approaches to effectively engage fathers in meaningful ways. Participants will learn practical tools and strategies to foster active father involvement, overcome common barriers, and create inclusive environments that celebrate their role in child development and family well-being. Designed for practitioners, educators, and community leaders, this session provides actionable insights to enhance family support programs and empower fathers as vital partners in strengthening families.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the unique contributions and impact of fathers in family development and child well-being.
2. Identify tools and techniques to successfully engage fathers in family support practices and community programs.
3. Acquire practical tips to foster open communication and build stronger partnerships between fathers, family members, and service providers.
4. Identify common challenges that hinder father participation and discover strategies to overcome these obstacles.
5. Gain insights into creating inclusive and culturally sensitive approaches to support diverse father figures in their parenting roles.

12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:15 pm to 4:30 pm

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Yes, Babies Have Mental Health Needs Too!

Heather Mansell, MSW, STG International

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

It's not easy being a baby. Stress deeply impacts an infant's ability to regulate their internal systems. Adults who are nurturing and responsive can provide a buffer to this stress and support healing. This interactive session explores pre-verbal trauma: what it is, how it impacts infants, and how trauma-informed strategies can support all infants. Additionally, we explore what it looks like in older toddlers and preschoolers who have experienced pre-verbal trauma, and what strategies can support their growth and healing now.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Define preverbal trauma.
2. Explore the connection between preverbal trauma and the developing brain.
3. discuss brain building activities to support regulation and healing.

The Complexity of Familial Trafficking

Jasmine Myers, MSW, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs

While the anti-human trafficking field has largely focused on steps to prevent and respond to sex and labor trafficking, one type of trafficking—family-facilitated human trafficking or familial trafficking—can slip through the cracks and be overlooked by law enforcement, child welfare agencies, educators, and others. It is not only children who are at risk; family members and guardians can also take advantage and exploit individuals with disabilities and other vulnerable adults. This workshop will explore the complexity of Familial Trafficking by defining the issue, discussing how signs are overlooked, and the lifelong impact trafficking has on an individual.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Articulate an understanding of Familial Trafficking and how it occurs.
2. Identify and discuss risk factors that may lead to familial trafficking.
3. Articulate the complexity of the healing journey and importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to serving survivors of Human Trafficking.

Thursday, March 13

8:45 am to 12:00 pm Breakout Sessions

Leading, Encouraging and Developing Resilient Work Environments

Patrick M. McKelvey, MS, LPCC-S and Colleen Wallace, MS, OIMHP-III

Early Childhood Mental Health Program, Nationwide Children's Hospital

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

This session explores leadership styles, stages of change and explores how early learning professional leaders can inspire and motivate their staff. Participants will be introduced to several tools that support overall adult resiliency and learn how they can incorporate the key principles of trauma informed care. The session concludes with a personal planning time and participants will walk away with a measurable action plan they can implement immediately if they choose.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Explore and be able to identify what leadership styles work best for them.
2. Identify the stages of change and identify one opportunity for growth.
3. Utilize tools such as reflective supervision, resiliency building scales and planning activities for more effective leadership.
4. Explore 6 key principles in supporting a trauma informed, resilient work environment.
5. Create a personal plan to increase their effectiveness as a leader for those they serve.

From Chaos to Calm: Effective Strategies for Handling Difficult Behaviors

Stuart Perry, MSW LCSW

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

Transform challenging situations into meaningful growth opportunities with this interactive and dynamic workshop. Participants will learn about actionable strategies to create a harmonious environment through empathetic communication and proactive approaches. Learn tools to effectively de-escalate common escalated behaviors like tantrums, elopement, and physical aggression. This session equips staff with techniques to guide and empower parents in handling challenging behaviors, fostering stronger family connections, and creating environments where children feel seen, heard, and valued.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Gain practical techniques for de-escalating challenging behaviors in children, including tantrums and physical aggression.
2. Develop a deeper understanding of empathetic communication and its role in fostering trust and growth.
3. Learn strategies to proactively address potential disruptions and create an environment that supports all children's needs.

Dynamics of Domestic Violence: Supporting Child, Youth, and Parent Survivors

Leah Stone, MSW, LISW-S, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

Domestic violence has a multi-faceted impact on the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of survivors, but it often goes unnoticed by those in the survivors' lives, even helping professionals. This training will help participants identify potential warning signs of domestic violence, understand the dynamics that keep families stuck in the cycle of abuse, and develop strategies for helping clients experiencing domestic violence seek safety, support, and resources. Participants will learn about state and local resources and specific strategies for providing trauma-informed responses to meet the needs of children and parents experiencing domestic violence.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Use the power and control wheel to identify types of tactics and abuse common in domestic violence situations.
2. Identify barriers to safety that domestic violence survivors face when separating from an abusive partner or parent.
3. Create a list of local and state resources to make available for families who may be experiencing violence.
4. Apply trauma-responsive strategies learned workshop to realistic scenarios about children and families.

Engaging Parents with Disabilities and Learning Differences

Tammy Riley, MS, STG International

3 CPEs/*0.3 CEUs/OA submission for 3 hrs

Engaging parents with disabilities and learning differences strengthens family well-being, supports children’s healthy growth and development, and advances Head Start’s mission to provide equitable and inclusive services to all families. Join this session to explore and discuss a new resource that emphasizes the importance of partnering with parents with disabilities and learning differences through an equity-focused mindset. Engaging parents with disabilities and learning differences strengthens family well-being, supports children’s healthy growth and development, and advances Head Start’s mission to provide equitable and inclusive services to all families. Join this session to explore and discuss a new resource that emphasizes the importance of partnering with parents with disabilities and learning differences through an equity-focused mindset.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Engage with a new resource that supports promoting equity and inclusion for parents with disabilities and learning differences.
2. Identify tips and strategies to help create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for parents with disabilities and learning differences in Head Start programs.

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Luncheon and Keynote Address



No Bad Kids: How Accelerated Childhood and Adult Expectations Have Created a Misunderstood Generation

Stuart Perry, MSW LCSW

1 CPEs/*0.1 CEUs

“No one does anything for no reason.” It may seem like some kids are just bad or act out because they enjoy causing trouble. In this engaging keynote, Stuart "Mister Stu" Perry challenges these perceptions and offers a fresh perspective. Combining personal experiences, scientific research, and a deep understanding of childhood behaviors, this session explores how accelerated childhood and high adult expectations impact children’s growth and behavior. Learn how staff can help parents reframe their perceptions of children’s actions and equip them with strategies to nurture healthier relationships, allowing children to thrive in a society that often demands too much, too soon.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the root causes of challenging behaviors in children and explore how societal pressures influence their development.
2. Understand the impact of adult expectations on children’s emotional and social well-being.
3. Develop practical strategies to foster healthier, more supportive relationships with children.

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