



2020 Conference  
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 Hilltop Conference Center

## Session Descriptions and Biographies

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT FOR MANDATED REPORTERS -SESSION A.....	4
NAVIGATING HAPPY FAMILY MEAL TIMES .....	4
Dana Weber, RD, LD, Mary Ellen McGeehan, M. Ed., CCC-SLP, Brooke Peters, OTR/L.....	4
"I WAS HOTLINED!!"ENGAGING AND INTERACTING WITH DCF-INVOLVED FAMILIES.....	5
Shelly Crawford .....	5
A RACE-CONSCIOUS LENS: CREATING COURAGEOUS SPACES FOR RACIAL EQUITY CONVERSATIONS5	
Stacie Daniels, Bruce Eggers, Miriah Essman, and Audrey Pool .....	5
THE INTERSECTION OF BREASTFEEDING AND SAFE INFANT SLEEP.....	6
Brenda Bandy and Monique Holmes .....	6
IMPLEMENTATION OF A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE SAFE SLEEP, BREASTFEEDING AND TOBACCO CESSATION TO HIGH RISK PREGNANT WOMEN .....	6
Christy Schunn and Jolynn Dowling .....	7
BABY DOLL CIRCLE TIME .....	7
Brianna Patton and Angie Mendez .....	7
GROUP CONNECTIONS: HOW TO GET THEM THERE SMALL DISTRICTS & RURAL COMMUNITIES ....	8
Dana Clary .....	8
MINDFUL IN THE MOMENT: HOW TO ENGAGE WITH FAMILIES DURING CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS	8
Suzy Green, LMSW .....	8

THE GRIEVING CHILD AND FAMILY..... 8

**Holly Cramer** ..... 8

IT'S OK TO NOT BE OK! SUPPORTING FAMILIES WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED A PREGNANCY OR INFANT LOSS. 9

**Leona DeLaTorre and Josephine (Nene) Nave**..... 9

YOU CAN'T SPOIL YOUR BABY! ..... 10

BETTER BRAINS FOR BABIES MEANS MORE TOUCH ..... 10

**Danielle Twemlow** ..... 10

THE IMPORTANCE OF TOBACCO-FREE HOMES: ..... 10

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILIES ..... 10

**Lisa Blume and Courtney Koenig** ..... 10

GIVE ME THE TABLET AND NO ONE GETS HURT..... 11

**Anna Canepa** ..... 11

SAFETY FOR HOME VISITORS ..... 11

**Peggy Kelly** ..... 11

BABY PLAY..... 11

**Amy Scavuzzo and Natalie Hawkins**..... 11

TIME MANAGEMENT ..... 12

**Nis Wilbur** ..... 12

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES..... 12

**Rochelle Soden, MS**..... 12

GOODBYE GRUNTING ..... 13

**Melissa Finneseth**..... 13

BABY LETS DO YOGA ..... 14

**Dorothy Hiatt and Angie Mendez** ..... 14

**Sandra Del Rio and George Vega ..... 14**

**2020 CENSUS - A CRITICAL COUNT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SUCCESS ..... 15**

**Melinda Stanley and Steve Hale ..... 15**

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## Child Abuse and Neglect for Mandated Reporters

### Session Description

In this session you will learn to recognize signs of child abuse & neglect, and you will learn the correct procedures/laws for reporting. Topics include: How to recognize possible victims, How to report a suspicion of abuse, and How to appropriately handle a child's disclosure of abuse.

### Presenter Biography

Bev Turner is the Education Program Director at Sunflower House and has been a member of the Education Team since 2006. She is responsible for strategic planning, development, evaluation and supervision of all education programs. Throughout her time at Sunflower House she has trained thousands of professionals, parents, and children on child abuse and neglect and prevention related topics. The Education Team at Sunflower House educates over 29,000 children and adults each year.

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## Navigating Happy Family Meal Times

Dana Weber, RD, LD, Mary Ellen McGeehan, M. Ed., CCC-SLP, Brooke Peters, OTR/L

### Session Description

This session will consist of a Q&A panel to explore how to achieve happy mealtimes. We will discuss the differences between Picky Eaters and Problem Feeders and offer strategies to help families enjoy this sometimes tricky time of day. Bring your questions!

### Presenter Biographies

Dana received a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition at Kansas State University and completed her Dietetic Internship at Barnes-Jewish College, Goldfarb School of Nursing. Dana has worked primarily in Early Intervention since the beginning of her career in 2003 and started at ITSJC in 2004. Dana works with all of the ITSJC families who have nutrition questions ranging from basic nutrition education to more medically complex concerns. Dana especially enjoys helping children transition to a homemade blended diet when they have a feeding tube and helping families achieve happy mealtimes.

Mary Ellen McGeehan received her Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders from New York State University of Cortland and her Master of Educational Science in Speech Language Pathology from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. With more than 30 years of experience in her field specializing in the area of pediatrics working in preschools, school districts, Children's Mercy Hospital and private practice, Mary Ellen joined the ITSJC team in 2003. Working for ITSJC has provided Mary Ellen with continued growth in her profession with various responsibilities to include; providing evaluations, implementing and providing education and support for children and their families, presenting at community and professional conferences on early childhood education and communication development. As a Master Coach, Mary Ellen provides orientation for new providers, participates in state wide team conferences

Brooke received her Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 2001 and has worked in the pediatric population since graduation. She began her career in the Leavenworth County Cooperative serving children from preschool through high school. She has worked with the birth to three population in Salina, KS and also in Wyandotte County, KS. Most recently, Brooke has worked in the early childhood special education classrooms through the Blue Valley School District and is currently working at Infant and Toddler Services of Johnson County.

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# "I was hotlined!!" Engaging and Interacting with DCF-involved families

Shelly Crawford

## Session Description

DCF involved families can come with their own set of challenges, including dysfunctional family dynamics, unrealistic parenting expectations, and heavy involvement from other professionals and "collateral." This workshop aims to help to provide parent educators with tips and ideas of how to help navigate the DCF system, validate families' strengths and collaborate with other professionals to provide support and education to families.

## Presenter Biography

Shelly Crawford has been working as a parent educator specialist with the Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant in Wyandotte County since January 2013, working with families with high risk factors such as DCF involvement, substance abuse, domestic violence and mental illness. Prior to this, Shelly worked as a foster care and adoption case manager with KVC Behavioral Health Care in Kansas City Kansas for over 7 years. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker and is endorsed by the Kansas Association for Infant Mental Health as a Level II Infant Mental Health Specialist.

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# A Race-Conscious Lens: Creating Courageous Spaces for Racial Equity Conversations

Stacie Daniels, Bruce Eggers, Miriah Essman, and Audrey Pool

## Session Description

Race plays an essential part in how we make sense of ourselves and the world around us. As home visitors, it is imperative that we recognize our unique position to have conversations about racial equity as children develop, learn and grow to realize their full potential. Participants will gain knowledge of how to incorporate racial-equity themes and conversations through hands-on activities with infants, toddlers and their families.

## Presenter Biographies

Ms. Daniels has a Bachelors in Human Ecology: Child and Family Studies. She has been a Parent Educator since 2016. Her previous work includes elementary classroom teacher, Title 1 Teacher, and Before/After School program leader. Mr. Eggers has a Bachelors in Anthropology. He has been a Parent Educator since 2018. His children are PAT alumni, all grown up and doing well. He is delighted to partner with families and support PAT the way it has supported his family. Ms. Essman has a Bachelors in Psychology and a Masters in Cultural Studies. She has been a Parent Educator since 2018. All of her work experience has been related to early childhood. She has been a camp counselor, children's bookstore manager, preschool teacher, art teacher, para, and mom. Ms. Pool has a Bachelors in Elementary Educator. She has been a Parent Educator for 8 years. Prior to that, she was a classroom teacher for young children with hearing loss that primarily wore hearing aids and cochlear implants. All facilitators are part of the Lawrence Parents as Teachers team, who embrace the idea that race should be identified and discussed in early childhood. Lawrence PAT provides racial equity Foundational Visits to each enrolled family.

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# The Intersection of Breastfeeding and Safe Infant Sleep

Brenda Bandy and Monique Holmes

## Session Description

This session will examine the topics of infant feeding and infant sleep together, acknowledging the lived experiences of infant caregivers and the realities of these intimately interwoven baby behaviors. It is clear that, in order to maximize our impact, we must offer an integrated approach to promoting the practices that will keep babies safe and healthy. We recognize the critical need to bring these conversations forward in a spirit of mutual trust and respect. This presentation is the result of collaboration between the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition (KBC) and the Kansas Infant Death and SIDS (KIDS) Network to move from awareness and reinforcement to problem solving with an equity lens, truly meeting families where they are. With that goal in mind, attendees will learn about the updates to the AAP policy statement on Safe Infant Sleeping Environment and the integration of breastfeeding and safe sleep practices. Practical ideas will be shared for the creation of a “nighttime parenting plan” to address the care giver’s need for sleep and the infant’s need for food and connection. Resources will be shared to support breastfeeding and safe infant sleep. Tools from the National Action Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep (NAPPSS) will be reviewed to create a “Conversations approach” that moves from a frame of “either/or” to “both/and”, meeting families within the realities of their daily lives. The path ahead may not be simple or short, but it’s one worth traveling – together. Our way forward is already smoothed by overlapping stakeholders and the similar collaborative models. We look forward to working with parent educators to better serve our state's families.

## Presenter Biographies

Brenda Bandy is the Executive Director of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition. Brenda Bandy oversees the KBC’s programs which includes work with employers, child care providers, families, public health, hospitals, and community organizations. As the Executive Director for the KBC, she serves on the Kansas Maternal Child Health Council which advises the state’s Title V program. Brenda is an active member of the advisory committee for a statewide maternity care improvement program, “High 5 for Mom & Baby” and is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). She has been an active member representative to the US Breastfeeding Committee since 2011 and served on the USBC Board of Directors. Brenda is also a retired La Leche League Leader of 20 years. She has a passion for bringing people together to remove barriers to breastfeeding.

Monique Holmes is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and works for Early Childhood Connections, Hays, KS as an Early Head Start Home Visitor currently, and also previously, as a Parents as Teachers Home Visitor. Ms. Holmes is passionate about breastfeeding and working with mothers and babies. She has been a La Leche League Leader for 20 years and IBCLC for 8 years supporting families through teaching classes, facilitating meetings, phone help, and home visits. She is secretary of the Ellis County Breastfeeding coalition and a member of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition. She has a Master’s degree in Public Health Administration. She is the mother of five breastfed children.

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Implementation of a Statewide Program to Promote Safe Sleep,  
Breastfeeding and Tobacco Cessation to High Risk Pregnant Women

## Session Description

Infant mortality remains a problem in the Kansas with sleep-related deaths accounting for a significant portion. Known risk reduction strategies include breastfeeding, avoiding tobacco use and following the American Academy of Pediatrics' safe sleep guidelines. The purpose of this session is to discuss implementation and outcomes of Safe Sleep Infrastructure Project, which include safe sleep promotion, breastfeeding promotion and tobacco cessation education provided to pregnant women with of low socioeconomic status or with high risk of infant mortality.

## Presenter Biography

Christy Schunn is the executive director of the Kansas Infant Death and SIDS (KIDS) Network. Jolynn Dowling holds the Janice M. Riordan Distinguished Professorship in Maternal Child Health at Wichita State University and is a board member of the KIDS Network.

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## Baby Doll Circle Time

Brianna Patton and Angie Mendez

## Session Description

Becky Bailey states that there are three components REQUIRED for optimal brain development: 1) Secure attachment 2) Attuned interactions with attachment figure, and 3) Social Play. As Parent Educators we help families learn the importance of these three areas, and the impact they have on children and their growth. In this session, we will focus on specific activities that Parent Educators can do with families in Group Connections and on home visits. We will give examples of using Baby Doll Circle Time and I Love You Rituals from the Conscious Discipline curriculum, helping parents to create and maintain those loving relationships with their child.

## Presenter Biographies

Briana Patton is a Parent Educator with the USD 368 Paola Parents as Teachers Consortium. Briana currently serves families in Paola school district. Starting her work with Parents as Teachers through an internship led to Briana joining the PAT team as a Parent Educator in 2013. A fun fact is that Briana is also a graduate of the PAT program! She finds her home in Paola with her husband Trevor and their two children Oakley and Brooks. Briana also supports families in her community as one of the founding members of "Mom's Meetup", facilitation and support of Baby Doll Circle time and Water Safety programs.

Angie Mendez has been a Parent Educator with the Olathe Public Schools for the last 5 ½ years. She began working with children in Infant Toddler Services, and as a school-based Occupational Therapist for 15 years in both Texas and Kansas. She worked at the state level in Texas as an Educational Specialist for Region XIII Education Service Center, supporting school districts in the areas of Assistive Technology and related services. Angie has 2 children (13 & 11) and lives with her husband and family in Olathe, KS. She gets to practice Conscious Discipline strategies most days with her teen/tween children!

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# Group Connections: How to Get Them There Small Districts & Rural Communities

Dana Clary

## Session Description

You don't have a fun & inviting play group room to draw families in? You can still have successful group connections & bring the families together each month! Utilize your community resources, get input from your school districts and parents, and think outside the box to increase your attendance rate and provide meaningful experiences for all families to benefit from!

## Presenter Biography

Dana has worked with PAT for the past 10.5 years as a Parent Educator and a Supervisor, still serving families, for the past 3.5 years. Her passion is advocating for and supporting families during the most sensitive time, the first 5 years of life for their children. She has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. She lives in Highland with her husband and 2 girls.

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# Mindful in the Moment: How to engage with families during challenging conversations

Suzy Green, LMSW

## Session Description

Do you sometimes feel uncomfortable asking your families questions? Do you sometimes not know how to respond when they're actually honest with you? (Everyone's hand should be in the air!) This session will help you identify how you're showing up for families and give you strategies to engage in challenging conversations and moments with a strengths-based approach.

## Presenter Biography

Suzy Green, LMSW, is the Early Childhood Coordinator for birth to three services with Lawrence Public Schools. Suzy coordinates the Parents as Teachers and tiny-k Early Intervention programs to ensure every child has the best start in life. She has worked in early childhood since 2006. Before joining Lawrence Public Schools, Suzy was a home visitor and child and family therapist with a focus on infant mental health and parent-child relationships. Suzy enjoys exploring and nurturing potential in children, families, and educators.

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# The Grieving Child and Family

Holly Cramer

## Session Description

This session will present on the stages of grieving, tips to work through grief, as well as continuing to live with grief and self-care/preservation.



## Presenter Biography

Holly Cramer is the Mental Health Coordinator for Early Childhood Connections out of Hays, KS. She also owns my own company, Behavior Solutions, LLC, in Russell, KS which provides ABA therapy for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and education/training as to behavior modification. Her experience with working with children and families began in 2001 when she worked in the Child Protection Services Division of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office for 11 years. Often working with families and children in the midst of crisis, her family met up with our own debilitating crisis which stopped them in our tracks on January 31, 2015 when her husband of 6 years died unexpectedly in front of her. This left her flailing how to survive through the grief process, left them without insurance, without a job, and trying to be a single parent to their 2 girls – ages 4 years and 4 months at the time of her husband's death.

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## It's Ok to Not Be Ok! Supporting families who have experienced a pregnancy or infant loss.

Leonae DeLaTorre and Josephine (Nene) Nave

## Session Description

With high pregnancy and infant loss rates in our state, many parent educators may have a family who has experienced a pregnancy or infant loss. Fetal and infant death often feels like a taboo topic and is met with silence. As a home visitor we can meet families where they are at on their grief journey and provide resources and support as they begin to navigate this "new normal" in their lives. In this workshop we will explore how to begin talking to families about their loss, along with providing state and national resources for counseling and peer support.

## Presenter Biography

Leonae DeLaTorre has been a parent educator with the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools PAT program for 8 years. She has a passion for working with the refugee and immigrant population, partnering teen parents and educating families about safe sleep and child passenger safety. She loves connecting families to community resources and helping them to establish self-sufficiency. Leonae attended Pittsburg State University and her background is in mental health. She is proud to live and work in Kansas City, Kansas. She was a parent in the PAT program, beginning as a teen parent with her oldest daughter. All four her children were able to experience the benefits of Parents as Teachers. In her spare time, Leonae also works as a bereavement support coordinator for Infant Loss Resources, an organization that provides support to families who have experienced a sleep related infant loss.

Josephine (Nene) Nave has been with the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools, Parents as Teachers program for 8 years. Nene was born & raised in KCK where she attended Donnelly College to earn a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership and her license in Practical Nursing. She enjoys working within her own community, serving families of high and special needs. She also enjoys connecting with teen parents to help them understand child development and enhance their parenting skills. Nene has a passion of working with teens and adults on guiding them to seek out goals for a promising future. Starting with her own home, she has 2 adult sons currently attending college, and an adolescent son preparing to enter into high school. And last but not least, she works part-time with elders who live with various stages of dementia or have specific medical needs. "She found that she has a soft spot for aging adults!"

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# You can't spoil your baby!

## Better brains for babies means more touch

Danielle Twemlow

### Session Description

Dive into some basic brain development and how touch increases synaptic occurrences. Once we have a general idea of the brain growth, we can look at how babies require skin to skin contact for healthy development and ways we can incorporate teaching this in our home visits.

### Presenter Biography

Danielle is in her second year as a parent educator for Topeka Public Schools. Danielle started and led an educational incentive program for expectant families for 15 years in Shawnee County. Additionally, she teaches childbirth education classes and other parent classes through the local hospital. Danielle is a Red Cross Instructor, a certified Safe Sleep trainer, and a Better Brains for Babies Instructor. Most importantly, Danielle is a mom to 6 and a grandma!

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## The Importance of Tobacco-Free Homes: How to Communicate with Families

Lisa Blume and Courtney Koenig

### Session Description

This session will focus on how to more effectively educate and support families in quitting tobacco and creating tobacco-free environments for their children. Information on the vaping epidemic will be provided. Participants will engage in an interactive session with scenario-based learning.

### Presenter Biographies

Lisa Blume is Training and Outreach Coordinator for the Community Health Promotion section of KDHE Bureau of Health Promotion and works out of the Wichita district office. She is passionate about tobacco prevention and cessation, and she wants everyone to know that tobacco is still the number one cause of preventable disease and death in the U.S. Lisa is originally from Calgary, Canada, where she received her Bachelor of Arts and Education degrees. Before moving to Kansas in 2009, she was a teacher.

Courtney Koenig received a Master of Public Health from Concordia University, Nebraska with a Community Health Education concentration. Growing up on a cattle ranch in Wyoming and living and working in Southeastern Kansas farming communities has led her to have a passion for the health and vitality of rural communities. Courtney works for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as a Community Health Specialist for the Southeast Kansas region where she works with communities on health promotion efforts to reduce the burden of chronic disease on Kansans. Additionally Courtney focuses on secondhand smoke reduction efforts across the state.

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# Give me the tablet and no one gets hurt

Anna Canepa

## Session Description

We will look at how different types and quantities of screen time directly affect early brain development, therefore affecting fine and gross motor, language, cognitive and social-emotional skills for years to come. We will study how technology has invaded all areas of children's lives (attachment, discipline, health, nutrition, safety, sleep and transitions) with consequences trailing behind. Parent educators will receive several practical home visit guides that will help them talk about various situations with families, including ways to navigate through parents' hesitancy. If you're up for the challenge, you might even take home a few new habits of your own.

## Presenter Biography

Anna is a Bilingual Certified Parent Educator, who has worked with PAT for 2 1/2 years and is the mother of two small boys. She has attended trainings on brain development, dialogic reading and parent cafe on screen time. I have been thoroughly researching this topic using highly reputable sources and interviewing professionals with first-hand early-intervention experience.

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# Safety for Home Visitors

Peggy Kelly

## Session Description

Heading out for a home visit? What steps before you leave the office and what practices in the field help assure your safety? When should you pay attention to your instincts in the field? Great home visits happen when everyone feels safe.

## Presenter Biography

Peggy is the Executive Director of the Kansas Head Start Association. She has continued the work of KHSA to create opportunities for parents to advocate and support their voice in issues around children, families and early childhood services. She has specifically worked to build a network of parent advocates who can encourage other parents to find their voice.

Prior to working with Head Start she directed TANF and Community Collaboration programs with the State of Kansas and was a Medical Social Worker.

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# Baby Play

Amy Scavuzzo and Natalie Hawkins

## Session Description

Ways to connect caregivers and babies through conversation, play and song.

## Presenter Biographies

Amy Scavuzzo has 20 years' experience working with the Blue Valley School District as a former Kindergarten/First Grade Teacher and current Parent Educator.

Natalie Hawkins is a Blue Valley School District Early Childhood/Elementary Music Therapist.

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## Time Management

Nis Wilbur and Panel

### Session Description

Managing your caseload and all PAT requirements can be a challenge! Join us for a panel discussion focusing on questions about time management answered by parent educators from a variety of different program sizes and locations. We'd also love to have you share tips and tricks that help you stay on track!

### Presenter Biography

Nis Wilbur is an Education Program Consultant for the Kansas State Department of Education. She began working with children and families in 2003 as a domestic violence advocate and joined the early childhood care and education field in 2007. She has been a home visitor, preschool teacher, Head Start program manager, and a director of early childhood programs. As a University of Minnesota transfer, Nis graduated with a Bachelor of Independent Study from Washburn University, where she studied Youth, Culture, and Social Justice. She then earned a master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University. Ms. Wilbur was also selected as one of Brazelton Touchpoint Center's American Indian Leadership Associates in 2014 and was a Northwestern University Fellow in 2019.

Ms. Wilbur is a Prairie Band Potawatomi tribal member and was raised on their reservation. Nis is proud of her rural Kansas upbringing. Although she enjoys the culture-dense experiences in metropolitan cityscapes, she wants her only child to have the same phenomenal educational opportunities and Kansas values that she had. Nis and her daughter enjoy traveling, inventing games, and art.

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## Adverse Childhood Experiences

Rochelle Soden, MS

### Session Description

Children who grow up in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments that foster hope and resilience are better prepared for lifelong health and well-being. The landmark Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study demonstrated that many adults recall experiences—including abuse, neglect, substance abuse, and areas of household dysfunction—that led to lifelong poor physical and emotional health. While ACEs are important, an exclusive focus on adverse experiences risks labeling children and their families, and it neglects to turn attention toward the possibility for flourishing even in the face of adversity. This workshop will raise awareness of the ACEs research including the impact on social connections, school readiness and the likelihood of developing negative health behaviors, and brainstorm ways to take research to practice to create positive impact for children and families in our communities.

## Presenter Biography

Rachelle Soden, Training Specialist with Kansas Children's Service League, has worked in a variety of roles including assisting adults with disabilities, working with teen pregnancy prevention programs, substance abuse prevention programs, event coordinating, and curriculum development and training. She has been providing child abuse prevention trainings to Kansas communities for more than 20 years.

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## Goodbye Grunting

Melissa Finneseth

## Session Description

Many toddlers seem to understand everything but are able to say very little. Discover a speech pathologist's Top 20 strategies for encouraging expressive language in these children. Also learn some general guidelines for speech and language development and factors that can interfere with developing communication skills on time.

## Presenter Biography

Melissa Finneseth has worked as a speech-language pathologist for over 25 years, having received her B.S. and M.S. degree in speech pathology from the University of Central Missouri. Melissa has dedicated her career to working with children's communication concerns in the school system, as well as private practice. Nearly 20 years ago, Melissa discovered her passion for working with the littlest communicators, and began a pilot program as the first speech-language pathologist working for Parents-as-Teachers in the state of Missouri. A strong desire to teach, model, and shape the knowledge of parents, caregivers, parent educators and preschool workers is why Melissa continues to work in the early childhood setting and utilizes speaking engagements to create a team approach in improving young children's communication skills wherever she goes.

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## Navigating Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder

Jane McKinney and Cynthia Schroer, MA, LMT

## Session Description

This session is led by staff from the Pregnancy and Postpartum Resource Center in Kansas City and will help build and strengthen parent educators skills at identifying and supporting new parents experiencing postpartum depression. Learn what to be watching for, how to screen and then how to support and connect parents struggling with resources.

## Presenter Biographies

In 2013, Jane began working on developing a program to address maternal mental health, which became the Perinatal Community Initiative, a grant program partially funded by the Health Forward Foundations (formerly known as Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City). Since implementing this grant to advocate for screening all pregnant women for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs) and providing adequate referrals and treatment, Jane joined the Pregnancy and Postpartum Resource Center board of directors in 2016 to continue this mission. As a PPRC board member, Jane helped to update the support group training, provides pregnancy and postpartum support group facilitator trainings, and provides community and provider trainings to increase awareness about perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and the importance of screening. Jane is a licensed clinical social worker in Missouri and Kansas. She owns a group therapy practice in the Brookside area where she specializes in EMDR therapy, couples therapy, and maternal mental health. Jane offers a free,

monthly support group for pregnant and postpartum women. In her free time, Jane enjoys gardening, knitting, and reading fiction to relax and recharge.

Cynthia Schroer, pursued her Masters in Psychology after she was hospitalized postpartum. (Norwich University, Montpelier, VT) She researched women's subjective experience of their treatment of postpartum mood disorders, including psychosis, specifically looking at patterns of how women self treated with an intent to inform current treatment modalities. She is also a licensed massage therapist, certified in pregnancy and postpartum massage. She serves on the board of Pregnancy and Postpartum Resource Coalition.

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## Baby Lets Do Yoga

Dorothy Hiatt and Angie Mendez

### Session Description

This session will provide some simple Baby and Toddler yoga activities that can be done on home visits, at group connections and playgroups, by anyone who want to try them. No experience is needed and all fitness levels can do yoga! The focus will be on connection, attachment, and relaxation.

### Presenter Biography

Dorothy has been honored to be a part of Parents as Teachers for over 30 years, most of those as a parent educator. Dorothy started her PAT career in the Kansas City, MO PAT program, and came to Olathe in 1992. She became Program Coordinator in July, 2017 for the Olathe PAT program. Dorothy began her fitness journey many years ago, studying and achieving black belt in Okinawan Kenpo, taking and teaching aerobics classes, and regularly hitting the gym at 5:30 am for spinning classes. She added yoga as a part of her wellness journey to add flexibility and relaxation to her routine. Dorothy has had 20 hours of Mindful Child Yoga training and regularly practices yoga and meditation at home. Dorothy really wants parents and parent educators to know how easy it is to add some simple yoga and relaxation to their home visits and to their own lives. Dorothy and her husband have one son who is married. They are waiting for grandchildren and live in Shawnee with their big puppy, Phog Allen

Angie Mendez has been a Parent Educator with the Olathe Public Schools for the last 5 ½ years. She began working with children in Infant Toddler Services, and as a school-based Occupational Therapist for 15 years in both Texas and Kansas. She worked at the state level in Texas as an Educational Specialist for Region XIII Education Service Center, supporting school districts in the areas of Assistive Technology and related services. Angie has 2 children (13 & 11) and lives with her husband and family in Olathe, KS. She gets to practice Conscious Discipline strategies most days with her teen/tween children!

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## No English?! Don't Panic- Embrace It!

Sandra Del Rio and George Vega

### Session Description

Through this session, we hope to make working with bilingual families less stressful. The importance of understanding how culture plays a role in visits.

## Presenter Biographies

Sandra Del Rio is a bilingual parent educator that has been working with families in the home visiting field for 16 years. Prior to home visiting, I was an elementary teacher. I was a parent in the program and then transitioned into PAT.

George Vega has been working with families for 11 years in a variety of roles through the school districts. He has been a home visitor for four years, working with bilingual families.

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## 2020 Census - A Critical Count for Early Childhood Success

Melinda Stanley and Steve Hale

### Session Description

Did you know children under the age of 5, including babies, are among the most likely to be missed in the 2020 Census count? An accurate count of ALL children is critical for families, educators, and Kansas communities. 2020 Census counts will drive funding and decisions that impact the well-being of Kansas' young children for the next 10 years. Join Kansas Partnership Specialists Melinda Stanley & Steve Hale for a conversation about why it's important for every child to be counted in the 2020 Census, the impact this count will have on Kansas early childhood programs and the benefit of being counted for Kansas communities. Participants will learn how they can help engage families in responding to the 2020 Census to ensure every young child in every family is counted.

### Presenter Biographies

Melinda Stanley, is a Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau and a lifelong Kansan who is passionate about Kansas public service, having served more than 25 years in local, state and national roles in education administration, leadership and technology advocacy. At the KSDE, she provided leadership for K-12 districts on strategic technology planning, broadband access, digital learning and federal technology programs, including the nationally recognized Kansas Technology Rich Classroom initiative. A change agent for education innovation, Melinda most recently served as business development director and evangelist for KanREN--the state's non-profit research and education network, serving Kansas Higher Ed, K-12, Libraries, Hospitals and municipalities throughout Kansas.

Steve Hale is a Senior Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. Steve's hometown is St. Francis in the extreme northwest corner of the state and he has a Journalism degree from Kansas State University. He's lived and worked in McPherson, Cimarron, Arkansas City and Gardner and has canvassed the state on behalf of both the KDHE and KDOT. His professional career started in newspapers before turning to public relations, marketing and economic development. Steve is a past school board member and city councilman and remains engaged in chamber of commerce and service club activities.

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