

Infants & Children in the Courts

Reflections & Solutions

March 19, 2010

Conference Purpose:

Participants will learn how to identify best practices for intervening with families in the context of collaborative efforts between the mental health and the legal systems.

Target Audience:

Nurses, Social Workers, Case Management Specialists, Psychologists, Law Guardians, Attorneys, and Judges who work to keep vulnerable children safe.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Judge Cindy S. Lederman has served in the Miami-Dade (FL) Juvenile Court since 1994, including 10 years as the Court's Presiding Judge. Elected to the Miami-Dade County Court in 1988, before her elevation to Circuit Court in 1994, she was a leader of the team that created the

Dade County Domestic Violence Court and served as that Court's first Presiding Judge. Judge Lederman was a member of the National Research Council's Committee on Family Violence Interventions and Panel on Juvenile Crime, Treatment and Control and has served from 1996-2004 on the Board of Children, Youth and Families of the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. She is a past Fellow of the Zero to Three: The National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, "Leaders of the 21st Century Initiative" and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Lederman served on the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Foster Care and was a member of the Healthy Foster Care America Initiative until 2008.

Program Agenda

AM

- 8:15 Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45 Greetings and Introduction**
Judith Wides, MA, M. Ed.
President, NJ Association for Infant Mental Health
Gerard Costa, PhD
Conference Chair
- 8:55 The Next Step in Therapeutic Jurisprudence: Bridging the Chasm between Research and Practice in Juvenile Court**
Judge Cindy Lederman
Miami Child Well Being Court
- 9:50 Of Course Attachment Matters— But What Is It and How Do We Know?**
Michelle DeKlyen, PhD
Associate Research Scholar, Center for Research on Child Well Being, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
- 10:35 Stretch Break**
- 10:45 Are There Researched-Based Child Custody Evaluations? An Ongoing Case and An Ongoing Discussion**
Jean Mercer, PhD
Professor Emerita of Psychology, Richard Stockton College
- 11:35 King Solomon's Legacy: Helping Families Understand the Needs of Infants and Young Children in Divorce Situations**
Debra Roelke, PhD
Clinical Psychologist in Private Practice, Morristown

PM

- 12:25 Lunch**
- 1:15 Family Visits for Children in DYFS Care**
Mary McManus-Smith, JD
Senior Attorney, Legal Services of New Jersey
- 2:05 The Law of Unintended Consequences: Protective Service Intervention, Iatrogenic Problems and Some Ideas on Solutions**
Gerard Costa, PhD
Director, YCS Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health
- 2:55 The Essex Vicinage Collaborative Team for Infants, Toddlers and Families: The Struggle between Concept and Implementation**
Tricia Stern, LCSW, MPH
YCS Court Team Coordinator,
Sara Mendez, MSW, LCSW
YCS Court Team Clinician
- 3:45 Panel Discussion with Judge Lederman and Presenters**
- 4:25 Evaluation**
- 4:30 Closing**

Directions and Parking Information for Clara Maass Medical Center:

Go to: www.saintbarnabas.com/hospitals/clara_maass.

Park in parking garage and exit the garage going toward the medical center's main entrance. As you leave the garage, look to the left. You will see a sign Education Center. Walk up the stairs or the ramp and enter. Follow the signs to Greifinger Lecture Hall. You can also access the Lecture Hall by going in the medical center's main entrance. [For more about Clara Maass, call 973-450-2066.]

The Essex Vicinage Collaborative Team for Infants

MISSION

“The Essex Vicinage Collaborative Team for Infants, Toddlers, and Families at the YCS Institute consists of a team of collaborating agencies with judicial direction aimed at creating an integrated response to maltreated children and their families that is guided by infant mental health principles.”

The Essex Vicinage Collaborative Team for Infants, Toddlers, and Families is an initiative within the Essex County Family Courts that brings together the legal system, DYFS, social services, and mental health services to better address the needs of families that are before the court for allegations of abuse or neglect regarding a child between the ages of birth and 4 years.

The Collaborative Team works to shorten the time frame that children and families are under court supervision by moving quickly to understand the developmental, emotional and social needs of the child and the family, and to provide assistance in meeting these needs in an expedient manner. Child parent psychotherapy and other modalities of parent child treatment are provided at the YCS-Institute for Infant Mental Health.

Members of the Collaborative Team meet regularly to be sure that all of the community resources that a child and family need are being identified and provided, as well as to exchange information about the progress of child and family. Appropriate feedback is provided to the court as requested and on a regular basis.

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REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
March 12,
2010
REGISTRATION
IS LIMITED!

REGISTRATION FEE

General	\$50.00
NJAIMH Members	\$45.00
Group of 6 or more:	\$40.00/person

Fee includes continental breakfast, and a light lunch.

DESIRED CE CREDIT (CHECK ONE)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Work CE Credit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nursing CE Credit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal CE Credit (PLEASE ADD \$25.00 PER REGISTRATION)

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME			
TITLE			
ADDRESS			
CITY			
STATE		ZIP CODE	
AGENCY NAME			
DAYTIME PHONE			
CELL PHONE			
EMAIL ADDRESS			

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE,
AND SEND TO:
Gateway Northwest MCH Network
Attention: Beverly Honore
381 Woodside Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07104

REMEMBER
TO PRINT YOUR
HANDOUTS
ONLINE AT:
gatewaymch.org

Continuing Education Credits:

Continuing Education for Social Workers

- Application is being made to the NJ Board of Social Work Examiners for credit approval.

Continuing Nursing Education Contact Hours

- This program has been awarded 6.75 contact hours.
- Gateway Northwest Maternal and Child Health Network is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the New Jersey State Nurses Association, an accredited approver, by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's COA.
- Provider #P111-3/07-10. Provider approval is valid through March 31, 2010.
- Accreditation refers to recognition of continuing education activities only and does not imply approval or endorsement of any commercial product.

Continuing Legal Education Credits for Attorneys

- For each attorney seeking CLE credit, please add an additional \$25.00 to the registration fee. All credit hours will be processed by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE).

Disclosures:

- The speakers and planners have no vested interest in the content of the continuing nursing education activity.
- No commercial support was provided for the continuing education activity.
- No non-FDA approved information will be presented.

NJAIMH

The New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health (NJAIMH) is a statewide interdisciplinary organization that encourages the realization that infancy is a critical period in the psychosocial development of individuals. NJAIMH works to increase the responses of its members to the needs of culturally and ethnically diverse infants and families through mutual support and sharing of information. NJAIMH facilitates statewide cooperation among all persons concerned with promoting conditions that will bring about optimal infant development and optimal caregiver infant relationships. Members work to promote awareness of public policy and its effect on infant mental health in all areas that touch the lives of children and families.

Conference Objectives:

As a result of attending this continuing education program, participants will be able to:

- Explain the importance of evidence-based thinking in the courtroom and child welfare system.
- Describe how to promote the well being of young maltreated children in court.
- Describe the basic concepts of attachment theory and how attachment is assessed.
- List age-related factors relevant to the best interests of the child in custody decisions.
- Summarize arguments for and against the use of standardized attachment measures in child custody evaluations.
- Describe the special challenges for infants and young children in forming secure attachments in divorce situations.
- Explain how the emotional dynamics between divorcing parents can complicate the development of secure attachments by infants and young children.
- Describe how courts and helping professionals can assist in parenting time decisions that support the development of secure attachments by infants and young children.
- Define the legal parameters for children in DYFS care experiencing family visits.
- Describe the potential problems arising from protective services' interventions and possible solutions.
- State an overview of the Essex County Court Team initiative.
- Describe implementation challenges and strategies in creating a coordinated approach for young children within the court and child protection systems.

We're Going Green: Presentation Handouts

In an effort to conserve paper, conference presentations will be made available as of March 15 for downloading on the following website: www.gatewaymch.org. Participants are encouraged to download presentations prior to the conference and to bring these to the conference for taking additional notes. No hard copies of presentations will be available at the conference.



For More Information:

If you have any questions in reference to this conference, please call the YCS Institute at 973-395-5500 or email institute@ycs.org.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Judith Wides, MA, MEd
UMDNJ and President NJ Association for Infant Mental Health



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Advocating for infant, child and family centered services for families undergoing evaluation, mediation and placement proceedings.



FEATURING

A Keynote Address by Judge Cindy Lederman Miami Child Well Being Court™

MARCH 19, 2010

8:30 am to 4:30pm

LOCATION

**The Greifinger Lecture Hall
Clara Maass Medical Center
1 Clara Maass Drive
Belleville, New Jersey 07109**

CONFERENCE JOINTLY SPONSORED BY

YCS Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health
The New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health
Gateway Northwest Maternal and Child Health Network
Central New Jersey Maternal and Child Health Consortium
Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey