TCB members (in-person/virtual) must scan the QR code to confirm attendance.





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Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee



LOB-Room 2C

January 10, 2024

2:00 PM- 4:00 PM

Virtual Option Available

Meeting Facilitation



• Mute on Zoom

Participants must remain muted on Zoom unless speaking.

• Hand raising

Virtual attendees should use the hand raise feature on Zoom for questions and comments.

• Questions at End

Hold questions and comments until presenters have finished speaking.

• TCB only

Only TCB members may ask questions and make comments.

• Recording

This meeting is being recorded.

Note: Next meeting is scheduled for 1st February 2024 (Thursday)

Meeting Overview



- Opening Remarks Tri-Chairs
- Acceptance of December Meeting Minutes
- Updates of TCB Level-Setting Training Tow Youth Justice Institute
- Continued Presentation: Sustainability Efforts through Commercial Insurance

Christine A. Cappiello, Senior Director, Government Relations Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield *Lori Szczygiel*, MA RVP, National Accounts Carelon Behavioral Health

• Accessing the Continuum of Care: Intensive Home-Based Services

Parent Story

Elisabeth Cannata, Ph.D. Vice President Community–Based Family Services & Practice Innovation *Victoria Stobb, LCSW, MSW,* Co-Director IICAPS Model Development and Operations *Kenneth Lacilla, LCSW* Division Director, Behavioral Health The Child & Family Guidance Center *Carrie Bourdon,* LCSW – Executive Director – Carelon Behavioral Health

TCB One-Day Level Setting Training



Morning: Experiential Activities: Setting the Foundation for Future TCB Work

Networking Lunch: Opportunity for informal networking and relationship-building

Afternoon: Level Setting and Content Learning.

- Understanding Children's Behavioral Health in Connecticut
- Overview of the Behavioral Health Treatment System for Children in Connecticut
- Mental Health Treatment for Young Children
- Children and Youth with Neurodevelopmental Disorders





Meet the TCB Level Setting Trainers





Rachel Keyworth, M.Ed, CTRS

Rachel Keyworth attended Springfield College and earned a B.S. in Rehabilitation and Disability Studies. She then continued her education at Springfield College to pursue a master's degree in Therapeutic Recreation. Since becoming a Recreational Therapist, Rachel has worked in a wide variety of settings including mental health, adapted sport, autism services, and community-based recreation. Currently, Rachel is an Assistant Professor at Springfield College and the Program Director for the Recreation Industries and Therapeutic Recreation program. Rachel is also a consultant for the Village for Families and Children Sub-Acute residential youth program. At the Village, her work focuses on building and supporting leisure repetoires for all types of learners, developing the therapeutic recreation curriculum, providing tailored consultation to clinical and school-based programs, and the facilitation of staff development training programs.



Melissa L. Whitson, Ph.D

Dr. Melissa Whitson, a leading expert in childhood trauma, holds a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Columbia University and a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Community Psychology from Yale University. Her research has identified risk and protective factors for low-income and marginalized children and families, who often have a disproportionate number of unmet mental health needs because of lack of availability, lack of insurance, and stigma. Dr. Whitson closely studies children who have been exposed to adverse experiences and traumatic events and examines how mental health services have impacted them and their families. Her research aims to increase the services' effectiveness and improve the mental health and well-being of these children and families. Dr. Whitson's research shows that children's mental health services need to focus not only on the child who presents for services but also on the child's parents and caregivers, as their stress levels will impact treatment outcomes for the child.



Laine Taylor, DO, MBA

Dr. Laine Taylor is a board-certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and serves as the medical director for The Village for Families and Children. Dr. Taylor oversees and supports The Village's Psychiatry Department and psychiatric-related programs. She collaborates with other departments, outside organizations, state agencies, and stakeholders to ensure that The Village remains a center of clinical excellence by upholding its values and innovating to achieve its mission.

Dr. Taylor eamed her undergrad at Xavier University of Louisiana, her medical degree at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, and a healthcare leadership master's from Rockhurst University during medical school. She completed her general psychiatry residency at the University of Arizona and her Child and Adolescent Fellowship at The Yale Child Study Center. Dr. Taylor worked with adults in Hollywood, Florida for a year before becoming an adjunct professor at The Yale Child Study Center in Connecticut. Dr. Laine Taylor's diverse background shapes her approach to patient care, perspectives on healthcare systems, advocacy for state policy, and community service.



Jeana Bracey, Ph.D

Dr. Jeana Bracey is Associate Vice President of School and Community Initiatives at the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) in Connecticut. She currently directs several school and community-based systems development activities, including the CT School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI), the Connecting to Care statewide Systems of Care Initiative, and Statewide Comprehensive School Mental Health Initiatives. She has experience in school-based mental health, juvenile justice diversion, health equity, and program implementation and evaluation, and serves on several state-level committees to advance policy and practice on social-emotional learning, family and community engagement in schools, health equity/racial justice, and juvenile justice diversion. She earned her PhD in Clinical/Community Psychology in 2010 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Meet the TCB Level Setting Trainers





Elisabeth Cannata, Ph.D

Dr. Elisabeth Cannata, a clinical psychologist with 35+ years of experience, specializes in working with children and families across various behavioral health programs, including those involved with child welfare, juvenile justice, and special education. In her role as Vice President of Community-Based Family Services and Practice Innovation at Wheeler, she has overseen the implementation of several evidence-based treatments and was at the helm of Wheeler's first efforts at behavioral health and primary care integration. She has also partnered with model developers in piloting and studying the effectiveness and transportability of model adaptations to strengthen families and maintain children in their homes. Dr. Cannata has extensive expertise in cross-disciplinary education in the areas of integrated healthcare and Evidence-Based Practice, with multiple publications in these areas. Over the years she has served on various system advisory boards and workgroups and is currently an appointed Tri-Chair of the Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board.



Darcy Lowell, MD

Dr. Darcy Lowell, MD, a renowned developmental and behavioral pediatrician, is the visionary founder of the evidence-based Child First model, where she served as Chief Officer from 2001 to 2023. Nationally recognized with the IMH-E (IV) Infant Mental Health Mentor Endorsement, she specializes in clinical services, research, child advocacy, and system innovation, focusing on early, responsive relationships to prevent and heal trauma. Under her leadership, the Child First model, created in 2001, is an evidence-based intervention endorsed by multiple registries and replicated nationally in six states. Holding a BA from Yale University and completed several fellowships at Yale University School of Medicine, Dr. Lowell actively engages in various organizations at local, state, and national levels, playing key roles in infant mental health, child development, and trauma prevention initiatives, including founding the National Child Traumatic Stress Network's Category II Center for Prevention and Early Trauma Treatment.



Jennifer Nadeau, LCSW

Jennifer Nadeau, LCSW, Senior VP of Child and Family Services at CHR, oversees all programs in the division, including crisis services, outpatient clinics, residential programs, intensive homebased therapy, and foster care Jennifer joined CHR in 2009 and served as a Child and Family Service Director. She oversaw various evidence-based community programs, including FFT and MDFT teams, school-based clinics, the Caregiver Support Team program, and Child Outpatient clinics in East Hartford and Manchester. Throughout her career with CHR, she has held various roles with progressively increasing leadership responsibilities for outpatient settings, Jennifer is a recognized expert in trauma-focused services for children, teens, and families. She played a key role in implementing four innovative trauma-focused models in CHR's clinics. Jennifer is a statewide trainer for MATCH-ADTC, actively engaging in regional, statewide, and national training initiatives for child and family services Jennifer holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago.



Michael Powers, Psy.D

Dr. Michael D. Powers is the Founder and Executive Director of The Center for Children with Special Needs in Glastonbury, Connecticut, and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychology at the Yale Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate and graduate training at Rutgers College, Columbia University, and Rutgers University. Dr. Powers specializes in the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of individuals with autism and related developmental disabilities and has published and presented extensively on these topics. He is also the author of Asperger Syndrome and Your Child, the award-winning book Children with Autism: A Parent's Guide (second edition), and co-editor (with Dr. Fred Volkmar) of the Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dr. Powers has been involved in designing educational programs, staff training, and program evaluation for students with autism spectrum disorders throughout the United States and abroad for over 45 years. Dr. Powers is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, a member of the Professional Advisory Boards of MAAP Services for Autism and Asperger Syndrome and The Geneva Centre for Autism in Toronto, and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Autism Society of America.



Continued Presentation on Sustainability Efforts through Commercial Insurance





Accessing the Continuum of Care In-Home Services



Next Meeting



Revised Meeting Dates

• February 1, 2024 - Thursday