



CT-AIMH

2015-2016 Biennial Report



Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health



Alliance for the Advancement of
Infant Mental Health

Reflections, Contributions and Collaborations...



Biennial Report 2015-2016

The success of the Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health is predicated on the capacity of our workforce to understand the unique emotional, psychological and developmental needs of babies, toddlers and young children. We foster achievement of these capacities by providing the Connecticut workforce with tools, resources and supports to strengthen our ability to teach, to assess, to treat, to care for, to love and to protect *infants, young children, and their families and caregivers.*

We understand that professional development is a journey, not a destination and we thank you for allowing us the opportunity to enhance your infant and early childhood mental health practice. We also thank those in leadership here in Connecticut and beyond for recognizing that science must be translated into practice and that we must continue to dedicate ourselves to the special population of *infants, young children and their families and caregivers*.

The CT-AIMH biennial report is a reflection and celebration of the accomplishments of 2015-2016. It is our sincere hope these highlights engage you in our mission to enhance knowledge and promote a positive influence on the social emotional health and development of *infants, young children and their families and caregivers*.



Inside this issue

Inside CT-AIMH.....	2-4
Reflective Supervision.....	5
ECMH-E® Development.....	6
Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health	7
CHDI Policy Brief.....	9
WAIMH Congress 2016.....	10
Policy Advocacy.....	11-14
CT-AIMH Conferences.....	15
Award Recipients.....	16-17

Points of Interest

- Connecticut is a founding member of the Alliance for the Advancement for Infant Mental Health
- Workforce development opportunities through CT-AIMH brings science to practice
- Membership in CT-AIMH rose from **265** in 2015 to **311** in 2017
- By the end of 2016, Connecticut had **47** infant mental health practitioners at the Endorsement® level (see page 5)

An Inside Look at a Flourishing Organization

Thank you!

We cannot fulfill our mission without financial support through grants, conference and training sponsorships, donations and membership.

We wholeheartedly thank the 2015-2016 financial contributors:

- *Children's Fund of Connecticut, Inc. within the Child Health and Development Institute, Inc.
- *CT-AIMH Members
- *CT Birth to Three System
- *CT Department of Children and Families
- *CT Head Start State Collaboration Office
- *CT Office of Early Childhood
- *Donations by Individuals
- *Early Childhood Investments at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- *Elm City Project Launch
- *Yale Child Study Center

In the spring of 2016, CT-AIMH engaged in a strategic planning process that energized the board and established priorities and operational tasks. The analysis spoke loud and clear...we must *BE VISIBLE* to make an impact. The strategic planning process highlighted the strengths of the organization:

- * *Leadership*
- * *Interdisciplinary Approach*
- * *National Recognition*
- * *Evidence Based Practice*
- * *Quality of Work*
- * *Expertise in the Field*

CT-AIMH is a growing, non-profit organization with one full-time staff member... our extraordinary Executive Director Heidi Maderia; part-time contractual staff such as our Endorsement Coordinator, Heather Bonitz Moore, Administrative Assistant Linda Isakson, Training Coordinator Anne Giordano and project-based part-time contractual staff and student interns.

The organization is governed by a Board of Directors who meet monthly and retreat annually. Within the Board of Directors, several committees exist and continue to develop (see page 4).

During 2015-2016, CT-AIMH successfully received funding through the CT Department of Children and Families to continue to provide infant mental health training.

The CT Office of Early Childhood allocated funding through the Child Health and

Development Institute to support infant mental health training to childcare program staff and pediatricians.

We received funding through Elm City Project Launch to provide infant mental health training to home visitors, engage home visitors in the endorsement process and fund clinician participation in Child Parent Psychotherapy training.

CT-AIMH continues to have ongoing discussions about competency-based training and curriculum content with Central Connecticut State University to promote the inclusion of infant mental health in higher education.

These endeavors help build a system of infant and early childhood mental health practice that defines Connecticut's values of child and family well-being...and CT-AIMH is privileged to have such an important role in its development



CT-AIMH in the Community!

Collaborative partnership meetings have been coordinated and facilitated by Anne Giordano, MA, throughout the state.

The meetings warmly welcome anyone who is working with or on behalf of babies.

The goals of the Infant Mental Health Community Partnership meetings are to:

- ⇒ Promote awareness of infant mental health
- ⇒ Promote use of relationship-based practices throughout infant/early childhood communities
- ⇒ Expand skills, knowledge & best practice in field of infant mental health
- ⇒ Identify gaps/needs in programs & communities related to infant mental health
- ⇒ Advance knowledge of the competencies & endorsement in infant mental health
- ⇒ Identify & explore opportunities for collaborative training & reflective supervision

A Planful Approach to Address Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health in Connecticut

Goal 1: Promote Awareness of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health

Goal 2: Promote the Use of Relationship-Based Practices Throughout Infant/Early Childhood Communities

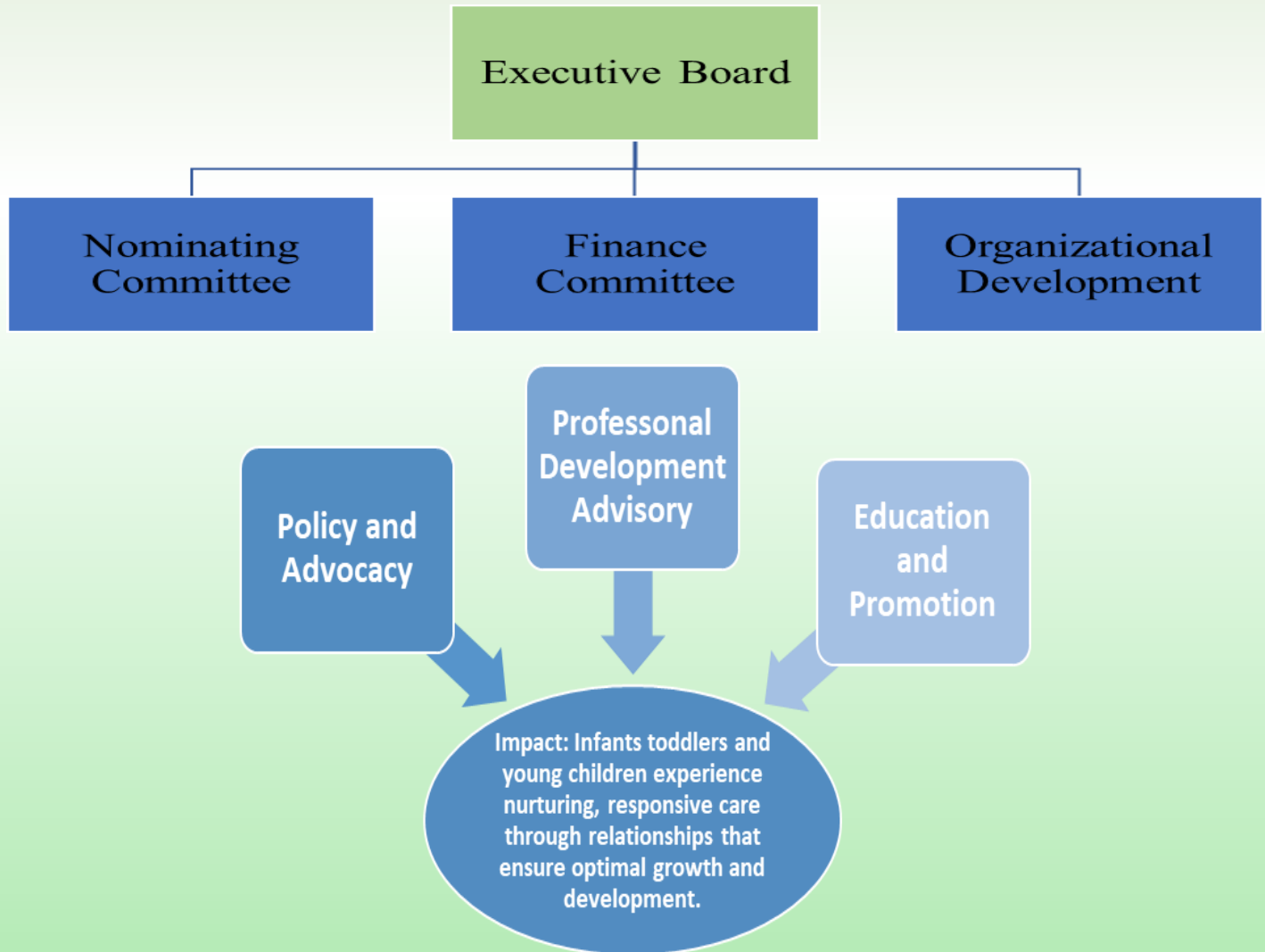
Goal 3: Increase the Capacity of the Infant/Early Childhood Workforce to Meet the Needs of Young Children and their Families

Goal 4: Expand and Optimize Funding for Treatment of Social-Emotional and Relationship-Focused Needs of Young Children and Their Families

Goal 5: Support a System to Evaluate the Impact of Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Services



CT-AIMH Governance: Internal & External Committee Structure



Policy and Advocacy

Goal statement: Work to identify, monitor and respond to policy and health issues related to the mental health needs of infants, young children and their families.

Professional Development Advisory

Goal statement: Partner to advance professional development, higher ed. curricula, and training opportunities which will increase knowledge, skills and capacity of the infant and early childhood workforce, while integrating the Competency Guidelines® that are held by the CT-AIMH, and promoting Endorsement®.

Education and Promotion

Goal statement: Promote and educate the greater community on the importance of infant mental health and the work of CT-AIMH.

Becoming an Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Practitioner: Building Reflective Capacities

The hallmark of infant and early childhood mental health practice is reflective function. This skill is developed through reflective supervision, strengthening our capacity to mentalize so that “every exchange has a quality to it” (Heidi Maderia).

In 2016, CT-AIMH offered a 5-day Reflective Supervision Training with Christopher Watson, PhD, IMH-E® from Minnesota and Janet Dean, LCSW from Colorado. The training developed reflective supervision facilitators so others in Connecticut can have the opportunity to participate in reflective supervision groups, a requirement Endorsement®. How was the training received? Here are some comments from training participants...

“Excellent presentation. It was very helpful to watch the demonstration of reflective supervision (fish bowl).” and “This training offered me fortification. I know of nowhere else where you can get training on Reflective Supervision.”



“Reflective supervision/consultation allows practitioners to work through complex feelings about their work and what triggers those feelings so that they can better attend to the needs of families and understand that the provider brings their own emotions to the Situation.” *CHDI Impact Report*

EXCITING NEWS!

CT-AIMH members will soon enjoy many new features of the EASy online system including managing your membership and tracking your trainings and other professional events counted toward Endorsement®.

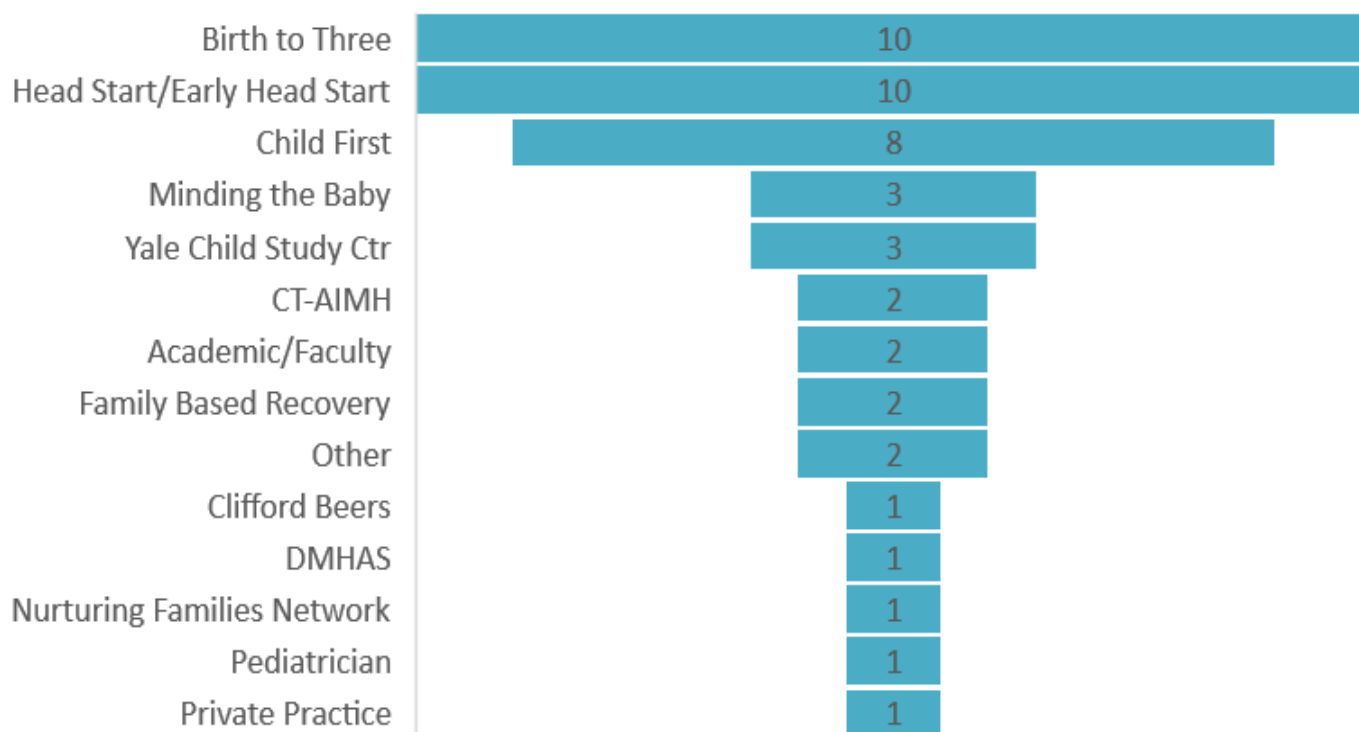
“Even as a parent myself, not just as a professional, my perspective has changed, to be more mindful, as a result of these RS trainings, and I think, ‘What do you need?’, not ‘What’s wrong?’.”
~2016 Reflective Supervision Training Participant

CT-AIMH Membership

Your membership in CT-AIMH promotes and protects our work. Your membership signals to stakeholders and the general public how important the life and development of infants, toddlers and young children are. Your membership provides financial support for our many activities including two annual conferences, trainings to childcare providers, child welfare providers, home visitors, clinical providers, educators, policy makers and program specialists and our outstanding executive director and part-time contractual staff. Your membership preserves the work of CT-AIMH to promote the socio-emotional well-being of infants and young children in our Connecticut.

Growing Connecticut's Specialized Workforce: The Infant Mental Health

Infant Mental Health Endorsement by Program 2016



Expansion of Competencies: Development of the ECMH-E®

Recognizing the unique developmental and practice differences in working with children ages 3 to 6 and their families, the Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement (ECMH-E®) provides a pathway to Endorsement® for professionals who incorporate key infant and early childhood mental health competencies into their practice with and on behalf of children ages 3 up to 6 years old and their families. ECMH-E® is built upon the existing IMH-E® structure, e.g. *Early Childhood Family Associate*, *Early Childhood Family Specialist*, *Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist* and *Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor* using existing IMH-E® criteria as a template.

More than 20 states have adopted the Endorsement® through their infant mental health associations!

CT-AIMH will offer competency training and endorsement opportunities for IMH-E® and the ECMH-E®. In Connecticut, the ECMH-E will be piloted in 2017-2018! ECMH-E® is in the pilot phase in CT during 2017-2018, and will not be available to everyone until 2019.



Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health

The Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health®, formerly known as the League of States, became an official organization in 2016.

Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health was one of five state members along with Michigan members to comprise the planning board to move the Alliance® forward. The Alliance Board of Directors includes the members from the following states (CT, AZ, TX, NM, RI and MI). Margaret Holmberg, PhD, is serving as the first President of the Alliance.

By 2015, Connecticut was one of the twenty-two Alliance® members however you can see from the map below many more states plus Western Australia and Ireland have affiliated since then. The map below reflects Alliance® members at the time of this publication.

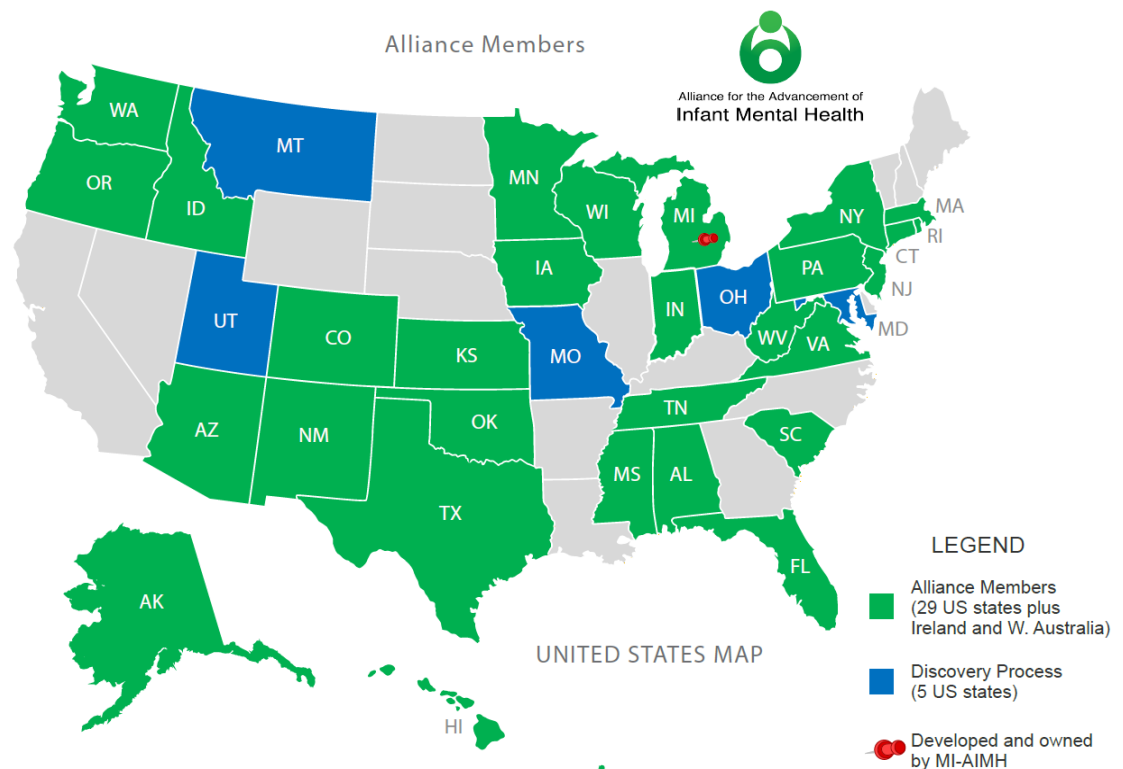
The Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health is a global organization that includes those states and countries whose infant mental health associations have licensed the use of the Competency Guidelines® and/or Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health® under their associations' names.

The mission is to build and sustain a reflective, skilled, culturally competent, and relationship-based workforce that supports infants, young children and their families.

The Alliance® comprises a Board of Directors, and two staff persons (an executive director and associate/endorsement director) supporting the work of the Alliance®.

With the dramatic growth of the number of infant mental health associations licensed to use Competency Guidelines® and Endorsement®, the Alliance® can better respond to interest from these new state associations, provide assistance in using this new workforce development system, manage the Infant Mental Health Journal, and promote the interests of infants, toddlers, young children, and their family.

For more information about the new Alliance®, please go to www.allianceaimh.org.



3 REASONS

GOOD INFANT MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



BRAIN ARCHITECTURE



We have a shared stake **to make sure babies develop sturdy brain architecture**, because this foundation supports a lifetime of learning and productive participation in society. A reliable caregiver who is responsive to a baby's needs is the base for secure attachment, which allows an infant to explore and learn.



BODY & HEALTH



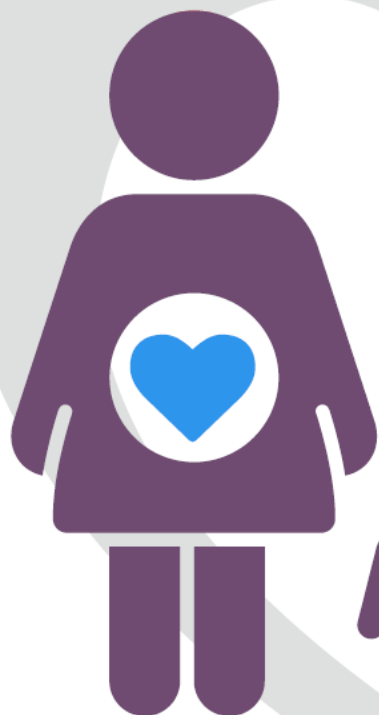
Toxic stress from broken caregiver-infant relationships can push a baby's stress hormones into overdrive. When constantly present, these hormones disrupt brain and physical development. And babies can't learn if their brains and bodies are working against them. **The antidote to toxic stress?** Affection and protection by a nurturing caregiver.



BEHAVIOR & RELATIONSHIPS



Secure attachment is a fundamental building block of social function. Children need relationships with sensitive caregivers to self-regulate, get along with others, solve problems, and be productive -- the basis for civic and economic prosperity.



INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

is the optimal social, emotional, and cognitive well-being of children ages 0 to 3, developed by secure and stable relationships with nurturing caregivers.



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR
Infant Mental Health

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CT-AIMH is a member of the
Alliance for the Advancement of
Infant Mental Health
mi-aimh.org/alliance

Child Health and Development Institute Publishes Policy Brief on Infant Mental Health Workforce in Connecticut

In partnership with the CT-AIMH, the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) issued an important policy practice report defining infant mental health and highlighting the workforce competencies across disciplines needed to support families so they can assure their children get off to a healthy start. Available at www.chdi.org

THE INFANT MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE:

Key to Promoting the Healthy Social and Emotional Development of Children

Melissa Mendez, LCSW, IMH-E® (III)
Infant Mental Health Specialist

Abby Alter, MPA
Child Health and Development Institute

Tanika E. Simpson, LCSW, IMH-E® (III)
Infant Mental Health Specialist

Judith Meyers, Ph.D.
Child Health and Development Institute



IMPACT

March 2015

Ideas and Information
to Promote the Health of
Connecticut's Children

IMPACT is a publication
of the Child Health and
Development Institute
of Connecticut.



“Reflective supervision/consultation allows practitioners to work through complex feelings about their work and what triggers those feelings so that they can better attend to the needs of families and understand that the provider brings their own emotions to each situation.” CHDI Impact Report 2015

15th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health

May 29 – June 2, 2016

Clarion Congress Hotel | Prague براغ | Czech Republic



The Congress is organized by WAIMH in cooperation with the Israeli Infant Mental Health Affiliate and Palestinian Infant Mental Health specialists.

The Annual Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health *Infant Mental Health in a rapidly changing world: Conflict, adversity, and resilience* was hosted by Israeli and Palestinian Infant Mental Health Associations



(Above) Infant mental health advocates Heidi Maderia, Executive Director of CT-AIMH (left), Anne Giordano, Early Childhood Consultant at EdAdvance (middle) and Margaret Holmberg, Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health and CT-AIMH Board Member (right) are on their way to WAIMH Congress dinner at the Zofin Palace in Prague overlooking the Vltava River.

Connecticut Impressively Represented at the 2016 WAIMH Congress in the Following Collegial Presentations....

Poster: Babies are both vulnerable and resilient: Promoting secure relationships when very young children are in the care of others (Maderia, H.J., Funk, S. Giordano, A.W., Lincoln, C.R.)

Poster: Mid-level developmental assessment: Engaging families in shared decision-making (Bogin, J., Martini-Carvell, K., Vater, S., Cornell, E.)

Poster: Enhancing shelter environments for families experiencing homelessness (Whitney, G.C., Basloe, M.)

Poster: Reflective supervision and its impact on clinical infant mental health practice: An exploration (Eaves Simpson, T., Robinson, J.L.)

Symposium: The Newborn Behavioural Observation system (NBO) with high risk infants in the home setting in the USA (Blanchard, Y., McManus, B.)

Symposium: What if they can't reflect?: Treat, trauma, and pre-mentalization in Minding the Baby (Slade, A., Sadler, L., Close, N., Simpson, T., Webb, D.)

Poster: A systems change model that creates a future of better outcomes for all vulnerable young children (Bogin, J., Martini-Carvell, K., Vater, S., Cornell, E.)

Poster: The effectiveness of Circle of Security Parenting training (Haisley, L., Ramirez, J., Barton, M.)

Poster: Prevention through high school education in child development and pre-parenting skills (Margolies, R., Pozmantier, J., Burack, C.)

Lecture: Tapping working models of family relationships in 4-7 year olds through Story Stem Narratives in a marriage and family clinic setting (Robinson, J.L.)

Promoting Public Policy: CT-AIMH Advocates for Infant, Child and Family Well-Being

Legislative Advocacy for the Children's Behavioral Health Plan



In collaboration with the Early Childhood Alliance and the Child First Network, CT-AIMH proposed policy recommendations to the Select Committee on Children in public testimony on February 24, 2015 for Senate Bill 840 *An Act Concerning the Implementation of a Comprehensive Children's Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health Plan*.

The advocates outlined recommendations to the committee to enhance the bill. Their recommendations included five salient policies to address infant and early childhood mental health and treatment including addressing unmet treatment needs, ensuring treatment strategies are developmentally appropriate and relationship-based, identify and respond to parent challenges such as maternal mental health, develop a continuum of evidence-based interventions and provide financing, ensuring developmentally appropriate treatments and their relationship with their caregiver, screening for and addressing parental challenges, developing a separate early childhood mental health system, and providing finances to expand early childhood mental health intervention. Public Act 13-178 has engaged stakeholder groups in a three phase initiative to develop and implement a plan to improve the behavioral health system for all children in Connecticut. Melissa Mendez, LCSW, IMH-E®, Associate Director of Early Childhood at Wheeler Clinic and CT-AIMH Board President participated on the Plan's advisory board.

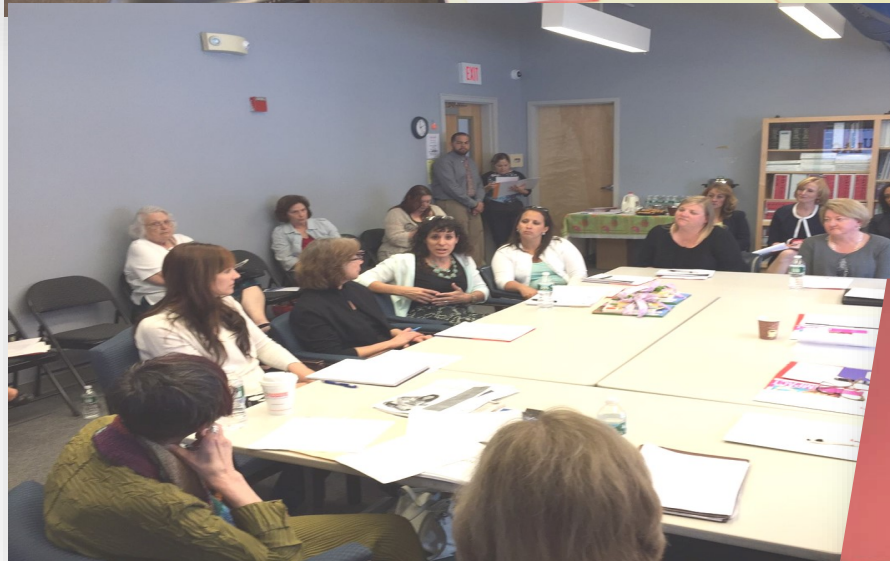
The submitted public testimony can be found here <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/KIDdata/Tmy/2015SB-00841-R000224-CT%20Association%20for%20Infant%20Mental%20Health%20Plan.pdf>

Developing a Quality Early Childhood Workforce for Infant Mental Health



On May 6, 2015, the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) and CT-AIMH hosted a roundtable discussion on infant mental health and workforce development with U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

Judith Meyers, PhD, Founding Chief Executive of CHDI provides leadership at the roundtable discussion as United States Representative Rosa DeLauro asks participants to share their practice, program and organizational perspectives.



Early childhood leaders, including Myra Jones Taylor, PhD, highlight the needs of a competent infant and early childhood workforce. Convening conversations on infant mental health workforce development with state and national leadership demonstrates how far Connecticut has come and maps a trajectory for the future.

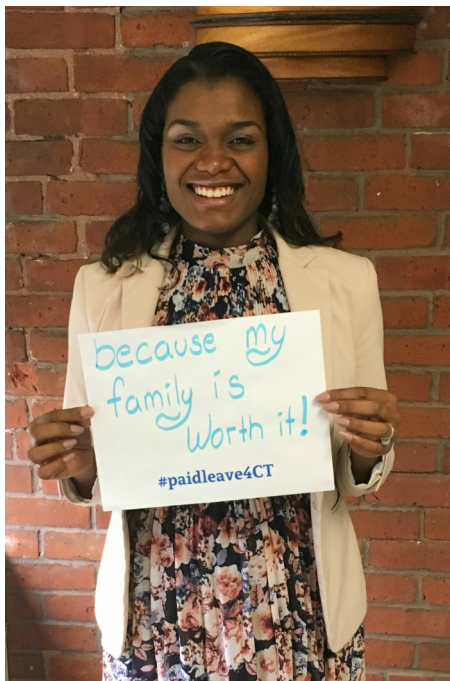


Supporting Paid Family Leave

In 2015, Connecticut House Bill 6932 did not pass and subsequent legislation also has not resulted in the popular policy that mothers and fathers have the opportunity for a parental leave policy that reflects the research on the importance of early relationships, employer advantages, cost savings for both

employers and employees, health protections for mothers and infants and many other important benefits.

The CT-AIMH Policy and Advocacy Committee has been monitoring the progress of a Connecticut Paid Family Leave policy, participating in action steps toward set goals and contributing public testimony.



(Above) The Campaign for Paid Family Leave conducted a photo campaign. This woman offers a powerful reminder of why this legislation is so important. For more insightful photos, visit www.paidfamilyleavect.org

“As a practicing pediatrician for over 30 years in my community, I have witnessed families that have had to leave a young infant in the care of someone else in order for the parents to return to work. As a physician, I strongly believe that mothers and infants need to be together during the first several months of life. The nurturing care provided by the mother enable the infant to develop the faculty for emotional self-regulation, which is the basis for healthy development.”

Gerald “Jerry” Calnen, MD, Pediatrician and CT-AIMH Board Member



(Above) Pediatrician Jerry Calnen expresses concern about the lack of policies and practice that promote and protect infant and child well-being at the Infant Mental Health Roundtable discussion with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

Public Testimony in Support of Paid Family Leave

“In the first few weeks, infants rely completely on their caregivers for basic psychological survival, critical development or regulatory functions and in general they rely wholly on their caregiver to experience the world. Public policies that respond to the unique needs of young children and families in these first critical weeks and months by moving forward with paid family and medical leave.”

Melissa Mendez, LCSW, IMH-E®, CT-AIMH Board President

Including Infants and Young Children in S. 1945

CT-AIMH continued to support the Zero to Three Amendment to the Mental Health Reform Act of 2015 (S. 1945) introduced by Connecticut's U.S. Senator Chris Murphy along with Bill Cassidy of Louisiana. This was the first piece of legislation to include *infant and young children's mental health* language. It was passed by Congress in December 2016 as the 21st Century Cures Act but with no funding for the infant and young children's mental health initiatives outlined in the Act.



Kids
Mental Health
Info.com

Formative Discussions in Medicaid Reimbursement for Infant Mental Health

In August 2016, the National Center for Children in Poverty released a report highlighting the efforts of states to utilize Medicaid funds for the treatment and care of infants and young children and their parents. Lisa Honigfeld, PhD, Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI), contributed to the report and has been working alongside CT-AIMH Policy and Advocacy Committee to begin discussions of what recommendations are necessary in CT to expand state coverage for infant and young children's mental health services with an emphasis on the parent-child dyad and prevention. To view the complete report, go to

http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_1164.pdf

Home Visiting Consortium is Established

Public Act 15-45 An Act Establishing a Home Visiting Consortium convenes stakeholders on a routine basis to provide recommendations to the Office of Early Childhood, Department of Children and Families, Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Education regarding the implementation of the recommendations for the coordination of home visitation programs within the early childhood system. On July 29, 2015, the Connecticut Home Visiting Consortium convened its first meeting co-chaired by Melissa Mendez, LCSW, CT-AIMH Board President and Karen Foley-Schain, Med, Division Director of the Office of Early Childhood.

Promoting Policy Change in Early Childhood Systems

CT-AIMH participates in the following early childhood policy practice workgroups: *CT Alliance for Early Childhood, CT Home Visiting Consortium, the Early Childhood Cabinet's Homelessness Subcommittee, the CT Early Childhood Comprehensive System's Grant Advisory Committee* and the state *Child Welfare/Head Start Collaboration*.



Advancing Practice in Infant Mental Health: CT-AIMH Conferences 2015-2016

- ⇒ **November 17, 2016** Early Childhood Obesity with Joshua Sparrow, MD, Charlie Slaughter, MPH, RD, and Monica Belyea, MPH, RD
- ⇒ **April 21, 2016** Reflective Functioning, Reflective Practice and the Challenges of Finding Calm in the Storm with Arietta Slade, PhD
- ⇒ **November 19, 2015** Off to a Good Start- The Development of Regulation in Infants: Core Processes in Effective Intervention with Mary Claire Heffron, PhD
- ⇒ **April 16, 2015** Supporting New Parents' Self-Regulation: Coping with Crying with Beth Russell, PhD and Strengthening the Safety Circuit: Trauma Informed Care in Infancy with Marilyn Sanders, MD

CT-AIMH Annual Spring Meeting and Fall Conference

Celebrating Best Practice in Infant Mental Health with the
Jane C. Bourns Award



2015 Jane C Bourns Award
CT Association for Infant Mental Health
Annual Meeting 2015

Charlie Slaughter, MPH, RD

***Early childhood prevention coordinator for the Connecticut
Department of Children and Families***

Charlie Slaughter is a man on a mission. Charlie has been on a mission for the past several years to spread the news about the importance of attachment for young children in Connecticut and for his passion and dedication to this mission we recognize him today. Charlie is an MPH, RD and a public health expert with over 35 years of experience in working with families in the areas of nutrition education and prevention. He has brilliantly woven his background and experience in nutrition and health education with attachment theory framework to support families in creating relationship-focused mealtimes that promote nurturing and secure attachments for infants and toddlers. Charlie has a profound knowledge and passion for promoting healthy palates and healthy attachments for young children. His work truly exemplifies the public health model that aims to promote children's physical, mental and relational health.

We are fortunate to have Charlie as a partner in our work promoting infant and toddler mental health. His positive energy and enthusiasm for the work is infectious and motivates all who get a chance to work with him. He is a true collaborator and works tirelessly to build bridges across the child and family serving system. Last year, Charlie took a lead role in developing a group of attachment-focused professionals who aim to promote attachment-focused work across the state for young children and families. The group, CT-Attachment Network, meets regularly to collaborate and develop partners who are working toward the same goals and will be presenting a symposium, led by Charlie, on the Circle of Security work in CT at the International Attachment Conference in NYC in August 2015.



2016 Jane C Bourns Award
CT Association for Infant Mental Health
Annual Meeting 2016

Kim Shepardson Watson, LCSW, IMH-E®
Clinician in Private Practice

Kim holds Endorsement at the clinical level and in that role since 2012 has provided reflective supervision for seven groups of professionals with 3-6 in each group. Many in her group have chosen to continue for a second year. To illustrate Kim's ability to promote infant and early childhood mental health in principle and practice, one of her reflective supervision groups continued with no outside funding (i.e. self funded). Another group subsequently appealed to its agency to expand reflective supervision to the entire agency's management team and continues today under Kim's leadership.

Kim has a career of working with infants and young children and their families since the 1990s: at Connecticut College Children's program, at the LEARN Birth to Three program, in the Southeast Mental Health System of Care LAUNCH program Building Blocks (clinical supervisor), at United Community and Family Services in the Early Childhood division and most recently in private practice. Kim is also chair of the Groton Board of Education and as such promoted infant mental health at a Groton forum earlier this month.

Kim is a trainer for the DC:0-3R and has completed a post masters program for clinical issues in adoption and is considered an adoption competent therapist. She has also completed the Circle of Security parenting workshops as well as the Postpartum Support International "Components of Care" training in CT.

Past recipients of the Jane C. Bourns Award Include:

2014 Recipient - Silvia Juarez Marazzo
2013 Recipient - Margaret Briggs-Gowan
2012 Recipient - Rudy E. Brooks
2011 Recipient - Nancy Close
2010 Recipient - Kyle Pruett
2009 Recipient - Mary Ann Dayton Fitzgerald
2008 Recipient - Marianne Barton
2007 Recipient - Judith Meyers

'Warm, responsive relationships with sensitive caregivers enable children to build positive, secure attachments and this in turn is associated with 'good' mental health and happiness in interpersonal Relationships' in adulthood' (Bowlby, 1988).

Jane C. Bourns was a tireless advocate for children. In 2003, Hartford Courant Writer Josh Kovner wrote of Jane, "Beyond her nationally recognized work in the areas of child welfare, Jane C. Bourns always knew what to say to help parents and children through difficult situations. See a parent getting physical with a child in a supermarket? Be ready to offer a hand, she counseled. Don't condemn."

CT-AIMH Staff and Board of Directors 2015-2016

Executive Director

Heidi Maderia, MS, IMH-E®

Endorsement Coordinator

ATR-BC, LPC, IMH-E®

President, Board of Directors

Melissa Mendez, LCSW, IMH-E®, Director of Early Childhood Services, Wheeler Clinic

Vice-President, Board of Directors

Susan Vater, Ed.M., Maternal-Child Health Consultant

Secretary, Board of Directors

Kareena Duplessis, Director of Child Development Infoline, United Way of Connecticut

Treasurer, Board of Directors

Robert Riley, Manager for Ernst and Young, LLP

Past President, Board of Directors

Margaret Holmberg, PhD, IMH-E®, Alliance for the Advancement of IMH

Board Members 2015-2016

- ♦ Marianne Barton, PhD, IMH-E®, Director, Psychological Service Clinic, UCONN
- ♦ Gerald Calnen, MD, Pediatrician
- ♦ Nancy Canata, LCSW, Director CREC Child and Family Development Services
- ♦ Lois Davis, PhD, IMH-E®, Developmental Educator, LEARN
- ♦ Darcy Lowell, MD, IMH-E®, CEO, Child FIRST, Inc, and Associate Clinical Professor Department of Pediatrics and Child Study Center at Yale University School of Medicine
- ♦ Aileen McKenna, PhD, IMH-E®, Family Liaison Manager, Birth to Three System
- ♦ JoAnn Robinson, PhD, IMH-E®, Director of Early Education and Early Intervention, UCONN
- ♦ Jennifer Vendetti, LMSW, CEIM, UConn Health Nurturing Families Program, Postpartum Support International CT Chapter

Agency Board Members

- * Elaine Flynn-York, LCSW, Director of Prevention and Parenting Services, DMHAS Young Adult Services Division
- * Grace Whitney, PhD, MPA, IMH-E®, Connecticut Health Start Collaboration Office
- * Wendy Kwalwasser, PhD, Department of Children and Families

Heidi Maderia, MS, IMH-E®

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