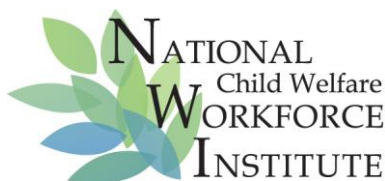


Peer Networks, Learning Communities, Communities of Practice and Information Exchanges



Learning, Leading, Changing

The following is a list of national child welfare peer networks, learning communities, communities of practice and information exchanges. Each item in the list contains a hyperlink to the associated website as well as a description of their membership and the purpose/activities of the network.

There are three sections of this document. First are groups that are open to persons with specific job titles and/or specific roles in child welfare organizations (e.g. adoption program managers). The second section is a list of the Child Welfare Implementation Centers, all of whom are running some form of peer networks for their constituents. The third and final section includes networks that are open to anyone who is interested in a particular area of practice.

OPEN TO PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC JOB TITLES/ROLES:

| Title with hyperlink | Membership | Purpose/Activities |
|---|--|--|
| CFSR/CFSP Peer Network | State, local and tribal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) coordinators and Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP) coordinators | Discuss topics of interest regarding the CFSR process, the five-year CFSP and the annual updates to the CFSP. It provides for the opportunity to have guest speakers, exchange information across jurisdictions and peer-to-peer consultation. |
| National Association of State Adoption Programs | State Adoption Program Managers | Provide a forum to pool expertise and to promote networking activities as an association with other direct child welfare entities and individual professionals |

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| Title with hyperlink | Membership | Purpose/Activities |
|--|---|---|
| NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues Discussion Groups | | |
| Child Abuse and Neglect Case Listserv | Attorneys and Judges ONLY | To help attorneys and judges better handle litigation issues in civil and criminal child abuse and neglect and related cases. Shares legal precedents, tactical concerns, and practical solutions to specific litigation issues. |
| Court Improvement Listserv | Organizations and individuals working to improve courts' handling of these cases. | To improve the court process in child abuse and neglect cases and related proceedings. This forum supports the national Court Improvement Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. |
| Foster Care and Education Listserv | Attorneys, judges, organizations, child advocates, school personnel, and others working on behalf of youth. | To discuss and exchange information on improving educational opportunities and outcomes for youth in foster care, homeless youth, and others, nationally and within states. Sample topics include: federal and state laws, trainings, summits and research |
| Parents' Attorneys Listserv | Organizations and individuals working to improve legal representation of parents in child welfare. | Provides attorneys who represent parents from across the country with a networking opportunity to share ideas on cases, tools you use with clients, and things you've done to improve practice. Members are encouraged to share challenges and success stories. |
| National Child Welfare Workforce Institute www.ncwwi.org | | A Service of the Children's Bureau, a member of the T/TA Network Last Updated: November 2009 Page 2 |

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| Title with hyperlink | Membership | Purpose/Activities |
|--|---|---|
| National Association of State Foster Care Managers | Any state employee who is identified as the "State Foster Care Manager | <p>To help foster care managers collectively respond to immediate issues, such as new legislation, that impact their work.</p> <p>Annual meeting, arranged regular informational conference calls, listserv</p> |
| NRCCPS: National Resource Center for Child Protective Services | State Liaison Officers (SLOs) for Child Protective Services with responsibility for their respective jurisdiction's CAPTA grant | <p>Provides support and communication devoted to assisting and informing CPS State Liaison Officers (SLOs) with implementing CAPTA requirements and operationalizing good practice.</p> <p>Activities include a website, annual meetings, teleconference calls on SLO selected topics and newsletters</p> |
| Systems of Care Grantees Information Exchange | Recipients of cooperative agreements from the Improving Child Welfare Outcomes Through Systems of Care program | <p>Members receive individualized programmatic and evaluation technical assistance from the Center and their peers on issues they face as they design and implement systems of care within their States or communities.</p> |

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REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION CENTER PEER NETWORKS

All of the regional implementation centers are charged with implementing peer networks for their members. In order to learn more about peer networking opportunities at the implementation centers contact the center that serves your region.

| Implementation Center | Regions Served | Description (if available) |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center - Learning Community | Regions III and IV | The Learning Leaders Council (LLC) was chartered as a foundation for ACCWIC's peer to peer network. The LLC includes one representative from each state and tribe with a depth of understanding of their state's/tribes child welfare programs and resources. The LLC exchanges information around the successes and challenges to implementation of sustainable system change. |
| Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center - CONNECT | Regions V and VII | CONNECT is a social networking site designed exclusively for people who work in the child welfare community at the state, tribal, county, and federal levels. CONNECT allows you to find people who are doing the same child welfare job you are |

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| | | <p>doing in another place. It may be a worker in another part of your own state, or someone in another system, state or tribe. You can share thoughts and ideas, frustrations and satisfactions, and documents or slide shows with your peers.</p> <p>Whether you are an administrator at the top of your agency or a worker on the front lines, CONNECT can help you learn new ways to look at things or can validate your current practices. You and the children you serve can benefit from better connections and from the support of your peers.</p> |
| Mountains and Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center | Regions VI & VIII | Discussion Boards Coming Soon |
| Northeast and Caribbean IC Peer Networking | Regions I and II | Regional peer networks will share implementation experiences and provide mutual aid and problem-solving. Topic-driven networks might be within the NCIC regions only or part of a multi-region peer network. Support will be provided through conference calls and site visits. Peer to Peer Network Calls will also be scheduled, recorded and available for download. |
| Western and Pacific IC Peer Networking | Regions IX and X | Peer networking provides an opportunity for discussion, collaboration and the exchange of ideas and resources related to systems |

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| | | <p>change in child welfare. Through these opportunities, sites will be able to share strategies, and lessons learned in planning and implementing systems change in Regions IX and X. Opportunities include: webinars and conference calls; a listserv; a regional forum; and other training opportunities.</p> |
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OPEN GROUPS:

| Title with hyperlink | Purpose/Activities |
|--|--|
| African Heritage Learning Community | <p>The African Heritage Learning Community (AHLIC) is organized to support the provision of culturally and linguistically competent (CLC) services, including evidence-based and best practices, along with the opportunity for networking and peer support. The overarching goal is to reduce disparities and contribute to improving outcomes for children, youth, and families within systems of care.</p> |
| Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander Learning Community | <p>Mission is to grow a community where knowledge and skills are actively exchanged among peers so that they may provide culturally and linguistically competent services for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) children, youth and families within system of care communities.</p> |
| Center for the Study of Social Policy – Peer Matches | <p>Since 1995, as part of a broader effort to rely more intentionally on the experience of people working in the field, the Center has worked with several partners and funders to develop and offer a form of peer technical assistance known as Peer Matches. Peer matches are structured opportunities for teams from two or more jurisdictions to exchange practical knowledge and jointly develop solutions for improving results for children, families and neighborhoods.</p> |

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| Title with hyperlink | Purpose/Activities |
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| <p>Child Welfare Peer Training Network</p> | <p>The Peer Training Network is comprised of people who are engaged in some aspect of child welfare training—some members are trainers, some are curriculum writers, some manage training, some are academics—many do a little bit of everything. Members will learn from each other, share ideas and materials, and join discussions on various child welfare training topics.</p> <p>As part of the Peer Training Network, the NRCOI sponsors a quarterly call series focusing on child welfare training. There is also a Child Welfare Training Network Extranet Site. Here you will find documents and recordings from previous Network calls, shared knowledge and materials from Network members in response to information requests, and various child welfare training-related resources.</p> |
| <p>Court Improvement Project - Community of Practice</p> | <p>Supports an open exchange of information, experience, initiatives, and ideas. Site includes “What’s New” and “Upcoming Events,” as well as group topics covering a range of issues relevant to the Court Improvement community. Members can join a discussion in progress, initiate a new discussion, comment on a work-in-progress, or check out the reference documents and links. There is also a list of current Court Improvement Project directors and contact information.</p> |

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| Title with hyperlink | Purpose/Activities |
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| Cultural and Linguistic Competence Community of Practice | <p>The Cultural Competence Action Team (CCAT) supports system of care communities by helping to enhance their efforts to integrate and implement cultural and linguistic competence through its Cultural and Linguistic Competence Community of Practice (CLC-COP). Through the CLC-COP, the CCAT maintains a cohesive vision, facilitates communication and coordination among the learning communities, provides assistance and support to system of care communities, and offers tools and resources to help system of care communities implement and improve their cultural and linguistic competence.</p> |
| Early Childhood Community of Practice | <p>The Early Childhood Community of Practice provides an opportunity for discussion, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas and resources related to young children between the ages of birth to 8 who have mental health challenges and are currently being served by system of care communities. This is an area of service development that is still emerging, and this peer-to-peer exchange among practitioners has great potential to impact the field</p> |
| Fostering Connections Discussion Forum | <p>Beginning in November 2009 will allow state child welfare professionals to interact directly with one another and with national and state foster care experts to discuss the implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Public Law 110-351)</p> |
| Latino Learning Community | <p>The Latino Learning Community provides a forum for system of care initiatives to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and share best practices to advance the development of culturally and linguistically competent mental health systems for Latino children, youth, and families.</p> |

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| Title with hyperlink | Purpose/Activities |
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| Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, or Two-Spirit Learning Community | <p>The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQI2-S) Learning Community provides a forum for Systems of Care and their partners to collaborate, exchange knowledge, network and share best practices to advance the development of culturally and linguistically competent mental health systems for children and youth who are LGBTQI2-S and their families. This learning community also shares information on children and adolescents with same-sex and (or) LGBTQI2-S parents/caregivers. This community collaborates with the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch's National Workgroup to Address the Needs of Youth Who Are LGBTQI2-S; national organizations; and other individuals with expertise in enhancing community knowledge and providing appropriate services and supports.</p> |

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| Title with hyperlink | Purpose/Activities |
|--|--|
| Quality Improvement (QI) Peer Network | <p>Focuses on key issues Quality Improvement (QI) staff are facing and enable QI staff to share (and shamelessly steal from!) the experiences and successes of others. The only requirements to participate are a commitment to QI in child welfare and a willingness to share with peers.</p> <p>Each call, open to all members of the Network, highlights state and county successes in a specific topic area and then includes a facilitated discussion focused on barriers, challenges, and strategies. The goal is for Network participants to lead the agenda development and thereby focus calls on critical QI issues.</p> |
| Title IV-E Child Welfare Agency/ University Partnerships | <p>Title IV-E Child Welfare Agency/ University Partnerships have been developed around the country to develop programs in social work education which prepare undergraduate and graduate students for work in public child welfare, as well as to provide high quality in-service training to practitioners in public child welfare agencies. The various partnership programs across the country have been developing ways to collaborate and share information. This includes the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Child Welfare Symposium, chaired by Alberta Ellett at the University of Georgia, and the IV-E Partners List Serve facilitated by them as well. It also includes a website as another vehicle for information sharing among the growing network of Child Welfare Agency/University Partnerships, including current research projects, child welfare curricula, journal articles and papers, funding announcements, and a database of partnership characteristics.</p> |

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| Title with hyperlink | Purpose/Activities |
|---|---|
| Transition-Aged Youth Community of Practice | The Transition-Aged Youth Community of Practice provides an opportunity for discussion, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas and resources related to transition-aged youth with mental health challenges currently served by system of care communities. |