

June 2024

# THE Children's Representation Program NEWSLETTER

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## HELP SPREAD THE WORD

### About Mockingbird's New EFC Workgroup

The Mockingbird Society is inviting youth and young adults in Washington state who have experience with Extended Foster Care (EFC) to join a monthly workgroup by Zoom that will focus on advocating for EFC rights and support. Participants will be paid a stipend. If you know of anyone that would be interested, please share the attached flier and encourage them to email [susie@mockingbirdsociety.org](mailto:susie@mockingbirdsociety.org).

## HHS Rule Changes

Allison Green, legal director at the NACC, summarized recent HHS rules updates as follows:

- [Foster Care Legal Representation](#) – the new HHS rule, effective 7/9/24, codifies a prior policy change allowing "federal reimbursement for child and parent legal representation in dependency matters" and expanding "the option for legal representation of kinship caregivers, tribes, custodians of a Native American child, and civil legal services designed to achieve the case plan goals of a child in foster care, or candidate for foster care."

### Health Clinic Opens in Vacant Wing of Kitsap Juvenile Detention Center

According to an article from the Kitsap Sun, an “An empty wing at the Kitsap Juvenile Detention Center has been converted into a walkin public health clinic that county officials hope will provide care to those connected with the criminal justice system.”

With the declining population of incarcerated youth, the county sought alternative uses for its excess space. The new Clifton Clinic is open to the public weekdays and offers primary care and behavioral heals services.

Beyond the public, the clinic is particularly focus on caring for justice system-affiliated persons, including those who are formerly incarcerated or involved in therapeutic courts.

Read the full article [here](#).

- [Designated Placement Requirements for LGBTQI+ Children](#) – the new HHS rule, effective 7/1/24, with an implementation deadline of 10/1/26, “requires access to ‘designated placements’ for LGBTQI+ children and defines the requirements for such. It also outlines protections against harassment, retaliation and notice procedures.”
- [Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability](#) – “effective 7/8/24, this rule applies broadly to all HHS programs. There is a section dedicated to foster care programs, with a focus on parental rights and ensuring youth are placed in the ‘most integrated setting.’”

### The New CLBB NeuroLaw Library

Natalece Washington, also with the NACC, recently released the following:

*We have some exciting news we’d like to share from our friends at the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior, which is based in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital (Mass General), the original and largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. They just launched the [CLBB NeuroLaw Library](#) on June 10, 2024, as part of their larger initiative to leverage actionable neuroscience to level the legal playing field and fight the mass incarceration of children and young people while promoting better community safety outcomes.*

*The CLBB NeuroLaw Library will provide open access, free, and robust cutting-edge resources in neuroscience and related fields, law, and public policy with an interactive online platform that includes educational modules. This one-of-a-kind Library is designed to provide accurate and actionable neuroscience to inform law and public policy, debunk junk science, and support equitable and effective outcomes in courts and legislatures. It is designed to have a wide reach and be readily accessible for judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, other legal system professionals, as well as policy makers and people who are incarcerated and communities who are impacted by juvenile and criminal justice decisions.*

*[Here is a video tutorial](#) of how the Library works — you will see there is a comprehension slider that can translate the original material down to a sixth-grade reading level for accessibility. I've attached a press release for you to learn more about this project.*

Here are three new articles from the ABA Litigation Section Children's Rights Litigation Committee. You may find these articles helpful.

**1. [Practical Considerations in Advocating for High-Needs Foster Youth \(americanbar.org\)](#)**

*By Kimberly Abbott*

Cases involving high-needs foster youth can be some of the most challenging, time-consuming, and frustrating cases a children's attorney can handle.

**2. [Tips for Lawyers Representing Children in Foster Care Who Need or Receive Special Education Services \(americanbar.org\)](#)**

*By Leslie Seid Margolis*

Whether a child receives appropriate specialized services and supports can have a significant impact on the child's status in the foster care system.

**3. [Algorithmic Decision-Making in Child Welfare Cases and Its Legal and Ethical Challenges \(americanbar.org\)](#)**

*By Matthew Trail*

Predictive models are sophisticated, but they are based on historical and often aggregate data, and our clients are more than a collection of data points.

## TRAINING UPDATES

### **\*TIME SENSITIVE**

**\*Preserving Families under ICWA.**

**June 25, 2024, from 12:00-1:00 pm**

In honor of family unification month, the American Bar Association is hosting a webinar on June 25, 2024, from 12:00-1:00 addressing what preserving families looks like under ICWA. The presentation will highlight "how we as a community of advocates can better achieve prevention and reunification planning effectively as a primary goal" ... and "on the importance of cultural connections in supporting families within the Indigenous communities involved with the child welfare system." This webinar is free and a registration link can be found [here](#).

### **Coordinated Care Training Series**

Coordinated Care is hosting a series of webinars, anywhere from 1.5 to 2 hours. These trainings concern a range of topics from, hygiene concerns and solutions in youth with a complex history, to trauma informed care, to childhood development, to attachment, and even more. The complete list of trainings from coordinated care are appended to this newsletter.

**\*Immigrant Children and SIJ Relief: Considerations for Families**

**Friday, June 28, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**


The WSBA juvenile law section is hosting a free training, *Immigrant Children and SIJ Relief: Considerations for Families*, on Friday, June 28, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. This is the second of a three-part series on Special Immigrant Juvenile classification (SIJ). In this webinar, the presenters will focus on issues and considerations that come up for immigrant children and their family members during the several to many years' period between the child's arrival in the United States to processing for SIJ classification to becoming a permanent resident. Topics to be covered include a brief review of the SIJ application process; common living situations for children who qualify for SIJ classification; state court considerations for parents and family sponsors; immigration consequences on parents when a child receives SIJ classification; responsibilities of caregivers and educational liaisons; and common challenges for children who grow up in mixed status families or who are reunited with family members after long separations.

You must [register](#) to attend.




# EXTENDED FOSTER CARE WORKGROUP

Help young people aging out of foster care access the resources and support they need.



The Mockingbird Society is inviting youth and young adults (YYA) in Washington state who have experience with Extended Foster Care (EFC) to join our monthly workgroup, which will focus on advocating for EFC rights and support.



**MONTHLY MEETINGS - FIRST MEETING JUNE 13TH**

Second Thursday of the Month from 4:30-5:30pm

**YYA WILL BE STIPENDED AT \$30 PER HOUR**

**ALL MEETINGS WILL BE ON ZOOM**



**TO GET INVOLVED AND RECEIVE THE ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION, EMAIL [SUSIE@MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG](mailto:SUSIE@MOCKINGBIRDSOCIETY.ORG)**



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Massachusetts General Hospital's Center for Law, Brain & Behavior Advances Juvenile Justice in Launching First-of-its-Kind Cutting-Edge Brain Science "NeuroLaw Library"**

**BOSTON** – June 11, 2024 – In an effort to make the legal system more effective and just for all those affected by the law, today, the [Center for Law, Brain & Behavior \(CLBB\)](#), one of the nation's leading institutes committed to providing the most accurate and actionable neuroscience for judges, lawyers, policymakers and journalists, is launching the [NeuroLaw Library](#), the nation's first information resource dedicated to fairer, more effective science-informed judicial outcomes. The NeuroLaw Library is a free, open access repository for those involved in the juvenile and adult criminal justice system in need of accurate and applicable neuroscience resources. The CLBB is based out of Massachusetts General Hospital, a founding member of the Mass General Brigham health system.

The NeuroLaw Library is designed to be used across the judicial spectrum – defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, probation and parole officers, advocates, incarcerated persons and their families – with a curated collection of open-source journal articles, amicus briefs, and affidavits. Additional features include educational videos, a neurolaw dictionary, and toolkits for attorneys and incarcerated persons. Comprehensive indexes and search mechanisms provide an easier user experience, as do accessibility programs for people with a vision or hearing impairment.

"Criminal law is about mental states which all too often rely on antiquated concepts of the human mind and behavior," said Judith G. Edersheim, JD, MD, co-founder and director of the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior. "With advances in neuroscience – or brain science – NeuroLaw Library is an unprecedented opportunity to debunk those inaccurate ideas in the service of justice and to achieve goals such as lower recidivism rates."

Through the use of AI, complex materials in the archive can be adapted to five different reading levels, starting at the sixth grade – a feature designed to meet the needs of justice-involved persons restricted in the amount of time they can spend in the prison library or who may have limited educational backgrounds. As of 2020, the United States prison population totaled 1.26 million persons housed in more than 6,300 federal or state prisons, almost all of which have libraries.

"In making the findings of neuroscience free and available to all, the NeuroLaw Library helps level the courtroom playing field," said Library Director Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD. "It's an invaluable resource for attorneys with heavy caseloads and limited budgets and for defendants and plaintiffs who lack financial means."

The first module of the NeuroLaw Library – titled Juvenile and Emerging Adult Justice – is one of five content modules planned, with a staggered release over the next two years. The release of this module reflects the growing impact of neuroscience research on sentencing reform and sentence mitigation in felony cases involving crimes committed by youth.

Driven by a neuroscience-based understanding of adolescent and young adult brain development, significant changes in laws and court rulings about parole eligibility and mandatory life sentences without parole have occurred at both the federal and state level. The Neurolaw Library will help accelerate that trend.

“CLBB’s Neurolaw Library is a vital resource for those seeking to understand and address the complex issues surrounding youth and mass incarceration,” said Marsha Levick, JD, Chief Legal Officer, Juvenile Law Center. “It’s extensive collection of materials offers critical insights for professionals working to reform the legal system and advocate for fairer, science-informed policy.”

Future modules to be developed over the next two years include Aging Brains/Elder Fraud Prevention; Trauma, Memory and Asylum Law; Sentencing Reform; and Addiction and the Law.

### **About the CLBB**

The Center for Law, Brain & Behavior (CLBB) is based in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital. Our mission is to transform law, public policy, and professional practice in criminal justice through the use of accurate, actionable neuroscience. We train lawyers, judges, probation staff and others who directly shape how the criminal justice system works. Our faculty write and disseminate briefs and white papers, give testimony to legislatures and government entities, and consult with lawyers and judges in criminal defense and prosecution cases. We also forge partnerships to mount demonstration projects, for example: a pre-arraignment diversion program for young adults, a sentencing diversion program, and a financial fraud protection program for older adults with cognitive impairment and vulnerability to undue influence.

### **About Massachusetts General Hospital**

Massachusetts General Hospital, founded in 1811, is the original and largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. The Mass General Research Institute conducts the largest hospital-based research program in the nation, with annual research operations of more than \$1 billion and comprises more than 9,500 researchers working across more than 30 institutes, centers and departments. MGH is a founding member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system.



**Trainings with Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC – Community Educator**  
**June/July/early August 2024**  
(Open to the public)

*All webinars are approximately 1.5 to 2 hours and participants will receive a training certificate that can be used for caregiver licensing purposes or some employer or certification requirements. Contact Zia to book a training for your organization!*

*For further information write to: [Zia.Freeman@CoordinatedCareHealth.com](mailto:Zia.Freeman@CoordinatedCareHealth.com)*

**Hygiene Concerns & Solutions in Youth with a Complex History**

Does your teen not like to bathe? Does your child seem less than fully potty trained (and they are no longer toddlers!) Will the adolescent rarely change their clothes? There is more to these tendencies than just resistant behavior. Learn the causes of poor hygiene and practical solutions to help youth make some changes. For both professionals and caregivers.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC Community Educator with Coordinated Care

When: **Jun 13, 2024, 12:30 PM – 02:00 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpf-uvrzwIGdRvV2FGGux64tu9twFk3DBe>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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**Trauma Informed Care: Connections & Healing**

Children (like adults) often define themselves through their connections. If they have been moved often, pulled from those they are connected and attached to, is any wonder they feel and act fragmented from their lives? This in turn potentially opens the door for further trauma and disconnection. This Trauma Informed training discusses ways for caregivers and professionals to help a child develop connections, practical tips on communicating about trauma and help the child build a strength-based understanding of their personal story. Material developed by National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC Community Educator with Coordinated Care

When: **Jun 25, 2024, 06:30 – 08:00 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckde-orj4qGNzcJ8ir9ceh0AedqopBEr1V>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## **Childhood Development & the Impact of Trauma**

This training provides information on key areas of childhood development; social, cognitive, and physical development are all explored. The training focuses on how complex trauma affects development in infants and toddlers, school aged children, and adolescents. Sponsored by WA Advocates.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC, Community Educator with Coordinated Care

**When: Jul 10, 2024, 01:00 PM – 02:30** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElduorjMiE9M36HAE5whoReAF-ug4ze\\_4](https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJElduorjMiE9M36HAE5whoReAF-ug4ze_4)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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## **Childhood Development & the Impact of Trauma**

This training provides information on key areas of childhood development; social, cognitive, and physical development are all explored. The training focuses on how complex trauma effects development in infants and toddlers, school aged children, and adolescents. Sponsored by Family Impact and Coordinated Care.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC Community Educator with Coordinated Care

**When: Jul 17, 2024 01:00 PM – 02:30** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0tcO6trj4oH9SgotKS2NtyLyCuGqH8NAhr>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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## **Trauma and Food: What is the connection?**

This webinar will discuss the reasons behind food related concerns and is designed for those treating, supporting and caring for children who have experienced trauma and may now have "quirky" eating habits. We will discuss how trauma affects childhood development and behaviors, as well as offer practical and easy ideas to help in regards to eating!

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC Community Educator with Coordinated Care

**When: Jul 18, 2024, 06:00 – 08:00 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsde-qqzMoHtLAovaEQBlARtEWu3xhsUDy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



## **Secondary Trauma & Self Care**

Working with youth who have experienced trauma can be difficult, draining, exhausting, and frustrating. This training will help attendees to understand the differences between Secondary Traumatic Stress, Compassion fatigue and Vicarious trauma. Participants will also be able to recognize warning signs and personal triggers, as well as understand why self-care is important and develop a personal self-care plan.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC Community Educator with Coordinated Care

**When: Jul 23, 2024, 02:00 – 03:30 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqc-GgpzMtHdy4KO8OAmD4L96CS3dhDuHJ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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## **Trauma Informed Care: Being an Advocate for Youth you Serve.**

Children with a background of trauma may need to have several advocates to help them. Becoming an advocate for the youth you serve and care for can be invaluable to a young person in the child welfare system but can be confusing or frustrating to all involved! This webinar provides guidance on: Working with the team members involved, helping others understand the child, and provide trauma informed care. Discussion of treatment modality basics and when to question treatment, as well as caring for your own needs.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC Community Educator with Coordinated Care

**When: Jul 26, 2024, 01:00 – 02:30 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsc-mprzojGd36Z7XzVm91aRw4w1y3pxp3>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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### **Attachment: Beyond Infancy**

Attachment is the foundation of all relationships, and when caring for children with a history of trauma and trust issues, it does not always occur easily. This training addresses the need for Attachment focused care, including some practical tips on how to strengthen bonding to children. This training can help caregivers and professionals understand the basics of how attachment issues are extremely common in children who have experienced complex trauma. These same issues are often a core reason why caretakers and children have challenges in the placement and/or disrupt from the home.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC Community Educator with Coordinated Care

**When: Aug 1, 2024 11:30 AM– 02:30 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcldeytrD0oHNbMPiPYH61IR0fOEY91pXVL>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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### **Hygiene Concerns & Solutions in Youth with a Complex History**

Does your teen not like to bathe? Does your child seem less than fully potty trained (and they are no longer toddlers!) Will the adolescent rarely change their clothes? There is more to these tendencies than just resistant behavior. Learn the causes of poor hygiene and practical solutions to help fix it, whether you are a caregiver or a professional who may be working with youth with a challenging background.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC Community Educator with Coordinated Care

**When: Aug 9, 2024 12:01 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://centene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpc--orz8sEtQZzLpauEFafJn89qc0Shaa>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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### **Caregiver Support Group – virtual:**

**June 12, 27, July 10, 25, August 7, 22, 2024**

**6:00 to 7:30pm on Zoom (more dates will be added for future months)**

This is a virtual state-wide support group intended for *adoptive, foster, guardianship and kinship caregivers*. A place to share concerns, resources and talk to others who understand! Does not matter which placing agency you used previously or are with currently. It is an honest, supportive environment with humor and ideas. Held twice a month.

Facilitated by Zia Freeman, MA, LMHC with Coordinated Care

**(for full flyer information and future dates write to [Zia.Freeman@coordinatedcarehealth.com](mailto:Zia.Freeman@coordinatedcarehealth.com))**

Just click on the link at time of group, no registration needed.

<https://centene.zoom.us/j/93339639459?pwd=OCtNMIIIY1pZNWRvZ0Zld0tHM3ZVdz09>

**Please consult our website for additional monthly training webinars and events:**

<https://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/members/foster-care/medicaid-events.html>