



Michigan's Early Childhood Courts

State Advisory Group

Strengthening Cross-System Efforts &
Alignment

February 10, 2025

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number # 5 U2ZMC46639-02-00, Infant-Toddler Court Program as part of an award totaling \$2,341,847, with 0 percent financed with state government resources. This information or content and conclusions are those of MDHHS and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should an endorsement be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. government.

Agenda

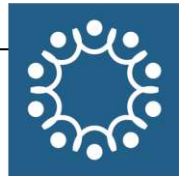
- Welcome and Introductions
- Updates
- Discussion
- Next Steps
- Adjournment





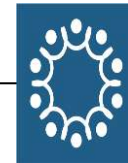
Advancing Collective Efforts to Promote Child and Family Well-being

Michigan Early Childhood Courts State Advisory Group Meeting



**Center for the
Study of
Social Policy**
Ideas into Action

2.10.2025



www.CSSP.org | info@CSSP.org | 202.371.1565



CSSP Introductions

The Center for the Study of Social Policy works to achieve a *racially, economically, and socially just* society in which all children, youth, and families thrive.

To advance this mission, we are guided by our commitment to racial justice and expertise in policy and systems in the areas of family autonomy, health justice, and economic justice.

Our work connects policy, systems, communities, and the experiences of children, youth, and families to drive change



Shadi Houshyar (she/her)
Director, Health Justice
Policy



Alexandra Citrin (she/her)
Director, Family Autonomy and Child
Welfare Policy



Session Objectives

01

Develop a shared understanding of how our collective work impacts and can support children and families

02

Map current initiatives in Michigan that support child and family health and well-being

03

Explore opportunities to advance optimal health and well-being for children and families



Early Childhood

- Early childhood is a sensitive period in development.
- The first few years of life set us on paths toward—or away from—health and well-being in childhood and as adults.
- Experiences in early childhood are critical to having a fair chance to be healthy across the entire lifespan.
- This is also a period filled with **both challenges and opportunities** for parents and caregivers.



Early Childhood

- **Working collectively**, we can support families with young children, address inequities, and promote health and wellbeing for all children and families.
- Critical for public systems and early childhood agencies to **support the entire family**.
- Each agency can **leverage their existing resources** and supports to meet families where they are.
- Working together, we can create a **continuum of supports** to meet the needs of children and families.



Michigan's ITCP Vision for Health and Well-Being

To ensure families have equitable access to services that impact health (e.g., medical and behavioral health, economic, housing, food resources), remove barriers to these services, and advance health equity.

We know we will have achieved this vision when the following exist:

- Equitable access to health services and supports.
- Prevention and promotion strategies that advance quality health are integrated at the system level.
- Race and place do not predict entry into child welfare, and infants are not over-represented in child welfare.



Long-term Goals

1. Children under the age of three years and their families in the child welfare system, or those who are more likely to come into contact with the child welfare system due to health disparities and a lack of equitable services, have equitable access to high-quality, coordinated, developmental, and trauma-informed services.
2. The Infant Toddler Court Program Leadership Team will collaborate with State System partners to explore front end redesign of infrastructure by reviewing social determinants of health and equity to ensure equitable access to effective services that promote well-being and protective factors for children prenatal to three and their families.



Short term Goals

Convene as a team of representatives in systems that serve children prenatal to three and their families to enhance the quality of services and support provided to families and promote their overall health and well-being by identifying opportunities for improvement and ensuring alignment with their needs.

Next Steps:

1. Map current initiatives in Michigan that support child and family health and well-being
2. Explore opportunities to advance optimal health and well-being for children and families



Stay Connected

Shadi Houshyar
Shadi.Houshyar@cssp.org

Alex Citrin
Alexandra.Citrin@cssp.org



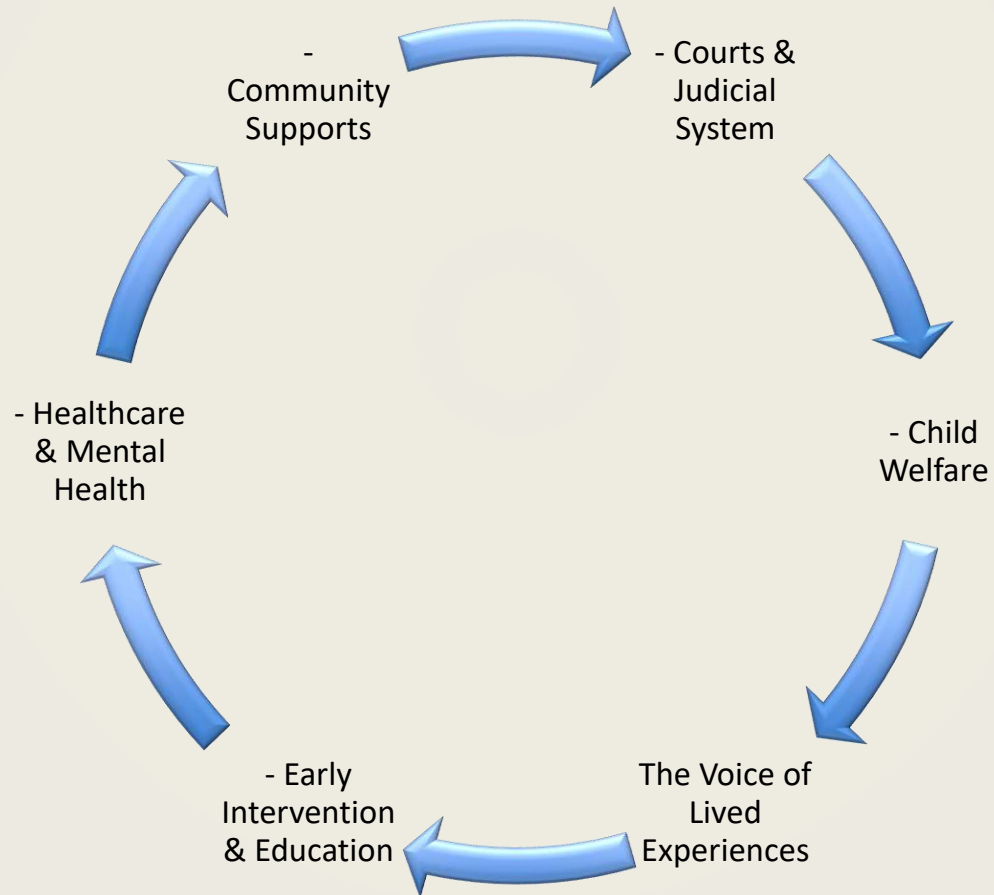
**Center for the
Study of
Social Policy**
Ideas into Action

Why the Collective Work Matters

- Families engage with multiple systems (child welfare, courts, early intervention, etc.)
- Understanding of various initiatives reduces duplication, enhances efficiency, and improves child/family outcomes
- Development of visual and central location to view outcomes



Key Systems Involved



slido

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use



Current efforts promoting healthy families and communities, fatherhood, and lived experience.

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

slido

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use

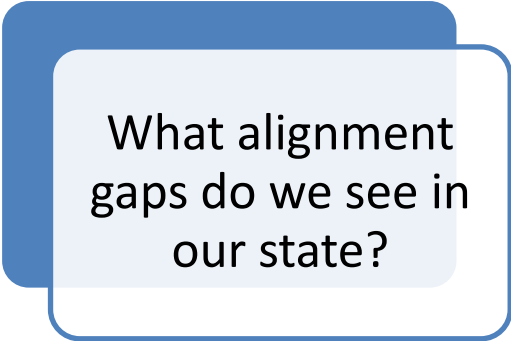


Current Efforts in the courts, and child welfare promoting safety, prevention, and fairness within the system.

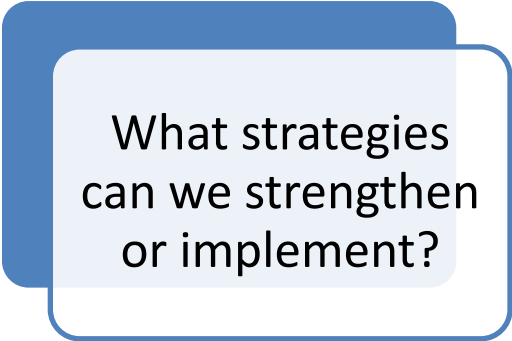
① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.




Ongoing Discussion



What alignment gaps do we see in our state?



What strategies can we strengthen or implement?



Next steps for policy, practice, and funding

Next Steps

- Individual meetings with the organizations and groups mentioned today to further develop the connected visual of our work.
- Legislative and sustainability workgroup meeting-TBD
- SAG Meeting: May 12, 2025, 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm

