



NEBRASKA RESOURCE PROJECT
FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG CHILDREN

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Nebraska Resource Project
for Vulnerable Young Children

Meaning in Every Milestone

Our Mission

Our mission is to improve the well-being of vulnerable young children in Nebraska through supporting and strengthening professionals serving them across systems.

Which Professionals?

- >> Early Childhood educators, including family care home providers, preschool teachers and infant care providers
- >> Juvenile Court professionals, including judges, attorneys and caseworkers
- >> Service providers, including clinicians, family support workers and home visitors

How Do We Support and Strengthen?

In a **FOCUS on Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)** through:

- >> An IECMH Clinician Training platform, which includes Child-Parent Psychotherapy and 2 models of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- >> A Community of Practice for experienced IECMH clinicians
- >> Providing outreach and support to court, early childhood and other professionals about IECMH

In a **FOCUS on Reflective Practice** through:

- >> An 8-month training program in the FAN (Facilitating Attuned Interactions) model
- >> Ongoing Reflective Consultation services for professionals
- >> A Community of Practice (CoP) for trained FAN practitioners

In a **FOCUS on infusing evidence-based practices into courts** through:

- >> Court project support
- >> Court project evaluation
- >> FAN training and ongoing Reflective Consultation to judges, attorneys and caseworkers

Letter From the Project Director



Thank you for taking the time to review our work over the past year. We are excited to show you the stories and the numbers that paint a picture of our projects, our growth and our connections across systems and organizations.

When this project was created in 2015, we were responding to a specific need we had identified after working for years in the Juvenile Court system. Slowly, we have expanded our work as needs have grown, but we have also identified other important areas that impact results and outcomes. One of those areas is Reflective Practice. What started as one Reflective Consultation group with caseworkers has grown into a statewide training center that has worked with over 1,000 professionals.

Our work in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) has also grown in response to identification of need. What started as managing one Child-Parent Psychotherapy training cohort has turned into an IECMH clinical training program, ongoing support for IECMH clinicians and broad outreach to professionals.

We are so grateful for our many partners in this work and for the funders who help support the work we do. Thank you for taking an interest in our project, and please contact us if you see any opportunities for connections.

- Kelli Hauptman
Project Director

Our Team



Jamie Bahm
Assistant Project Director



Dayna Goff
Outreach and Training Specialist



Ashtyn Beck
Senior Training Associate



Cassie Roberts
Project Coordinator



Samantha Byrns
Assistant Project Director



Haifaa Al-saadi
Training Associate



Lindsey Ondrak
Outreach and Training Specialist



Melissa Villarreal
Senior Training Associate



Natalie Chin
Web Technology Expert



Pamela Caudill Jordan
Project Evaluator



Sarah Brown
Senior Training Associate



Tracey Kock
Outreach and Training Specialist



Emily Starr
Graduate Research Assistant



Meredith Cartwright
Graduate Research Assistant



Yanelli Guzman
Graduate Research Assistant

Milestones Met



1,997

All-time total trauma training participants

472

All-time professionals who have participated in Reflective Consultation

1,954

All-time total number of fall webinar participants

201

All-time therapists trained in CPP

5,747

All-time total surveys completed

247

All-time number of FAN training mentor groups

530

All-time total number of people who have completed FAN training

Our 2023 Journey

NRPVYC had a robust and busy 2023. Coming out of the end of the pandemic in full force, we continued supporting professionals in a variety of ways, both virtually and in-person.

Our FAN training went over the 1,000 mark in the number of professionals participating in FAN training. The IECMH training program became a platform in its expansion of support of training programs for IECMH clinicians. And our Court Infusion work continues to grow across courtrooms in Nebraska.

668

Number attending Spring Webinar Series

511

Number attending Fall Webinar Series

21

Total number of NRPVYC consultants

2022

3,300

2023

4,017

Total number of training participants

2022

326

2023

446

Number of FAN training participants

2022

115

2023

220

Number attending RP CoP trainings

15

Number of new FAN training cohorts

6

Number of trainings for NCRP mentors and consultants

46

Number of IECMH events

14

Number of RP CoP events

33

Number of IECMH trainings in the video library

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)

NRPVYC supports the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) of Nebraska's young children by offering (1) an IECMH clinical training platform for clinicians to become trained in evidence-based, trauma-informed IECMH clinical modalities, (2) a Community of Practice (CoP) for experienced IECMH clinicians, and (3) outreach and support on IECMH to professionals working with young children and their families.

New
in
2023!

- >> Developed a guide for Screening for Trauma in Young Children
- >> Revamped the training *Understanding and Screening for Trauma in Young Children*
- >> Managed a PCIT International training cohort with Dr. Lynne Clure
- >> Created a Spanish guide for IECMH Services

IECMH Staff



Samantha Byrns
Assistant Project
Director



Lindsey Ondrak
Outreach and Training
Specialist



Melissa Villarreal
Senior Training
Associate



Haifaa Al-saadi
Training Associate

Why Do We Focus on IECMH?

The first years of a child's life are critical to his or her development, and early experiences have an enormous impact on brain development. Child maltreatment and other adverse factors can disrupt caregiver attachment and have a negative impact on young children.

IECMH services can mitigate or prevent the negative impacts of adverse factors.

IECMH Clinical Training Platform

- >> Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)
- >> Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (IoWA-PCIT)
- >> Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT International)
- >> CPP and PCIT provider directory management

IECMH Outreach & Support for Professionals

- >> IECMH consultation
- >> Training on IECMH services, the impact of trauma, IECMH issues and other topics
- >> Online on-demand classroom

CoP for Experienced IECMH Clinicians

- >> Intensive trainings
- >> Ongoing Reflective Consultation groups
- >> An online, on-demand library

IECMH Clinical Training Platform

Child-Parent Psychotherapy

CPP is an evidence-based therapy for young children (ages 0-5) and their caregivers to help address past traumatic events or loss within the context of the caregiving relationship.

NRPVYC manages the Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) training program in Nebraska with the support of the national CPP dissemination and sustainability development site at UCSF.

36

Number of
CPP therapists
in training

76

Number of
CPP training
consultation
calls

20

Number of CPP
training days

98

Number of
therapists
currently
providing CPP

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

PCIT is an evidence-based dyadic treatment for families with children 2-7 who are exhibiting disruptive or challenging behaviors.

IoWA-PCIT

NRPVYC supports a clinical training program in the IoWA model of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), which has a specific focus on parent-child attachment.

19

Number of
therapists
in training

11

Number of
training days

PCIT International

NRPVYC partnered with Dr. Lynne Clure of Children's Nebraska to support a fall 2023 PCIT International clinical training cohort.

"It allows families to build a secure attachment through nurturing communication, consistency, follow through, and boundaries." - PCIT clinician at graduation.

97% (36 out of 37) reported being either "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with training.

Clinicians see parents' confidence grow and their relationships with their children become stronger.

9

Number of
therapists
in training






6

Number of
training days

IECMH Outreach and Support for Professionals

NRPVYC provides outreach and support about IECMH to professionals in the court, early childhood and other systems.





Outreach Activities

-  Trainings and webinars on IECMH topics
-  Fall Webinar Series
-  An on-demand classroom course on Understanding Early Childhood Attachment, Trauma and Development
-  A 3-hour course and a guide for assessing trauma in young children
-  An online video library that contains recordings of all past webinar series

CoP for Experienced IECMH Clinicians

NRPVYC supports through its IECMH Community of Practice (CoP). The CoP connects clinicians across Nebraska to build community, access free resources, and participate in workshops to continue to build clinical skills in their practice.

CoP Activities

-  Intensive skill building workshops
-  Counselor Café sessions
-  Ongoing Reflective Consultation groups
-  NRPVYC supports through its IECMH Community of Practice (CoP). A CPP Work Reimbursement Program for additional work performed in CPP cases not paid through Medicaid or private insurance.

5

Reflective Consultation groups

225

Number of clinicians in CoP

4

CoP Activities for CPP Clinicians

Reflective Practice

Reflective Practice is a relationship-based practice that assists in mitigating the effects of emotionally intrusive work. Reflective Practice helps develop your self-awareness and increase your awareness of others, allowing you to better regulate, make more thoughtful decisions and have better interactions with others.

Professionals working in the courts, early childhood and other systems may experience chronic stress, which can be detrimental to overall well-being and can negatively impact outcomes for children and families.

The Nebraska Center on Reflective Practice (NCRP) was created in 2016 to provide Reflective Practice services to Early Childhood education, child welfare and other professionals. In partnership with the Erikson Institute, the NCRP utilizes the FAN model of Reflective Practice.

Reflective Practice Staff



Jamie Bahm
Assistant Project
Director



Dayna Goff
Outreach and Training
Specialist



Tracey Kock
Outreach and Training
Specialist



Ashtyn Beck
Senior Training
Associate



Sarah Brown
Senior Training
Associate



Awareness
webinars



Overview
trainings



FAN
trainings
completed



FAN
training
days

1 Reflective Practice FAN Training Program

The NCRP trains professionals in the FAN model through an in-depth 8-month training program

- >> Better emotional regulation
- >> Lower personal distress about work

10

FAN trainers across 4 organizations participating in FAN Training

201

Individuals receiving Reflective Consultation

446

Professionals participating in FAN training

'22

38

Organizations whose professionals participated FAN training

'23

87

2 Ongoing Reflective Consultation Services

The NCRP provides ongoing Reflective Consultation with individuals and groups

- >> More mindfulness and self-compassion
- >> Fewer feelings of loneliness in work challenges

17

FAN consultants with NCRP participating in Reflective Consultation

201

Professionals participating in Reflective Consultation

38

Reflective Consultation groups

3 Community of Practice for Trained FAN Practitioners

The NCRP provides professionals completing FAN training with ongoing support to continue integrating Reflective Practice beyond the training program, including:

- >> Trainings and webinars on FAN-related topics
- >> An online, on-demand library of articles, trainings, videos and resources
- >> Ongoing Reflective Consultation and mentoring

220

Professionals attending CoP trainings

14

Number of CoP events

2023 FAN Conference "Beyond the Basics: Fine-Tuning Capacity Building"

The NCRP partnered again with Erikson Institute to hold an all-day FAN conference focusing on one area of the FAN model. Over 40 CoP members attended this virtual conference, which had a blend of plenaries, sessions and lightning rounds.

Focus on Evaluation Staff

The evaluation work of NRPVYC would not be possible without the work of its graduate and undergraduate students. Since 2015, NRPVYC has had 9 graduate students and 21 undergraduate

students, most of whom have been involved in our evaluation work, which includes surveying families and professionals, analyzing data and writing reports.

In 2023, led by Dr. Pamela Jordan, we were fortunate to have the following students involved in our evaluation work:



Meredith Cartwright
Graduate Research Assistant

Degree pursuing: Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, May 2025

Focus area with NRPVYC: Court Infusion

Quote: "My work keeps me busy, and I have learned a lot about the Juvenile Court process in Nebraska and about program evaluation."



Yanelli Guzman
Graduate Research Assistant

Degree pursuing: PhD in Psychology and Law - Social Cognitive track and a Masters in Legal Studies (MLS), May 2028

Focus area with NRPVYC: Reflective Practice

Quote: "I would describe my work as a meaningful step in the background of Reflective Practice procedures. Most importantly, I learned how Reflective Practice can be focused on all ages."



Julia Stephenson
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Degree pursuing: Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Psychology, May 2024

Quote: "Working with NRPVYC has been a great reminder that studies are about real people facing real-world problems. I am so grateful for the opportunity I've had to contribute to meaningful work through the Court Infusion project."



Matthew Lavicky
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Degree pursuing: BA in Psychology & BS in Criminal Justice/Criminology, May 2024

Quote: "I learned how to interact with parents and professionals involved in the CJ system. I've enjoyed being a part of positive change within my local court system."



Emily Starr
Graduate Research Assistant

Degree pursuing: Ph.D. in Human Services, 2025

Focus area with NRPVYC: Early Childhood Mental Health

Quote: "As a research assistant with NRPVYC, I focus on evaluating the impact and effectiveness of training programs and webinars designed for IECMH professionals. Through my research assistantship, I've learned to bridge theory and practice in child development, especially within IECMH."



Mel Schwensen
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Degree pursuing: Philosophy, May 2025

Quote: "I have gained a greater understanding of the adversities many parents in the Lincoln community face and how those experiences affect their children. I have enjoyed my time with NRPVYC, and I cannot wait to watch the project grow."

Court Infusion

For nearly 10 years NRPVYC has partnered with Juvenile Courts and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to infuse therapeutic principles and evidence-based practices into court communities. NRPVYC has supported 9 court projects and in 2023 was a major partner in both the Lancaster County Safe and Healthy Families Court (SHFC) and the Family Treatment Drug Court (FTDC). NRPVYC staff provide support and training for the court professionals, as well as program evaluation for the specialized court tracks.

NRPVYC Court Infusion Therapeutic Principles

- >> Cultivate healthy and productive professional relationships
- >> Adapt court processes to improve experiences and outcomes for children and families
- >> Increase use of trauma-informed evidence-based Early Childhood Mental Health services

1,267

All-time number of cases reviewed

227

SHFC cases reviewed, including control cases

40

Number of partner meetings

472

FTDC cases reviewed, including control cases

9

Number of court projects NRPVYC has worked on

574

Historical cases reviewed

219

Number of evaluation surveys completed

74

Attorneys + judges receiving Reflective Consultation

Court Infusion

Reflective Consultation for Caseworkers, Attorneys and Judges

At the heart of NRPVYC's Court Infusion Therapeutic Principles is a focus on relationships. NRPVYC works within court communities to cultivate healthy and productive professional relationships through Reflective Consultation. Reflective Consultation for caseworkers, attorneys and judges allows these professionals the time to slow down and reflect on past actions, emotions, experiences and responses to help build reflective capacity and resilience in their work thus improving their overall well-being.

9

Reflective Consultation groups for attorneys across Nebraska

2

Reflective Consultation groups for judges across Nebraska

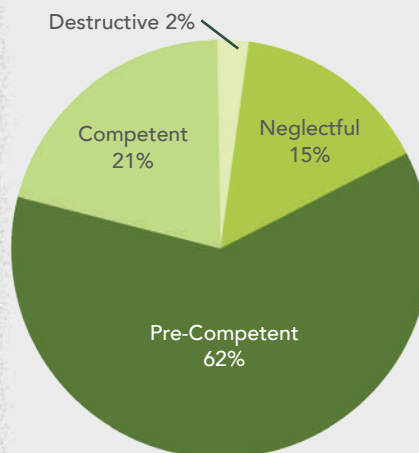
17

DHHS staff receiving Reflective Consultation

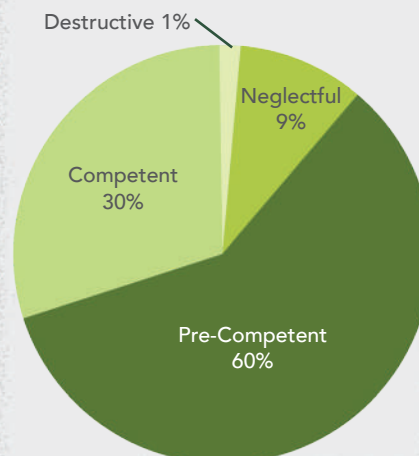
In 2021 and 2023 NRPVYC surveyed professionals in Lancaster County who work within the intersection of domestic violence and child welfare on their perceptions of the community's response to domestic violence.

Safe & Together Continuum

Shift Toward Competence *Baseline*



Shift Away From Neglectful *Follow-up*



Safe and Healthy Families Initiative

NRPVYC is a major partner for the Safe and Healthy Families Initiative (SAHFI) in Lancaster County. SAHFI, funded by the Woods Charitable Fund, has created a community-coordinated response for domestic violence-related child maltreatment. NRPVYC provides project leadership and program evaluation for SAHFI. SAHFI project goals include:

- >> Improve child safety through a domestic violence-informed coordinated response while strengthening partnerships with parents
- >> Enhance the system's response to hold perpetrators of abuse more accountable
- >> Provide professionals with domestic violence education and professional development training

SAHFI partners include the Family Violence Council, Voices of Hope, Friendship Home, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, CASA for Lancaster County, BraveBe Child Advocacy Center and the Lancaster County Attorney's Office.

Partner Spotlights

“At the heart of our program is a commitment to procedural justice – the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals involved in the child welfare system. By upholding principles of transparency, voice and respect, NRPVYC has helped to instill trust and confidence in our processes, fostering a sense of procedural fairness that empowers stakeholders and promotes positive engagement with the legal system.”

- Judge Roger Heideman, Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County

IECMH Clinician Spotlight

Sarah Kirkwood has been a licensed clinician for 10 years and has increasingly focused her work on supporting families involved in the child welfare system and who have experienced traumatic events. Sarah has worked with over 150 families through CPP and PCIT in her career. She also provides reflective consultation support to Family Care Home Providers, Service Coordinators and is a FAN mentor for clinicians and other professionals. Recently, she has become more involved with the Safe and Healthy Families initiative to advocate for young children who have been co-survivors of domestic violence.

“I find passion in the ability to be the voice for infants and young children who have had traumatic or adverse experiences in their life. I feel it is imperative to have these avenues for infants and young children to assist the adults in their life and the systems they are involved in to seek appropriate services and provide them with the interventions to build resiliency and promote healthy futures.”

- Sarah Kirkwood

Reflective Practice Trainer Spotlight

Carrie Gottschalk with Nebraska Extension has her roots in IECMH but her talents have led her to focus on building relationships and fostering engagement. Carrie was an original FAN trainer when the NCRP was developed in 2016 and since that time has trained 12 FAN cohorts and mentored over 50 professionals. In 2023, Carrie became a Master Trainer in Nebraska with the Erikson Institute. Carrie has also supported the NCRP in a variety of projects, including booster trainings, materials development and outreach work.

“Regardless of your role, the FAN provides this beautiful framework for holding in mind that at the core of every conversation, regardless of the topic or needs of the conversation, are people. The FAN helps us honor the humanity and emotional needs at play throughout every interaction.”

- Carrie Gottschalk

Advisory Board

Amy Bunnell

Co-Director, Early Development Network

Barbara Jessing

Consultant and Trainer, Fontenelle House

Deb VanDyke-Ries

Director, Nebraska Court Improvement Project

Dr. Holly Hatton

Assistant Professor & Early Childhood Extension Specialist, UNL

Jen Goettemoeller Wendl
Early Childhood Consultant

Joanna Halbur

Director of Mental Health Services, Project Harmony

Judge Elise White

Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court, Lancaster County

Judge Larry Gendler

Retired Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court

Kathleen Stolz

Deputy Director, NE DHHS-Division of Children and Family Service

Lynne Brehm

Vice President, NE Children and Families Foundation

Melanie Kirk

Attorney

Michelle Nunemaker

Systems of Care Administrator, NE DHHS Division of Behavioral Health

Sarah Bernhardt

Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner, Options in Psychology

Tana Fye

Attorney

Our Partners



Erikson Institute



NEBRASKA RESOURCE PROJECT
FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG CHILDREN

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