



Building Prevention Systems and Supports in States

Joint Fellows Convening

Child Welfare · Early Childhood · Youth Homelessness

Embassy Suites, Denver Downtown Convention Center

Silverton Ballroom | Denver | Sept. 12-14, 2022

Meeting Overview:

Child welfare systems are undergoing a sea change throughout the United States as policymakers and researchers explore how to shift focus and resources to proactively *preventing* child abuse and neglect rather than primarily *reacting* when it does occur. This meeting will introduce fellows to essential concepts in an interactive peer-learning setting.

This program is designed to help you achieve the following goals:

- Strengthen your knowledge of child welfare and child maltreatment prevention.
- Explore options to prevent child maltreatment and mitigate the consequences when it does occur.
- Foster new relationships among fellows, faculty and NCSL staff.
- Develop an individual legislative action plan.
- Identify opportunities for NCSL to support your individual action plan.

For the first time, Child Welfare Fellows will learn about and consider the relationships between child welfare, early childhood and youth homelessness through cross-over programming with Early Childhood Fellows and Youth Homelessness Fellows.

Monday, Sept. 12 | Silverton Foyer – 2nd floor

3 p.m.	<p>Registration Opens</p> <p>Pick up your name tag and meeting folder.</p>
5:30-7:30 p.m.	<p>Welcome and Networking Reception</p> <p>Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages and conversation with child welfare, early childhood and youth homelessness fellows. Meet at 5:20 p.m. at the valet station on the ground floor of the hotel. We will walk as a group to Earls Kitchen + Bar.</p> <p><i>Location: <u>Earls Kitchen + Bar</u> 1600 Glenarm Pl #140, Denver, CO 80202</i></p>

Tuesday, Sept. 13 | Silverton Ballroom Salon 3 – 2nd floor

7:30-8:30 a.m.	<p>Breakfast and Networking</p> <p>Breakfast is provided by the hotel and available in the restaurant.</p>
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8:30-9:45 a.m.	<p>Joint Opening Plenary: Putting Money to Work for Children and Families</p> <p>Learn from Elizabeth Gaines, a nationally recognized expert in public financing, how to optimize funding to better meet the needs of young children and youth. Gaines is the founder and chief executive officer of Children’s Funding Project, a nonprofit social impact organization that helps communities and states consider opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing.</p> <p><i>Moderators:</i> Wade Fickler, NCSL and Tahra Johnson, NCSL <i>Speaker:</i> Elizabeth Gaines, founder and CEO, Children’s Funding Project</p>
9:45-10 a.m.	<p>Break</p>
10-10:45 a.m.	<p>Reconnect with the Child Welfare Fellows</p> <p>Reengage with fellows and share highlights of any child welfare-focused action you or your state took since our June meeting in Seattle. NCSL staff will preview what’s in store throughout the meeting.</p> <p><i>Moderators:</i> NCSL Staff</p>
10:45 a.m.- 12 p.m.	<p>The Role of Relationships and Accountability in Advancing Child Welfare and Prevention Policy</p> <p>This session will highlight state strategies to provide accountability and coordination for child welfare systems, including coordination between legislatures and state agencies on initiatives to prevent child maltreatment.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Jill Yordy, NCSL <i>Speakers:</i> Minna Castillo-Cohen, director, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Colorado Department of Human Services; Jerry Bruce, J.D., director, Georgia Office of the Child Advocate</p>
12:15-1:15 p.m.	<p>Lunch & Networking</p> <p>Lunch will be provided by NCSL. Fellows and faculty are invited to engage in conversation.</p>



1:15-2:15 p.m.	<p>Substance Use During Pregnancy: Creating Connections to Reduce Child Maltreatment</p> <p>This session will introduce fellows to prevention and treatment options for pregnant women experiencing challenges with substance use during pregnancy and community supports for them and their families. Fellows will also have the opportunity to learn about Plans of Safe Care and efforts to support families in Denver through the Kemp Center.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Tammy Hill, NCSL</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Ken DeCerchio, MSW, CAP, program director, Center for Children and Family Futures, National Center on Substance Use and Child Welfare; Kathryn Wells, M.D., executive director, Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect</p>
2:15-2:30 p.m.	<p>Break</p> <p><i>Youth Homelessness Fellows will join us in Silverton Ballroom Salon 3</i></p>
2:30-3:30 p.m.	<p>Meeting the Complex Needs of Youth Exiting Foster Care</p> <p>In this joint session with the Youth Homelessness Fellows, participants will learn from the data collected by Think of Us and hear what youth and young adults who have experienced the foster care system need to safely and securely transition into adulthood and avoid homelessness. This session will include state policy examples and options for policymakers to consider.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Heather Wilson, NCSL</p> <p><i>Speaker:</i> Taylor Vitello, director of proximate policy, Think of Us</p>
3:30-3:45 p.m.	<p>Break</p> <p><i>Youth Homelessness Fellows will return to their meeting room</i></p>



3:45-4:45 p.m.	<p>Child Welfare Policy Speed Rounds</p> <p>Experts will briefly share information on key policy issues, and fellows will consider strategies during table discussions. Fellows will rotate through the tables.</p> <p>Policy topics and speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Families and the Challenges of Substance Use—Ken DeCerchio, MSW, CAP, program director, Center for Children and Family Futures, National Center on Substance Use and Child Welfare <i>Facilitator:</i> Tammy Hill, NCSL2.) Child Welfare Workforce Recruitment and Retention—Josh Cunningham, project manager, Employment, Labor and Retirement Program, NCSL and Minna Castillo-Cohen, director, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Colorado Department of Human Services <i>Facilitator:</i> Khanh Nguyen, NCSL3.) Leveraging Medicaid Programs—Emily Blanford, program principal, Health Program, NCSL <i>Facilitator:</i> Jill Yordy, NCSL
4:45-5 p.m.	<p>Debrief, Action Planning and Group Photo</p>
6 p.m.	<p>Dinner on Your Own</p> <p>Venture out on your own or with others to enjoy Denver’s food scene. Save your receipts. NCSL will reimburse up to \$40.</p>
Wednesday, Sept. 14 Silverton Ballroom Salon 3 – 2nd floor	
7:30-8:30 a.m.	<p>Breakfast and Networking</p> <p>Breakfast is provided by the hotel in the restaurant.</p> <p><i>Check out of your hotel room.</i></p>
8:45-8:55 a.m.	<p>Meet in the ground floor lobby to board bus and travel to Warren Village (1323 Gilpin St., #1301, Denver)</p>



9-11 a.m.	<p>Site Visit to Warren Village Experiencing a Two-Generational Model of Prevention</p> <p>Board a bus to Warren Village, a metro Denver program known for moving people from poverty toward self-sufficiency. Learn how Warren Village and the programs housed within it support low-income, single-parent families by providing housing, high-quality care and learning opportunities for young children, as well as navigators to help residents set and achieve goals. Hear from staff, residents and alumni as you learn more about the people, programs and supports provided at Warren Village. Media may be present.</p>
11-11:15 a.m.	<p>Board bus and return to hotel</p>
11:15 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.	<p>Reflections, Next Steps and Wrap Up</p> <p>Use this time to reflect on the key takeaways from this program and share your next steps and how you will apply what you have learned back in your state.</p> <p><i>Moderators:</i> NCSL Staff</p>
12:15-1:40 p.m.	<p>Joint Closing Lunch & Keynote Address: Up and Down the Prevention Continuum</p> <p>Engage with fellows across the three programs over a networking lunch. Then hear from Melissa Merrick, president and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America. Merrick will share her organization’s vision and the important role you as lawmakers and NCSL policy fellows can play. We will consider the continuum of prevention strategies and opportunities for parents and other caregivers to create better outcomes for their children.</p> <p><i>Moderators:</i> Kate Blackman, NCSL and Wade Fickler, NCSL <i>Speaker:</i> Melissa Merrick, Ph.D., president and CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America</p>
1:40-2 p.m.	<p>Closing Ceremony: You’re Awesome, but Now What?</p> <p>Congratulations! Enjoy final closing remarks by NCSL’s CEO as you complete your time as a Child Welfare Fellow. NCSL is your organization, and we’re here to support you as you return home with new subject-matter knowledge and ideas about how to better meet the needs of your constituents.</p> <p><i>Moderators:</i> Kate Blackman, NCSL and Wade Fickler, NCSL <i>Speaker:</i> Tim Storey, CEO, NCSL</p>

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