

# Helping Babies From the Bench to the Backyard: Systematic Support for Children Birth to Three

## WEBINAR SERIES

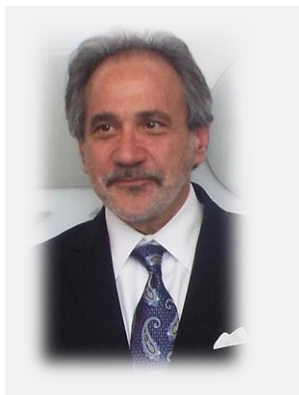
A series of five webinars and community discussions that offer information and assistance on how to support young children and families who have experienced traumatic events, including the collective experience of COVID-19, is being offered. Knowing how to identify and support young children through early intervention services and beyond often requires a team approach. The team may be one that meets regularly or meets due to formal child welfare proceedings, only for assessment, or not formally at all. This series will help you think about your place on this team and about how to best help children affected by trauma, identify others who should or could be on the team, and work together for the best outcomes. Challenging times call for us to think outside our own disciplines to solve the unique issues that are affecting early childhood development for children exposed to trauma.

Jennie Cole-Mossman, MA, LIMHP, and the Honorable Lawrence Gendler (ret.) will lead these sessions.

**Jennie Cole-Mossman** is a licensed independent mental health practitioner and Technical Expert Lead at JBS International, Inc. Her expertise spans child-parent relationships, early childhood development, family drug courts, dependency court system work, opioid and other drug use disorders, and trauma screening and treatment for young children (ages 0 to 5). Ms. Cole-Mossman served previously as Co-Director of the Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children at the Center on Children, Families at the Law at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and as Infant and Toddler Court Improvement Coordinator for NE, as well as led the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-funded Safe Start project for young children in juvenile dependency drug courts. Prior to this, she was in private practice for 13 years, serving children who experienced trauma and providing expert testimony and early childhood mental health evaluation. Ms. Cole-Mossman conducts extensive training and provides training and technical assistance nationally to strengthen relationships among providers of children's trauma services, dependency courts, drug courts, and child welfare, with a focus on increasing trauma care for infants and toddlers. She is also a specialist in the use of reflective practice to decrease secondary trauma and to assist with implementation of trauma-informed care for judges, attorneys, and a range of victim service providers.



**Judge Lawrence Gendler (ret.)** was Sarpy County's (NE) first, full-time juvenile prosecutor and only the second juvenile court judge appointed in the county. Since his appointment, he has served on several committees and initiatives across NE. In 2006, he was appointed to the NE Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Committee, became Vice Chair in 2010, and was appointed Chair in the final year of his term. Judge Gendler is an inaugural member of the Supreme Court Committee on Problem-Solving Courts and oversaw the establishment of NE's first juvenile drug court. In 2006, the Supreme Court established a statewide project called "Through the Eyes of the Child." Judge Gendler was the Project Chair since its inception, overseeing the establishment and ongoing work of 25 judge-led, multidisciplinary teams across the state, focused on improving outcomes for youth and families in the court system. As Project Chair, he was appointed as an initial member of the Supreme Court Commission for the Protection of Children in 2006. As part of his Commission duties, he chaired an education subcommittee. Seeking to improve educational outcomes for court-involved youth, the subcommittee designed and implemented an education court report form, which has become a mandatory part of all child welfare and juvenile justice court reports.



# Session Descriptions & Registration Information

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## **Session #1: Tackling Trauma: Understanding and Identifying Early Childhood Trauma in Our Changing World**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 12:00-1:30pm CT**

- Even very young children can experience trauma. Their limited capacity to use language often makes the identification of trauma and recognizing its impact on the child difficult. Throughout the last couple of years, the collective experience of COVID-19 has introduced challenges to providing the essential ingredients for children to develop on a healthy trajectory, often exacerbating or creating other traumatic experiences or resulting in a lack of resources to help identify and heal from trauma. This 1½ hour webinar provides a basic overview of early childhood trauma, including definitions, impacts, and symptoms of trauma in young children. It also includes some strategies that are effective in supporting young children and their families or caregivers who have experienced trauma.

## **Session #2: Boosting Resilience: Identifying and Supporting Protective and Resiliency Factors**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 12:00-1:30pm CT**

- All children can benefit from consistent support and nurturing. Early childhood provides both one of the most vulnerable and one of the most malleable periods of development. This session will focus on the concepts of resilience and protective factors for young children. It will include how to identify formal supports and services that can be augmented and sustained by informal supports. The session also will discuss some trends nationwide in supporting the development of young children affected by trauma, substance use, and other risk factors, as well as trends in local needs.

## **Session # 3: Tips for Tots From the Bench: Juvenile Court and Early Intervention**

**Thursday, April 14, 2022, 12:00-1:30pm CT**

- Not all children involved in early intervention services are also involved in the child welfare system, but there is crossover. Knowing the court process, parties to court proceedings, and opportunities for early intervention professionals to be involved helps with continuity of care for young children and their families. This session will provide information about the law relating to early intervention, different court proceedings and court professionals, and why working with this system is important to the well-being of young children and their families.

## **Session 4: Persevering in a Pandemic: Coping With Burnout and Secondary Trauma While Caring for Young Children**

**Tuesday, April 19, 12:00-1:30 CT**

- Early childhood workforces have long struggled with the stress of serving, educating, and caring for young children, while assisting their families to promote healthy development. COVID-19 has intensified the needs of this workforce, including a desire to help children who have lost ground developmentally due to the pandemic. This session will discuss the impact of COVID-19 on early childhood professionals and on the children they serve, as well as provide information on local and national models of support that can be implemented to assist professionals.

## **Session 5: Being a Team Player: Working Collaboratively to Meet the Needs of Young Children**

**Monday, May 2, 12:00-1:30 CT**

- From the bench to the backyard, communities have many ways of attempting to support their youngest members. Creating or supporting existing structures that help young children in early intervention helps everyone in the community. This session will talk about collaborations, partnerships, or teams that may already exist and function as mechanisms to coordinate services and supports for young children. It will present ideas for service flexibility through teamwork that have improved outcomes for young children. Bring your creativity to this session as we hope to stimulate ideas you can begin from your position that can bring about real system integration to assist young children.

**REGISTER NOW**

