

Working With Parents Who are Substance-Involved: Attachment, Trauma, and Child Welfare

Kimberly Renk, Ph.D.

Professor, University of Central Florida

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11:00am – 12:00pm PST

2:00pm – 3:00pm



WEBINAR DETAILS

More attention needs to be given to evidence-based parenting programs for high risk families who are substance- and child welfare-involved. The overlap between parents' substance- and child welfare-involvement has been evident for some time, as up to 69 percent of children who are removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care have a substance-involved parent (e.g., AFCARS, 2019). Given that the youngest of children are over-represented in these estimates (USDHHS, 2012), the specific vulnerability of young children in high risk families should help guide our decisions in choosing evidence-based parenting programs for implementation.

Given that substance-involved parents have difficulty building secure attachments with their young children, Circle of Security (CoS; Powell et al., 2009), an evidence-based, attachment-focused parenting program, may serve substance-involved families with young children well. Consequently, this webinar will outline the risks that young children of substance-involved parents face, the importance of secure attachment for fostering more positive outcomes for these young children, and the ways in which CoS can be best implemented with substance-involved parents in residential substance treatment programs. Field experiences that exemplify implementation as well as successes and difficulties across different programs in Florida will be included.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Kimberly Renk, Ph.D., is currently a Professor in the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, where she directs the Understanding Young Children and Families Research Clinic and Laboratory. Having completed predoctoral internship and infant mental health fellowship training at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, the majority of Dr. Renk's work addresses the needs of families with young children who are experiencing emotional and behavioral difficulties, traumatic family stressors, and abuse and neglect.

Dr. Renk has authored more than 100 articles and book chapters as well as numerous presentations in the areas of child psychology and infant mental health. She most recently has received research funding from the Orlando Health Foundation, Florida Office of Court Administration/Zero to Three, Central Florida Foundation/100 Women Strong/Early Learning Coalition of Orange County, Florida State University's Florida Institute for Child Welfare, and Nemours Children's Hospital. Dr. Renk is licensed as a Psychologist and endorsed by the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health as an Infant Mental Health Mentor-Clinical.



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