



NEBRASKA  
RESOURCE PROJECT  
FOR VULNERABLE  
YOUNG CHILDREN

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# Branching Out



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## Letter from the Directors

Another year has quickly passed and here we are again presenting to you our work of the past year. Our 10th Anniversary celebration last year was a wonderful time to reflect on how far we have come in 10 years. We went from a few staff in 2015 to 14 full-time staff all with their own skills, talents, and expertise contributing to the NRPVYC mission. We went from a few projects to multiple training programs spanning from one hour in length to 18 months.

But time continues to pass and this year we are training our 25,000th professional. Our mission of supporting and strengthening professionals who serve young children and their families in Nebraska is embedded into every part of our work. If we are not supporting the professionals within our systems, our systems will not do what we want them to do. Professionals are human, and humans need support and help with being equipped for the job they're tasked to do.

We are doing that in so many different ways. This year, we are continuing to expand our CE-CERT Training Program with the goal of giving professionals the concrete skills they personally need to stay engaged in the work, process experiences more effectively, and recover from the inevitable stress of their jobs. We are offering 4 clinical training programs for clinicians to learn evidence-based clinical modalities for young children and their families. We continue to train hundreds of professionals each year in the FAN model of reflective practice to help them build skills to improve their interactions with others. We are supporting several juvenile court projects to successfully implement programs intended to improve the child welfare court process for children and families.

It's a simple but effective mission – that by helping the professionals thrive in their work, we help Nebraska's young children and families. We are committed to continuing the mission and thank you for your support and partnership.



- Kelli Hauptman, Jamie Bahm, and Samantha Byrns



## Our Mission

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

## How we do this

Our unique approach is rooted in working directly and closely with Nebraska communities and organizations to support professionals, as a whole person, in their work..

- **Empowering Professionals:** We help professionals build specific skills, gain knowledge, and sustain their career in the helping professions.
- **Strengthening Court Systems:** We directly support courts working with families to better meet their needs and achieve improved outcomes.

# The NRPVYC Approach

## Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)

*IECMH services can prevent or mitigate the negative effects of maltreatment, neglect, trauma, or loss.*

Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Clinical Training

Integration of Working Models of Attachment into Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (IoWA-PCIT) Clinical Training

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) International Clinical Training

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Clinical Training

DC:0-5™ Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood Training

## Nebraska Center on Reflective Practice

*Reflective practice helps professionals manage the emotional impact of their work and improve their interactions with others.*

Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) Training Program

Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma (CE-CERT) Training Program

## Court Infusion

*Focusing on relationships and infusing evidence-based practices into court processes can improve outcomes for children and families.*

Current Projects

Lancaster County Safe & Healthy Families Initiative and Court

Lancaster County Family Treatment Drug Court (FTDC)

FAN Training and consultation for judges, attorneys, and caseworkers

Needs assessments and program evaluation to courts

# The NRPVYC Team

Our varying roles and responsibilities – from training coordinator to program evaluator to outreach specialist to clinical trainer – complement each other and comprise the critical parts of our work to form a strong team with a single mission of improving the lives of young children through supporting professionals.



Samantha Byrns, Dayna Goff, Lily Lagerman, Lindsey Ondrak, Melissa Villarreal, Jamie Bahm, Haifaa Al-saadi, Emily Starr, Cassie Roberts, Ashtyn Beck, Kelli Hauptman, Krista Roebke, Tracey Kock. Not in picture: Pamela Caudill Jordan, Meredith Cartwright

## Our team at work



# Our Partners

We are grateful for the many branches of our NRPVYC tree that include national, state, and community partners. Their collaboration and support is essential to the success of our work.



**119**  
partners in 2025

## Major NRPVYC Partners



## The Advisory Board Team

✦ **Amy Bunnell**  
*Co-Director*  
Early Development Network

✦ **Barbara Jessing**  
*Consultant and Trainer*  
Fontenelle House

✦ **Claire Bazata**  
*Attorney*  
Berreckman & Bazata

✦ **Deb VanDyke-Ries**  
*Director*  
Nebraska Court Improvement Project

✦ **Dr. Holly Hatton**  
*Assistant Professor & Early Childhood Extension Specialist*  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

✦ **Jen Goettemoeller Wendt**  
*Early Childhood Consultant*

✦ **Joanna Halbur**  
*Director of Mental Health Services*  
Project Harmony

✦ **Judge Amy Schuchman**  
*Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court*  
Douglas County

✦ **Judge Elise White**  
*Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court*  
Lancaster County

✦ **Kathleen Stolz**  
*Deputy Director*  
NE DHHS-Division of Children and Family Service

✦ **Melanie Kirk**  
*Legal Director*  
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

✦ **Michelle Nunemaker**  
*Central Regional Vice President*  
Lutheran Family Services

✦ **Sami Bradley**  
*Vice President*  
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

✦ **Sarah Adams**  
*Therapist*  
Institute for Resilience

## Special Partner Highlights

### Reflective Practice

The NCRP could not be the Nebraska hub for reflective practice without its partners.

- Since 2017, FAN model developer **Erikson Institute** has supported the NCRP and our Nebraska partners in building and expanding FAN Training through ongoing mentorship, skills building, and direct support of the work.
- In 2024, CE-CERT model developer **Dr. Brian Miller** began supporting the NCRP in building CE-CERT Training. NCRP is currently partnering with **Dr. Kate Murray**, with Duke University, on a multi-site study to establish the evidence base for CE-CERT.
- In 2025, the NCRP partnered with over 30 agencies in bringing FAN or CE-CERT Training to their staff.

### IECMH



With the addition of PCIT International to the training platform, we are happy to welcome **Dr. Lynne Clure** as a training partner. In addition to running her Omaha-based clinical psychology practice, Dr. Clure builds and supports PCIT by providing sessions, training within-agency, and, most recently, earning her certification as a Regional Trainer. In her spare time, Dr. Clure also plans the biennial Midwest PCIT Conference which we are also proud sponsors of.

### Court Infusion






**Taileigh Sorenson**, Problem Solving Court Coordinator with the Nebraska Administrative Office of Courts and Probation, has partnered with NRPVYC since 2022 in supporting the Lancaster County Family Treatment Drug Court and Safe and Healthy Families Court. Taileigh has worked closely with NRPVYC to strengthen evaluation and data practices, improve data-informed decision-making, and increase the use of evidence-based infant and early childhood mental health services. Taileigh's leadership, collaborative spirit, and focus on improving outcomes have strengthened these court programs and enhanced NRPVYC's ability to support court programs that promote safety, healing, and stability for children and families.



# Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH)

## Focus Areas

-  Clinical Training Platform
-  Outreach and Training for Non-Clinical Professionals
-  Community of Practice (CoP) for IECMH Clinicians

## IECMH Clinical Training Platform

**Accessible Excellence:** Trusted by Nebraska clinicians and agencies to provide the best and most affordable IECMH clinical training.

### Clinical modality trainings

#### Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)

*Helps young children ages 0-5 who have experienced trauma or loss*

**25** clinicians trained

**29** clinicians received enhanced reimbursement through ARPA funding

#### Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

- PCIT International <sup>NEW</sup> and IoWA-PCIT  
*Helps young children ages 2-7 exhibiting behavioral problems*

**18** clinicians trained

#### Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) for children <sup>NEW</sup>

*Helps young children ages 2+ process traumatic experiences or other negative emotions*

**47** clinicians trained

*A 48% increase compared to 2024*



#### Did you know?

In 2025, NRPVYC established PCIT International and EMDR as permanent clinical training offerings, with trainings now offered annually.

### Diagnostic training

#### DC:0-5™ Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health of Infancy and Early Childhood system <sup>NEW</sup>

*Helps clinicians better diagnose young children*

**42** clinicians trained



CPP training sessions in 2025



## 2025 IECMH CoP Fall Workshop: Becoming a Long-Hauler: Practical Strategies for Sustaining in This Good, Hard Work




2-day  
workshop  
October 2-3, 2025



Held at the  
peaceful Lied Lodge  
in Nebraska City



This workshop was designed to help IECMH clinicians enhance the skills to sustain their careers. Led by Dr. Brian Miller, founder of CE-CERT, the event offered practical strategies, reflective exercises, and group discussions focused on managing work stress and emotional strain.



**72**  
attendees from  
22 different  
cities/towns



Bonfire with s'mores for fellowship



## EMDR expansion in Nebraska 2025 training: EMDR Sandtray Specialist Training




5-day Intensive  
August 11-15, 2025



Held at Project  
Harmony in  
Omaha, NE

NRPVYC partnered with Project Harmony and the Agate Institute to host an EMDR Sandtray Specialist Training in Omaha.

EMDR is an evidence-based therapy that helps children ages 2 and up process trauma by accessing adaptive memory networks, leading to positive shifts in their emotions and perceptions.




**47**  
mental health  
clinicians  
attended



**Expanding Clinical Expertise:** Most attendees received scholarships to learn how to integrate Sandtray techniques with EMDR to effectively treat complex trauma in children, adolescents, and their parents.

## DC:0-5™ Clinical Training

### Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood



For clinicians who want to advance their skills in assessment, diagnosis, and case formulation.

#### Did you know?

Identifying and treating mental health needs in infants and young children requires specialized training.



In 2025, we expanded our IECMH clinical training platform to include DC:0-5™ Clinical Training.

1 virtual training



1 in-person training



30

mental health clinicians completed

Through a combination of virtual and in-person sessions, 30 mental health clinicians in Nebraska completed the training at a low cost.

Most notably, **Nebraska now has five certified DC:0-5™ trainers**, significantly boosting our state's long-term capacity for specialized care.

- Samantha Byrns, LIMHP, LPC, NCC, IMH-E®
- Lindsey Ondrak, LIMHP, LPC, IMH-E®
- Lori Rodriguez-Fletcher, LICSW, IMH-E®
- Joanna Halbur, LIMFT
- Dr. Lynne Clure, PhD, IMH-E®

Understanding Early Childhood Attachment, Trauma and Development  
*on-demand course*



845

professionals trained in 2025

IECMH topics trainings



12

trainings hosted in 2025



287

non-clinicians trained in 2025

Understanding and Screening for Trauma in Young Children  
*3-hour live webinar*



383

professionals trained in 2025

# The Nebraska Center on Reflective Practice (NCRP)

**Since 2016**

The NCRP has provided **reflective practice** training and services.

2016 FAN — 2024 CE-CERT  
Started with the Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) model


**1500+**  
professionals trained


Supports a Community of Practice (CoP) for FAN graduates


## Did you know?

Reflective practice involves **examining your thoughts, experiences, and decisions** to enhance future actions and sustain meaningful, healthy work.


Our reflective practice models cultivate skills in:

 internal awareness


 emotional regulation

 responses to stress

These skills help you:

 better navigate the emotional demands of your role

 strengthen interactions with others

 drive more effective outcomes

## Our Training Programs


Our FAN and CE-CERT models support helping professionals in navigating the emotional demands of their work.


**FAN** strengthens self-awareness, attunement, and communication.


**CE-CERT** builds practical emotional regulation skills.

**Together**, these approaches reduce burnout and distress while fostering resilience, thoughtful decision-making, and meaningful connection.

### FAN Training

 8 months


 3 training days + 10 consultation and mentoring calls


 Graduates earn a micro-credential digital badge and become part of the FAN Community of Practice

 **Professionals trained**


**118**  
in 2025


**1400+**  
all time

 Significantly decreases compassion fatigue, personal distress, and burnout

 Significantly increases self-reflective ability, emotional regulation, and reflective communication


### CE-CERT Training

 6 months

 2 training days + 10 consultation calls

 **Professionals trained**

**125**  
in 2025

 Trainees feel significantly more prepared to deal with emotional reactions to vicarious trauma and experience significantly less burnout

**New in 2025**

FAN Graduates earn a micro-credential digital badge from University of Nebraska-Lincoln to highlight the skills they have gained in the program.



**120**  
digital badges claimed



CE-CERT Training in April 2025

## Our Community of Practice

The Community of Practice (CoP) is a **supportive network for FAN graduates** that provides ongoing training and support beyond the FAN training program.

**745** professionals in the CoP

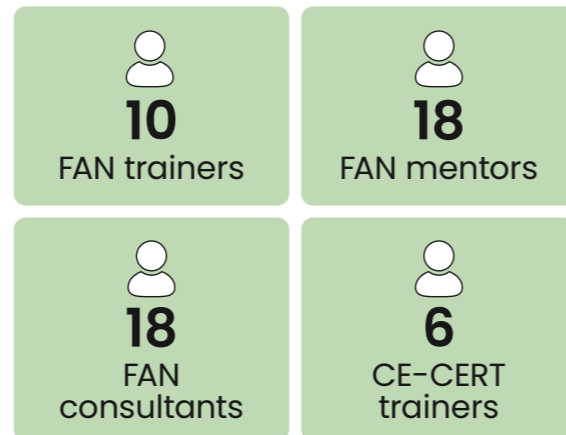
### Opportunities include:

- Booster trainings
- Online resource library
- Reflective consultation groups
- Participation in a listserve

**CE-CERT** helps you process stress so you can use the **FAN** to attune with others and improve interactions.

### Did you know?

NRPVYC supports



# Court Infusion

**Therapeutic principles and practices** are infused into juvenile court processes.

**How court professionals engage** with one another — and with children and families

Within juvenile court processes



Feel safe



Feel understood



Able to participate

### NRPVYC's initial focus in 2015

To support Nebraska's juvenile courts in meeting the needs of young children and their families.

**10+**

court projects supported over the past 10 years



### Did you know?

- Over 30% of children** in Nebraska's child welfare system are under age 6.
- Many children enter the foster care system with **significant behavioral and mental health needs**, and often experience additional challenges like multiple changes in placement.
- Traditional child welfare systems can have high recidivism rates. **Therapeutic courts have been found to significantly improve permanency outcomes and reduce recidivism.**

## How NRPVYC supports Nebraska's juvenile courts

- Needs assessments and program evaluation
- Programming development and support
- Funding management
- Reflective practice training and ongoing consultation
- Materials development
- Program reporting

# NRPVYC's Current Court Infusion Projects

## Lancaster County Safe & Healthy Families Court (SHFC)

A problem-solving court that works with domestic violence related child maltreatment cases that have entered the juvenile court system.

Since 2021 200+ children and parents served 100+ juvenile court cases ~150 case mappings conducted

### NRPVYC supports

- Safe and Healthy Families Initiative project leadership
- Program Evaluation
- Reflective consultation to court professionals

### Court outcome

- Fewer domestic violence related removals
- 86% of cases closed with children in parental custody (vs. 55% of comparison cases)
- Parents continue to report high levels of dignity, respect, and procedural fairness through the court process



Safe and Healthy Families Initiative team members (not all pictured)

## Lancaster County Family Treatment Drug Court (FTDC)

A problem-solving court which began in 2014 and works with families in the juvenile court system who are impacted by parental substance use.

Since 2022 200+ children served 100+ juvenile court cases

### NRPVYC supports

- Program Evaluation
- Reflective consultation to court professionals

### Court outcome

- Cases achieve faster disposition and family reunification
- Parents feel more respected and supported in the process

## Douglas County Thrive Court

A new court project led by Judge Amy Schuchman that works with child welfare cases involving parents with serious mental health impairments, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Features include: More frequent court team meetings and hearings Expedited service delivery Increased mental health knowledge among court professionals

### NRPVYC supports


- Needs assessment
- Program evaluation
- Programming support







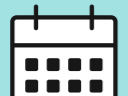


### Current status

After a needs assessment in 2024, the court project **began taking cases in 2025** with dedicated attorneys and caseworkers.

# Did you know?








We have ...


 Click on text in each box to learn more

 <p>Digital libraries for Community of Practice members: <a href="#">FAN Library</a> &amp; <a href="#">IECMH CoP Library</a></p>	 <p>IECMH provider registry and map</p>	 <p>Guides and brochures</p>
 <p>Free webinar recordings</p>	 <p>Micro-credential digital badge for FAN Training</p>	 <p>Private training cohorts</p>
 <p>35+ hours of free live training annually</p>	 <p>Program evaluation</p>	 <p>The main training center in Nebraska for CPP, PCIT, FAN, and CE-CERT</p>

# Next Steps for You

Branch out through training, connection, and support.

 Sign up for a clinical modality training	 Get more reflective with FAN Training or CE-CERT Training
 Keep an eye out for supervisor training	 Get involved with a family-treatment court
 Make a referral to a clinician using our IECMH Provider Registry	 Sign up for the IECMH Community of Practice
 Get a free IECMH consultation on a case	

 Click on text in each box to learn more

# Let's Connect



[nebraskababies.com](http://nebraskababies.com)



[facebook.com/NebraskaBabies](https://facebook.com/NebraskaBabies)



[x.com/NebraskaBabies](https://x.com/NebraskaBabies)



[linkedin.com/company/nrpvyc](https://linkedin.com/company/nrpvyc)



NEBRASKA  
RESOURCE PROJECT  
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FAMILIES, AND THE LAW

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