

10TH ANNUAL MONROE COUNTY CHILDHOOD CONDITIONS SUMMIT

A Decade of Growth:
Empowering Youth, Strengthening our Village

13 November 2025
Monroe Convention Center

YOUTH
■ SERVICES BUREAU ■
of Monroe County

Building a Thriving
BTCC
Compassionate Community



MC3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MC3 is grounded in 3 core principles that shape the summit's priorities, guide planning team decision-making and inform the way we approach the content.

CDC SSNRE

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, safety, stability and nurturance in one's relationships and environments (SSNREs) are essential to preventing early adversity and ensuring all youth can thrive. SSNREs shape children's development, ultimately affecting their health as adults.

ICADV's E4 Framework

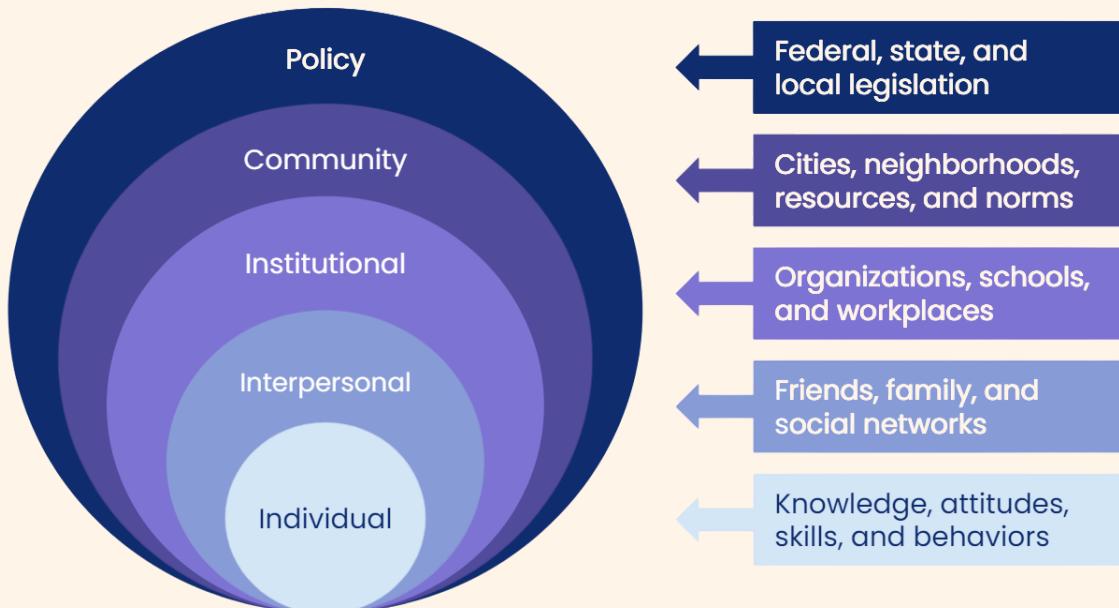
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence's E4 Framework was designed to help groups make strategic, values-based decisions. Each "E" represents a core priority, and a checkpoint on how to prioritize when resources and capacity are limited. When making decisions, ask:

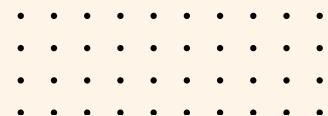
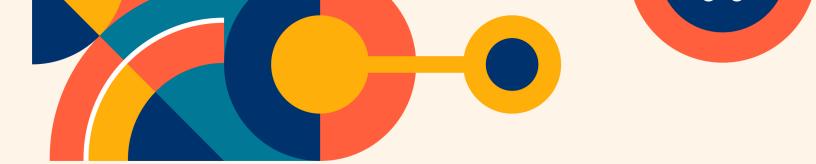
Is it Equitable? Ethical? Effective? Efficient?

Social Ecological Model

The Social Ecological Model (SEM) illustrates how the relationships, organizations, institutions and policies that surround us shape us.

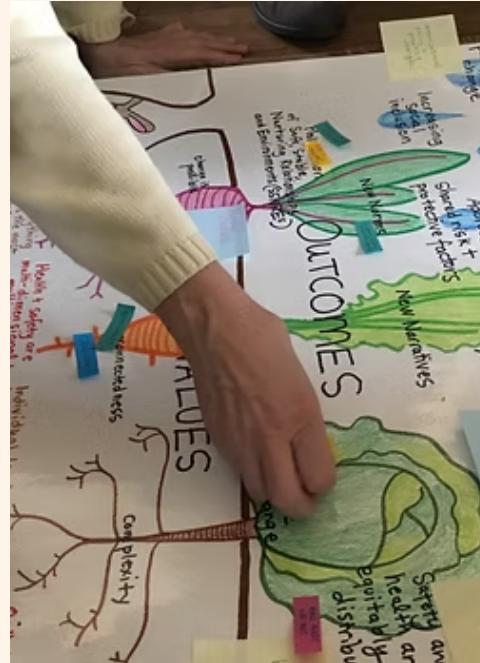
It is important to consider the way that building SSNREs into each level has the potential for more broad impact than individual level interventions.





**Thank you so much for attending the
10th Annual Monroe County Childhood
Conditions Summit!**

We appreciate you dedicating time to spend a whole day learning about, contemplating and discussing the conditions that shape childhood in Monroe County. Over the course of the last decade, it has been incredible to see the ways in which MC3 has evolved and grown as a fixture in the community. You have been a part of bringing together a broad spectrum of people in the community who show up and share a common goal of prioritizing prevention in Monroe County.



Ten years ago we highlighted the concept that ‘what surrounds us, shapes us’. We posed the question of what circumstances contribute to the experiences (both helpful and harmful) of young people in our community.

Today we celebrate 10 years of convening around and grappling with these conditions. Conditions have been front and center at MC3 every year for a decade of growing, empowering and strengthening our youth and community at large.

Children are our future. Young people who are surrounded by safety, stability and nurturance are more likely to thrive, to grow into thriving adults, and to build communities that are themselves safe, stable and nurturing.

What is next for MC3? We are hopeful that we can continue to convene, to build momentum, and address upstream issues that impact young people in Monroe County in some form to make positive change over the coming years.

As conditions shift and change, we look forward to learning, growing, and building with you in the next decade and beyond!

~ The 2025 MC3 Planning Team



10TH ANNUAL MC3 AGENDA

Check-in, Breakfast & Data Walk | 8 - 8:30 a

Opening | 8:30 - 9:15 a

Great Room

Break | 9:15 - 9:30 a

Breakout Session 1 | 9:30-10:45 a

- Brain-Based Strategies for Regulation and Engagement*
- Impact of Fire Prevention: More than Smoke Alarms and Stop, Drop and Roll
- Advancing Child Well-Being through Economic Supports: How Understanding Legislative Advocacy and State Budgets Support Effective Policy Campaigns*
- Spatial Data for Community Resilience *

Great Room

Duke West

Hansen

Cook East

Break | 10:45 - 11 a

Breakout Session 2 | 11 a - 12:15 p

- Mapping Out Conflict: Conflict Mixed With Accountability Co-Creates Transformation*
- Collective Action: Multi-Sector Strategies to Build Community Protections*
- Insights From Three Decades of Working in Child Services*
- From Big Feelings to Big Growth: Strengthening Our Village Through Emotionally Responsive Practice*

Duke West

Great Room

Hansen

Cook East

Lunch/Networking/Data Walk | 12:15 - 1:30 p

- **Spotlights | 12:45 - 1:15 p** Great Room
- **Networking/Data Walk | 12:15 - 12:45 p and 1:15 - 1:30 p** Duke East / Great Room

Breakout Session 3 | 1:30 - 2:45 p

- Effects of Economic Instability on the Family and Children*
- Bringing SSNREs to Life: Youth From Thriving Connections Discuss the Impact of SSNREs
- From Story to Strategy: Aligning Cultural Relevance with the Science of Reading*
- From Individual Action to Systemic Change:
A Disability Justice Approach through Charting the Life Course*

Duke West

Great Room

Cook East

Hansen

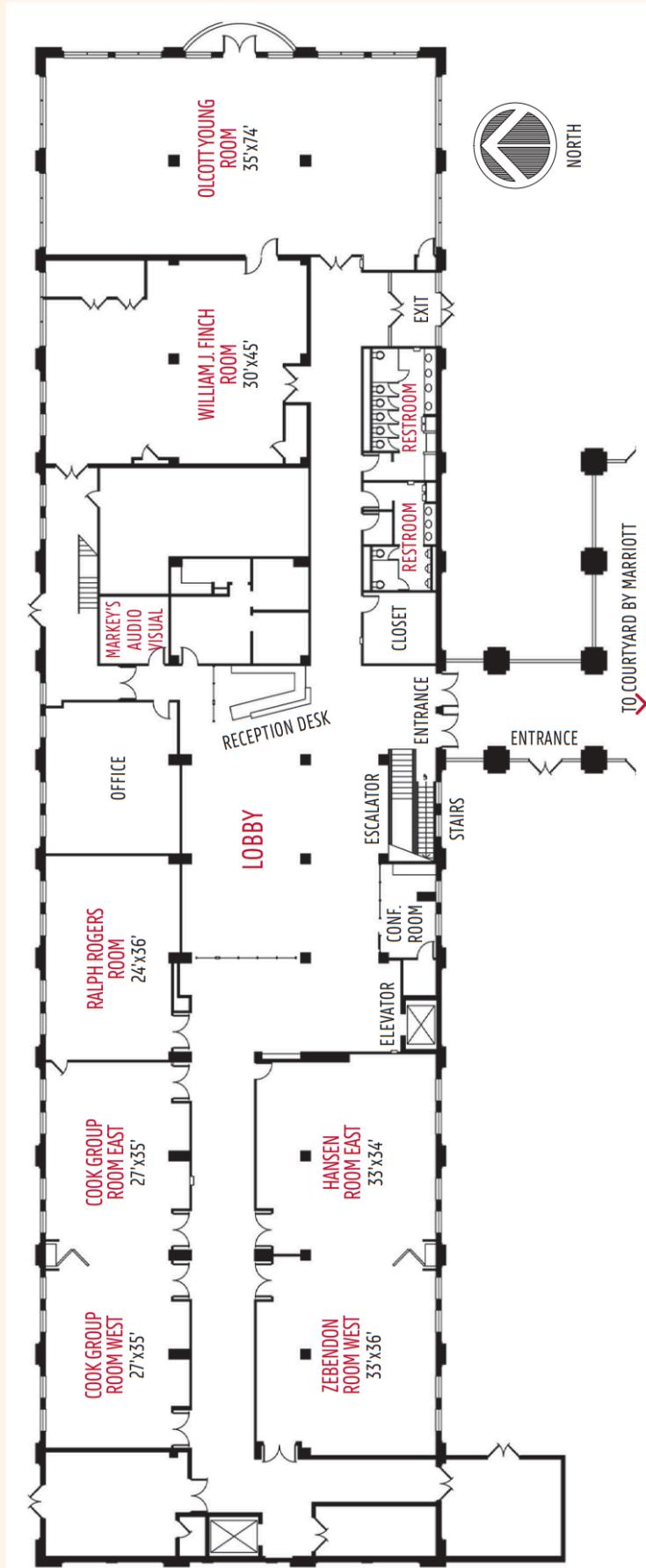
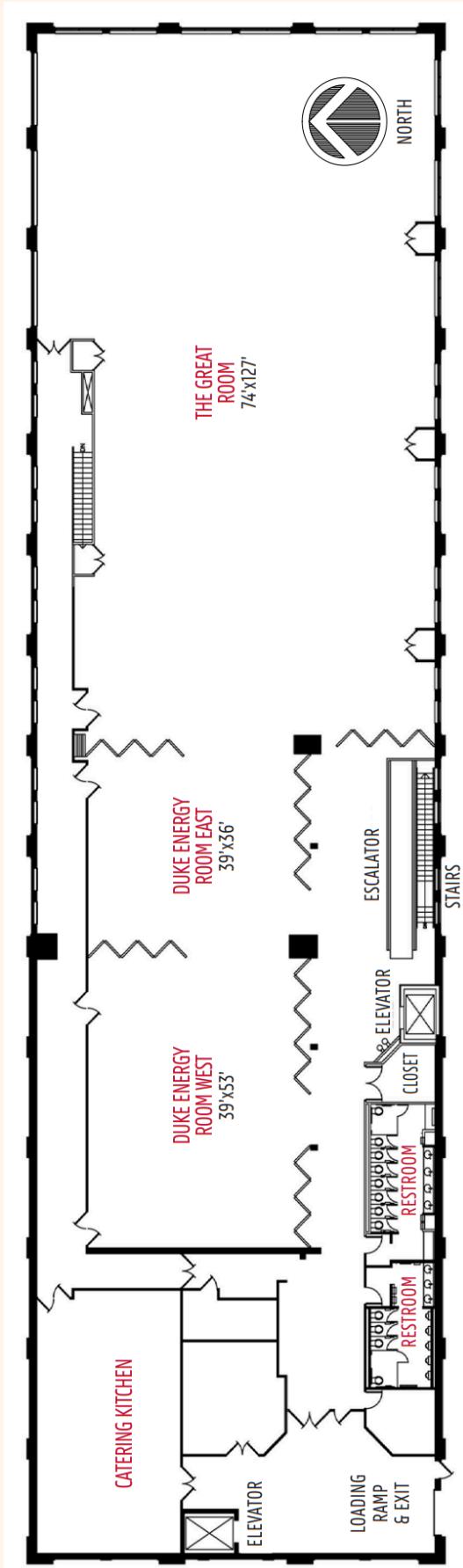
Break | 2:45 - 3 p

Closing | 3 - 4 p

*1.25 CE's are available for this session through National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
A maximum of 3.75 CE's are available for the 2025 MC3 Summit

Great Room

MONROE CONVENTION CENTER **FACILITY MAP**





GIVE US FEEDBACK!

Your responses help with planning future educational programming and events.



Still need to submit an evaluation for your Breakout Session?

<https://tinyurl.com/2025-MC3-SessionEval>



Can't stay for the whole day but still want to share your thoughts on the 2025 Summit?

<https://tinyurl.com/2025-MC3-Feedback>

STAY CONNECTED!

-  <https://www.in.gov/counties/monroe/government/youth-services-bureau/>
-  BTCC newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/newsletter-BTCC>
-  YSBMonroeCounty
-  BTCCBloomington
-  BTCCBloomington
-  MC3 Archives: btccbloomington.org/mc3

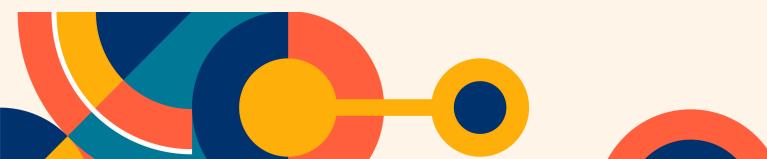
RESOURCES

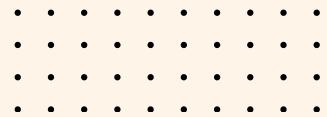


PDFs of slide decks are available here so that you can focus on the content of today's sessions.

<https://tinyurl.com/4r3kj7kz>

Don't forget to check out the Data Walk in Duke East!





BREAKOUT 1

Brain-Based Strategies for Regulation and Engagement*

The world has been a dangerous place for the last few years and our stress response systems have all been overloaded. This workshop will provide an overview of the neuroscience of the stress response system and introduce strategies that we can use to promote self-regulation and engagement for ourselves and the youth and families with whom we work.

Dr. Robin Donaldson (she/her)



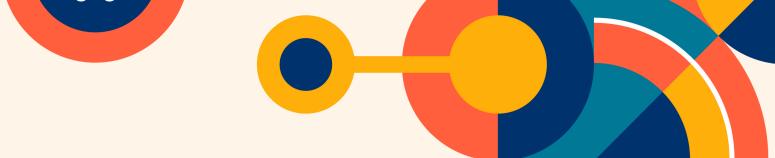
Dr. Robin Donaldson is the Chief Impact Officer at Indiana Youth Services Association, a member organization that provides support for Youth Service Bureaus in Indiana. She has been at IYSA since 2013 and has been in youth services for 30+ years. Dr. Donaldson is also the CEO of Collective Impact Training and

Consulting, LLC. Dr. Donaldson worked at National Safe Place for five years and was at Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County for 12 years. She taught psychology classes at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana for 20+ years.

Dr. Donaldson has a Master's Degree in Counseling and Social Psychology, a Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and has a graduate Applied Neuroscience certification. She is a federally approved trainer in trauma-informed care, a state-approved trainer in QPR suicide prevention, and an ACEs Interface Master trainer. She is the mother of four sons and has one granddaughter.

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A maximum of 3.75 CE's are available for the 2025 MC3 Summit





Impact of Fire Prevention: More Than Smoke Alarms and Stop, Drop and Roll

This course goes beyond the basics to explore the true scope and power of fire prevention. Participants will examine missing strategies, technologies, and community engagement methods that reduce fire risk long before the first spark. Through real-world case studies, interactive discussions, and practical exercises, learners will gain insight into how public education, and behavioral change work together to save lives and property. By the end of the course, participants will be equipped with the knowledge and tools to champion comprehensive fire prevention efforts that make lasting community impact.

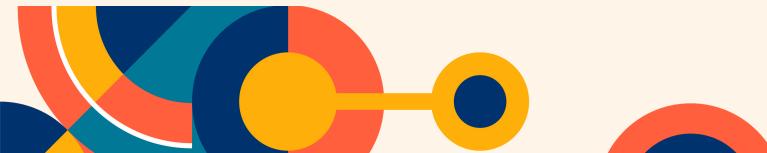
Stephen Coover (he/him)

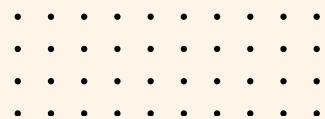


Stephen Coover works every day to protect and strengthen his community in Indiana, where he has served as the Plans Team Manager and Hazardous Materials Specialist for the Indiana Task Force I since 2016 and the Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction, which he established for the Monroe Fire Protection

District since 2021. In these roles, he wields his expertise to benefit others on various serious issues, such as domestic violence, juvenile fire starters, mental health, and suicide prevention. He also handles homelessness and transportation, aiming to put systems in place for his community so that everyone can be granted the services they need.

Content warning: session involves discussion of real world case studies that include instances of murder, animal cruelty and gun violence.





Spatial Data for Community Resilience*

This presentation focuses on how geospatial information systems (GIS) can be utilized to provide tools to engage community members with new insights and data visualizations. We will cover accessing and understanding authoritative data sources, integrating these data into a GIS, analyzing data, and communicating findings to broad audiences. The presentation will showcase existing and planned GIS applications in Monroe County related to demographic data and quality of life metrics pulled from the American Community Survey. Once mapped, these tabular data provide insights into the spatial relationships that exist across our community.

John Baeten, PhD (he/him)



John Baeten is the GIS Coordinator for Monroe County in beautiful Bloomington, Indiana. He has an MS in Industrial Archaeology and a PhD in Industrial Heritage and Archaeology from Michigan Technological University. A recovering academic, Baeten specializes in social and historical GIS and once hosted a hip-hop television show called Urban Rhythms, the only hip-hop television show in Central Wisconsin in the late 1990s! An avid runner, pizza maker, and Wisconsin sports fan, he also has one of the largest collections of bop and post bop LPs in the greater Bloomington area. Baeten is committed to public service and hopes his work will help make the world a better place.

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Advancing Child Well-Being through Economic Supports: How Understanding Legislative Advocacy and State Budgets Support Effective Policy Campaigns*

Join researcher and advocate Olivia Smith of the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute for a deep dive into their recent policy campaign to establish a child tax credit in Indiana. Learn how they used legislative advocacy to get the new bill passed through the full Senate and how fiscal considerations and navigating the state's budget process informed and guided their campaign. This presentation will leave participants equipped with new strategies and insights on how to advance financial supports for families like child tax credits and paid family leave, as well as a deeper understanding of Indiana's budget process.

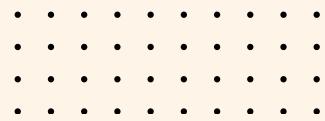
Olivia Smith, MPA



Olivia Smith is a policy analyst with the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute who loves to make complex policies comprehensible to everyday Hoosiers. Before joining the Institute, Olivia worked as a fiscal analyst with the non-partisan Indiana Legislative Services Agency, and later at the Indiana

Department of Revenue as a revenue and legislative analyst. At the Institute, Olivia brings her knowledge of Indiana's revenue and budgeting processes to conduct research and promote public policies that help Hoosier children and families maintain financial well-being. Olivia earned undergraduate degrees in Applied Mathematics from Purdue University-Indianapolis and Political Science from Indiana University-Indianapolis, and a Master of Public Affairs from the O'Neill School in Indianapolis. She calls South Broad Ripple home with her spouse Chris and two cats, and when she's not working or in the garden, you'll probably find her watching Star Trek.

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BREAKOUT 2

Mapping out Conflict: Conflict Mixed With Accountability Co-creates Transformation*

Conflict can be overwhelming, leading us to act in ways that wreak havoc when stakes and emotions are high. While we may not be able to control the people and situations in our lives that challenge us, we can learn how to have choice with how we respond to what we can't control. Conflict mixed with accountability co-creates possibility (instead of combat), empowered transformation, and strengthened relationships.

How can we connect with conflict in ways that are non-punitive, while also empower and strengthen our relationships? Through a four-step-by-step practical de-escalation process rooted in trauma informed processes and practices, participants will learn that while conflict and discomfort may be messy, neither are inherently dangerous! Conflict and discomfort are a normal part of life, and can be utilized in ways to bring us deeper into empowered relationships with self, one another and life.

Li Meuser, MSW (Li/they)



Li Meuser is a full-time student of being human, and is deeply passionate about connecting, interrelating, and mutually co-creating happier, empowering, and more fulfilling lives with one another. As a somatic trauma therapist, integrative primary prevention trainer, and a creative writing facilitator, Li utilizes transformational and wisdom-based practices in supporting people with their somatic intelligence/energies. In learning how to embody our creativity and desires, we are able to consciously choose to discover, move into and remember the realms of interdependency and liberation for all.

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Collective Action: Multi-Sector Strategies to Build Community Protections*

What organizational collaborations enable collective action? We have all spent time in meetings where we share information but struggle to act on our potential partnerships. If thriving communities cannot be built in isolation, how can we effectively collaborate across sectors? At the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV), we know that to prevent violence and enable community health, we must come together to confront the shared risks and build the protective factors that address multiple social problems. In this session, participants will engage in a hands-on activity exploring the mutual work required to improve childhood conditions in Indiana. We'll share a successful multi-sectoral collaboration between ICADV and the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute, and work with participants to identify opportunities to act across sectors.

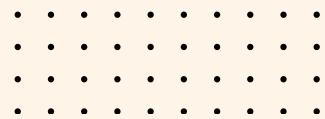
Stephanie Solomon, MPH (she/her)



Stephanie Solomon is the DELTA Coordinator working in Primary Prevention with the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). Formerly the ICADV Youth Program Coordinator, she joined ICADV's prevention team in 2021 and currently focuses on state and community violence prevention strategies. Prior to her

time at ICADV, Stephanie spent over 3 years as Prevention Coordinator with the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County, both with a focus on promoting safe environments for young people. She is a graduate of Indiana University with 20+ years of experience working to affect the social determinants of health and holds a master's in public health. Stephanie is passionate about co-building spaces and strategies that promote safety, stability, and nurturing.

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Colleen Yeakle, MSW (she/her)



Colleen Yeakle, MSW, has served as an advocate in the domestic and sexual violence fields for over 25 years, and currently serves as the Evaluation Director for the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In this role, Colleen works with national, state and community partners to develop, implement and evaluate new strategies for preventing violence, promoting equity, and providing survivor-centered supports. Colleen received her master's degree from the Indiana University School of Social Work in 2009, and was recognized as the school's Distinguished Alumni in 2015.

Olivia Smith, MPA (she/her)



Olivia Smith is a policy analyst with the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute who loves to make complex policies comprehensible to everyday Hoosiers. Before joining the Institute, Olivia worked as a fiscal analyst with the non-partisan Indiana Legislative Services Agency, and later at the Indiana Department of Revenue as a revenue and legislative analyst. At the Institute, Olivia brings her knowledge of Indiana's revenue and budgeting processes to conduct research and promote public policies that help Hoosier children and families maintain financial well-being. Olivia earned undergraduate degrees in Applied Mathematics from Purdue University-Indianapolis and Political Science from Indiana University-Indianapolis, and a Master of Public Affairs from the O'Neill School in Indianapolis. She calls South Broad Ripple home with her spouse Chris and two cats, and when she's not working or in the garden, you'll probably find her watching Star Trek.



Insights From Three Decades of Working in Child Services*

Use creative expression to build skills for reflective practice with community based artist and child advocate, Lara Weaver, in conversation and collaboration with Tara Green.

This is an interactive and unplugged session designed to nurture those who work with and for children and families. Our work can be deeply emotional and we know we need to take care of ourselves - but sometimes it can feel like we're just adding 'self care' to our long list of to-dos.

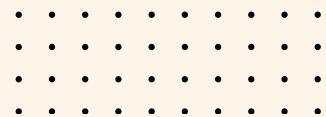
Together will explore how you can use creative expression intentionally to metabolize difficult experiences and feelings, to build empathy and insight, and to employ strategies for connection. Our conversation will generate care and enthusiasm for the work we do and the community we are creating.

Lara Weaver (she/her)



Lara has worked for more than 30 years to develop and deliver programs for children, families and the broader Monroe County community. She has experience ranging from individual level direct service provision to program development and grant management. Her expertise spans across early childhood education, public health and violence prevention & intervention. She brings this strong background of both knowing and doing to her work as Case Coordinator for Monroe County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). With over a decade in the CASA office alone, she equips those around her with a strong understanding of the multidimensional determinants of child well being to work towards a world where every young person can thrive.

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From Big Feelings to Big Growth: Strengthening Our Village Through Emotionally Responsive Practice*

Big behaviors often signal big needs. This session explores how understanding and responding to challenging behaviors through a lens of emotional development, culture, and community connection can empower both children and the adults who support them. Through real-life examples, evidence-based strategies, and reflective practices, participants will explore how emotionally responsive classrooms create a foundation for resilience, learning, and community well-being.

Jenny Gleason, MSEd (she/her)



Jenny Gleason is a doctoral student in Early Childhood Education, with a research focus on challenging behaviors in young children. She has worked with learners of all ages, but her heart lies in preschool and early education, where the foundations for lifelong growth are nurtured. Jen is an adjunct professor of Early Childhood Education at two universities, supporting future educators in developing responsive, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate practices. Her passion lies in empowering teachers through reflective problem-solving and practical training.

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BREAKOUT 3

Effects of Economic Instability on the Family and Children*

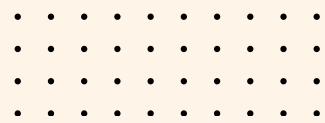
This presentation will explore the reality that economic hardship and family instability are often at the core of Department of Child Services intervention. Financial insecurity, inadequate housing, and lack of access to basic resources increase parental stress and can impair the ability to meet children's needs. These conditions are too often mischaracterized as neglect when they are more accurately symptoms of poverty. The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) has recognized this connection by implementing policies that provide assistance to parents with open cases, including referrals for housing support, employment services, and financial counseling. This presentation examines the relationship between poverty, family stability, and mental health, highlighting how families with DCS involvement can utilize DCS policies as meaningful tools for advocacy. Ensuring lasting family well-being requires more than service compliance—it requires addressing the economic foundations that allow families to remain safe and stable.

Collin Bates, JD



Collin Bates is a graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington and the Robert H. McKinney Indiana University School of Law. Prior to practicing law, Collin worked as a social worker in Monroe and Owen Counties for five years. That experience shaped his commitment to serving vulnerable families and addressing the systemic challenges that lead to child welfare involvement. Collin currently practices as a public defender in Marion County, representing parents in Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings. Outside of work, Collin is an avid enjoyer of movies, lifting weights, his three cats, Bobo, Jelly, & Tiny, and his three-legged dog, Franklin.

*1.25 CE's are available for this session through NASW
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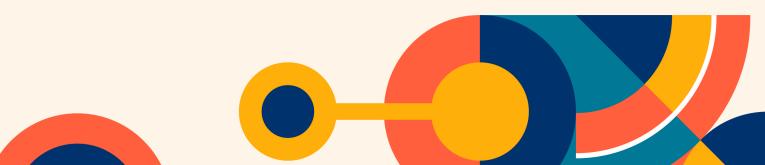
Bringing SSNREs to Life: Youth From Thriving Connections Discuss the Impact of SSNREs

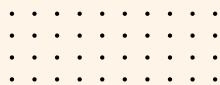
In this session, Thriving Connections youth will discuss how SSNREs have played a role in their journey, alongside their parents, to fight poverty. They will discuss the ways the Thriving Connections community has shielded them from stigmas associated with poverty, how TC's Youth Extra-curricular fund has given them access to involvement, and how the empowerment created by their direct participation in community building has helped build interpersonal skills that they will carry throughout their lives.



Daisy Rogers (she/her)
Bella Jester (she/her)
Matthew Woods (he/him)
Evan Allen (he/him)
River Washington (he/him)

Thriving Connections (TC) is an intentional community whose goal is to eliminate poverty by bringing together diverse perspectives to address stereotypes and break down individual, community, and systemic barriers. TC participants study poverty, its causes, its impacts, and seek out resources and connections to create a place where everyone thrives. TC is an initiative of the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP).





From Story to Strategy: Aligning Cultural Relevance with the Science of Reading*

This interactive workshop explores how the conditions in which children grow shape their success as readers. These include access to books and diverse materials, supportive mentors like teachers and community volunteers, engaged families and caregivers, cultural leaders who share stories, and positive environments in schools, libraries and after-school programs. Using storytelling as an entry point, participants will explore practical ways to connect cultural traditions with key reading skills like recognizing sounds, connecting sounds to letters, reading with accuracy and ease, building word knowledge and understanding meaning. In collaboration with teachers and others who work with young people, we will design simple and adaptable activities for classrooms and other youth-serving spaces. The focus is on making literacy instruction engaging and relevant to children's lived experiences. Attendees will leave with strategies that highlight how supportive conditions across families, schools, communities and peer networks help all children thrive in literacy and beyond.

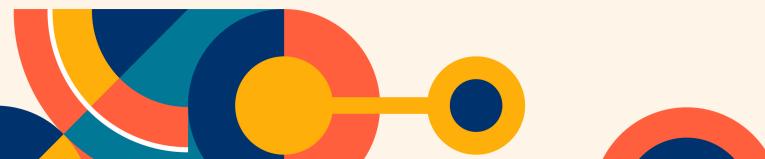
Ugonna Ahumibe (she/her)



Ugonna Ahumibe is a Ph.D. student in Literacy, Culture and Language Education at Indiana University. Her work explores how literacy practices, especially those rooted in cultural storytelling, can support student engagement and academic growth. A volunteer-educator and current graduate assistant,

Ugonna is passionate about bridging structured literacy methods with the lived experiences of marginalized and immigrant communities. She has led community-based workshops on storytelling and is developing an interactive Igbo children's dictionary to preserve language and culture. Her research draws on literacy experiences and brings this lens to designing practical strategies for equitable instruction. Ugonna has lived in Bloomington since 2022 and is committed to collaborative educational work that uplifts all youth.

*1.25 CE's are available for this session through NASW
A maximum of 3.75 CE's are available for the 2025 MC3 Summit



From Individual Action to Systemic Change: A Disability Justice Approach through Charting the LifeCourse*

Join us to learn about the principles and tools of the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) program. CtLC tools are person-centered and designed to be user friendly, giving anyone at any age the tools they need to plan for their best lives. Explore how to use these tools to help you live your good life and consider how you might to effectively plan and implement the principles of disability justice and accessibility in the workplace to expand the impact of CtLC on a wider scale.

Kat Chappell (she/her)



Kat Chappell is a queer, multiply disabled woman. She has worked in disability advocacy for the last 10 years, and currently serves as the Communications Manager for The Arc of Indiana.

Beth Crain, MSW (she/her)



Beth Crain is a dedicated advocate, educator, and mother of three sons with disabilities, as well as a proud grandmother of five. With over 32 years of advocacy experience, she has worked tirelessly to support individuals with disabilities and their families. She holds an associate's degree in therapeutic recreation and both a bachelor's and master's degree in social work.

Her journey has included serving on the Governor's Council on Independent Living, graduating from Partners in Policy Making, and volunteering with organizations such as Head Start, The American Red Cross, her church, and The National Guard Family Readiness Group. She has also founded and led two support groups, worked in assistive technology at ATTIC and Indiana University Bloomington, and taught at Vincennes University and Ivy Tech. Additionally, she has collaborated with The Arc of Indiana to build a strong advocacy network.

As an individual with multiple diagnosed disabilities and likely an undiagnosed neurodivergent condition, her passion for inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment is both professional and deeply personal.

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Without your financial support, this event would not be possible.

YOUTH

SERVICES BUREAU
of Monroe County

MONROE CIRCUIT COURT

PROBATION

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

A Force for Positive

CHANGE.



Family Solutions

Family, Child & Youth Services



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Cassidy McCammon
Nick Philbeck
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Jess Tang
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