



Baby Leadership Learning Collaborative

(Baby LLC)

Baby LLC is a leadership cohort committed to bridging relationships across service sectors to promote infant/early childhood mental health. As you know, RI's infant/family workforce represents our greatest asset for breaking the multi-generational cycle of risk often associated with early adversity and trauma. Relationships are at the heart of this work. We are excited to bring champions together from varied roles, programs, professions and organizations (including parents and foster parents) in RI to participate in "Baby LLC" (Leadership Learning Collaborative). Baby LLC will provide opportunity for us to learn together from experts in the field about early relational health principles that can guide practice change.

We gathered together for 2 days in November 2019 (55 participants from 18 programs/organizations!) to deepen understanding of core infant mental health principles and reflective practices known to improve outcomes for vulnerable babies and families, and that minimize the impact of traumatic loss often experienced by families whose babies are removed from their care. Dr. Kate Rosenblum helped us understand the science as it impacts our work. We began to explore how inequity and racial bias shape the structures within which we do our work. And we challenged ourselves to be creative.

New dates for sessions 3 & 4 are forthcoming, at which time we invite you to join us to deepen the work. In our next two sessions, we will:

- a) Examine current program practices related to strengthening relationships for vulnerable babies involved in the child welfare system, including system collaboration successes and challenges; and
- b) Determine ways to embed Early Relational Health (ERH) strategies across service settings to more effectively promote relationship connections: between vulnerable parent(s) and the baby; among all of the baby's parents/family members/caregivers; between the baby's parents/caregivers and community providers; and among the cross-sector providers involved in the family's care;

We are grateful for your commitment to this work—your voice and expertise are invaluable for designing an early relational health-based system on behalf of RI's vulnerable babies and their families.

Thank you!

Susan Dickstein, PhD
Executive Director, RIAIMH
sdicksteinphd@gmail.com
www.riaimh.org
401.752-7656