

Centering Community Webinar Transcript

Introductions

WAFCA:

Emily Coddington, WAFCA, Wisconsin

Sunni Nutt:

Hi everyone! I believe I am muted but feel free to call me out, if not. I've got dogs! :)

Sunni Nutt:

I am Sunni Nutt, Operations Director with Harmony House in Springfield, MO

Jose Faus:

hola

Jeannette Bocanegra:

Welcome!

Phyllis Becker:

Welcome everyone, please introduce yourself in chat

sara stanley:

Hi - Sara Stanley from Healing Abuse Working for Change in Salem, MA

Autumn Hamilton:

Hi! My name is Autumn Hamilton & I am a Shelter Advocate with the Committee Against Domestic Abuse (CADA) in Mankato, MN! I'm very excited to be a part of this webinar today! :)

Allison Scott:

Hello! Allison Scott, they/them, DIAL/SELF AmeriCorps, Greenfield

Day One Prevention:

Hi everyone! My name is Angela Kemp and I am the Director of Prevention at Day One in Providence, RI

Julie Cakici | she/her/hers:

Hi Julie Cakici, doctoral student in Public Health at the University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University



Harmony House:

Hi! Sarah Spillman (she/her), Shelter Education and Services Coordinator at Harmony House in Springfield, MO

Alexander Schneider (He/Him/His):

Alexander Schneider with the Columbia Justice Lab and Youth Correctional Leaders for Justice in New York City

Lisa Specter-Dunaway:

Greetings from Families Forward, VA, the PCA state chapter. Lisa Specter-Dunaway (she/her)

Karie Lowe:

Hello Everyone, I am Karie Lowe Director of Independent Living and Outreach Services with Lad Lake in Milwaukee Wisconsin

Jeannette Bocanegra:

Hi Alex!

Kristen:

Kristen Snell (she/her), Case Management Coordinator with Harmony House in Springfield, MO.

Maria (Ree) Lamb:

Hi everyone! I'm Maria Lamb (she/her), Senior Data Analyst for the Domestic & Sexual Violence Coordination Office in Multnomah County, Oregon

Kitra Mwanja (she/her):

Kitra Mwanja-Missouri Alliance for Children and Families based in Springfield, Missouri

Laura Van Zandt (she/her), REACH:

Laura Van Zandt (she/her) from REACH Beyond Domestic Violence in Waltham MA

Sara Webber:

Sara Webber (she/her), Americorps Member at Opportunity Academy, an alternative program in Holyoke Public Schools in Holyoke, MA.

Julia:

I'm Julia (she/her) I'm an advocate for the Committee Against Domestic Abuse in Mankato MN

Chijindu Obiofuma:

Hi all! Jindu Obiofuma (she/her) from the Columbia Justice Lab's Youth Justice Initiatives team. Glad to be here and grateful for this topic!

Courts Matter Illinois:



Carole & Marty Levine with Levine Partners Consulting in Chicago, IL

Annika Brindel:

Annika Brindel (she/her) from National Housing Trust based in DC and Minnesota. Working on energy efficiency and affordability for under-resourced households.

Full Frame Initiative:

Matthew Leger-Small (he/him) with the Full Frame Initiative calling in from Agawam territory (Holyoke, MA). Good to be with you all today!

Allison Wilson (she/her):

Hi! My name is Allison, I am a Program Supervisor in Portland, OR with the Domestic Violence Crisis Response Unit, supervising DV advocates who respond to support DV survivors in community during/after LEA involvement

alyssa (she/her):

Hi, everyone! I'm Alyssa Wiedenheft formerly employed by State of WA.

Sara Webber:

Hi Matthew! Looks like we're both in the Holyoke area!

Julie Rivnak-McAdam:

Julie Rivnak-McAdam Parent Leadership and Engagement Specialist for Families Forward VA and National Circle of Parents. Fredericksburg, VA

Pat Schaffner:

Pat Schaffner with Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis, MN

Juanita (she/her):

Juanita Zerda (she/her) - Collective Change Lab - Massachusetts. The Lab advances the use of transformational change practices for collectively solving social and environmental problems

Suzanne Bowles:

Hello everyone! I am Suzanne with Cattail Strategy - we are developing and supporting frameworks for collective liberation and systems disruption

Suzanne Bowles:

I'm in Easthampton, MA

Tamara Bauman:

Tamara Bauman, Housing Advocate at Solid Ground in Seattle, WA

Madge Haynes (she/her):

Hello Everyone, I am Madge Haynes (she/her/hers) with FFI. My virtual home office is in AZ.

Eric Hekler:

Hello, everyone! My name is Eric Hekler with UC San Diego's School of Public Health. I'm a professor in San Diego seeking ways to better serve the diverse groups of communities here and beyond.

Full Frame Initiative:

Good meet you, Sarah! It sure is small world...even when it's online. ;-)

Allison Scott:

@Sara and Matthew - DIAL/SELF connection! Sara is an AmeriCorps member and Matthew is a Board member

Allison Scott:

(and I'm the program coordinator)

Sara Webber:

Very small world!

Toni (she/her):

hello! Toni Brennan here from Dial/Self AmeriCorps, I'm also a member alongside sara-- as well as serving youth in Holyoke, ma at opportunity academy

Suzanne Bowles:

Wow. It looks like we have a lot of people from Western MA - I used to work with DIAL/SELF through the Gill Montague Community School Partnership :)

Suzanne Bowles:

I was dev coordinator there around 2012 or so. :)

gladys carrion:

Hello, from NYC.

Chijindu Obiofuma:

period!

Chijindu Obiofuma:

thank you for that Ms. Jeannette!

Jeannette Bocanegra:

Thank You!

Suzanne Bowles:

I love that notion - bringing back the importance of the process of creation as one of the greatest values at the level of community

Jeannette Bocanegra:

You are my hero Gladys.

Suzanne Bowles:

Something that is often robbed by philanthropies and development processes

Phyllis Becker:

you guys are rocking it! such great insights

Group discussion question #1

Phyllis Becker: What are the key elements of centering community to you, what would you add to the panelist comments?

Autumn Hamilton:

I really resonate with Josefa's comment about meeting individuals where they're at! In my advocacy work, I've learned it's important to not assume what an individual's goals are & provide resources based on the individual's actual goals, rather than what I personally feel/assume would be best.

alyssa (she/her):

yes!! process cannot be removed from the conversation. processes are often rooted in systems that perceive "need" outside of considering the context or community's definition or desires.

Juanita (she/her):

Centering community is not about asking the community to provide input but to authentically DRIVE the change process.

Amanda Timm:

RE: Jose's comment - This community accountability strategy - "staffing" that function with individuals who are tracking the progress and holding the public accountability function intact - that you are describing is SO CRITICAL and very much a missing piece in communities and cities across the country. Thank you for flagging this strategy. Transparency as Jeannette says.

Alexander Schneider (He/Him/His):

The speakers have already said in some ways, one thing I always think about with centering community: communities that have been neglected need to be at decision-making tables from

the beginning (not just invited in later to "tell their story", and need to be resourced well so that they can come to those tables with the same information and context that system leaders have)

Chijindu Obiofuma:

absolutely Juanita! I always worry about centering community becoming something people can say that ultimately means folx can engage impacted communities how and when they want without true partnership and accountable relationships based on community-established goals

Alexander Schneider (He/Him/His):

Can you talk more about what you mean by "dignity in risk"?

sara stanley:

love these positive examples!

Phyllis Becker:

Josefa someone wants to hear more about dignity in risk

Josefa Scherer:

the premise that human adults are generally permitted to make decisions for a variety of reasons, and that being an older adult does not mean you should be denied decision-making ability, even if that decision is to smoke or refuse outside caregivers in your home, or choose what to eat, choose to continue to stack your own firewood or live in your own home. Our role is to make sure that whenever possible, the *choice* exists, and to respect the choice the person we are working with has made. Children get choices made for them, adults do not, no matter their age.

Pat Schaffner:

totally agree with Alexander's comment - community at table and resourced to be there on equal footing through all phases of process.

Chijindu Obiofuma:

<3 <3 <3

Laura Van Zandt (she/her), REACH:

What a treat!

Phyllis Becker:

I will bring this question up in the Q & A

Josefa Scherer:

re: dignity of risk

the premise that human adults are generally permitted to make decisions for a variety of reasons, and that being an older adult does not mean you should be denied decision-making ability, even if that decision is to smoke or refuse outside caregivers in your home, or choose what to eat, choose to continue to stack your own firewood or live in your own home. Our role is to make sure that whenever possible, the *choice* exists, and to respect the choice the person we are working with has made. Children get choices made for them, adults do not, no matter their age.

Josefa Scherer:

happy to talk more about it in the Q& A

Alexander Schneider (He/Him/His):

Thank you!

Josefa Scherer:

my pleasure!

Chijindu Obiofuma:

right!

Chijindu Obiofuma:

!! recommendations have to come from co-struggling and vested relationships

Madge Haynes (she/her):

Yes, thank you, Jose!

Group discussion question #2

Phyllis Becker: What do you think we should stop doing as it relates to centering community?

Emma Kirwin:

Phyllis, in my small community we have two churches

Chijindu Obiofuma:

absolutely

Emma Kirwin:

One does a lot of 'good' things for the community, but without realizing they make the decisions of what the community needs are from their own perspective. Do

Julie Cakici | she/her/hers:

Great point!

Emma Kirwin:

Good grief, sorry about the fragmented message! Do-gooders. Sometimes doing much more harm than good, and causing resentment. How can we pull them into the idea of empowerment for the community members?

Phyllis Becker:

I will share your question in the Q & A

Kitra Mwanja (she/her):

Nothing about the community without the community

Laura Van Zandt (she/her), REACH:

They/we do not always see where power imbalance comes into play... To Josefa's 'dignity of risk' and how those with power granted to them make rules and policies that deprive adults of that dignity. Just as domestic violence orgs have had to face into our overreliance on the idea of safety as the answer when that comes at the cost of reduced connection, access, stability or mastery (full frame of wellbeing). This created an over emphasis on law enforcement response versus community capacity building and healthy relationship promotion (defined with the community).

Chijindu Obiofuma:

amazing, thank you so much for that Josefa!

Josefa Scherer:

my total pleasure!

Juanita (she/her):

Josefa: I appreciate your constant questioning of the white doming values that knowing or not we continue abide to ... like "let's get there fast!" "let's put more value on knowledge than lived experience"

Josefa Scherer:

yes!

Toni (she/her):

^^^ agreed with this, always benefits to search and consider the source of actions and what is considered community and who can determine it a community to begin with

FFI Tech Support:

Thank you for coming today. If you have to hop of early, please take a moment to complete a feedback survey for today's event:
<https://forms.gle/Pwz5AbtA1nEH8vWN9>. Thank you!

Toni (she/her):

thank you all so much

Allison Scott:

this was very grounding..thank you all for sharing!!

Kitra Mwanja (she/her):

it says the link is invalid

Laura Van Zandt (she/her), REACH:

Thank you all - very rich discussion.

Sara Webber:

Thank you all <3

Allison Wilson (she/her):

This was great! Thank you all so much!

Day One Prevention:

Also having trouble with the link

FFI Tech Support:

Feedback survey for today's event: <https://forms.gle/Pwz5AbtA1nEH8vWN9>

Emma Kirwin:

Thank you to all four of you. Appreciate your time and talent!

Michelle Billings, PSS LifePath:

Thank you to all

Maria (Ree) Lamb:

Great conversation, wonderful panelists. And what a treat to see those sweet grandkiddos getting loved on!

Autumn Hamilton:

Thank you all for the incredible discussion!

Alexander Schneider (He/Him/His):

Thank you to all the panelists, to Tanya and Phyllis, and FFI for hosting!



sara stanley:

thank you!

Jose Faus:

thank you all for attending

Allison Scott:

really grateful for the work you're all doing and the love you share!