



In-Service Resources



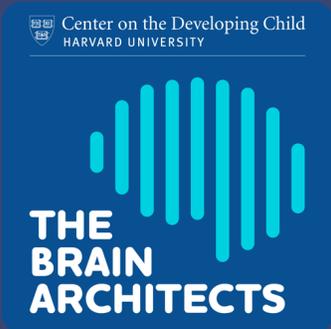
March 10, 2022

www.ctchildadvocates.org

The Brain Architects Podcast from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

CLICK HERE

From brain architecture to toxic stress to serve and return, The Brain Architects, a podcast from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, focuses on the specific, practical questions that often arise for parents and caregivers during the critically important period of early childhood.



CT Post 1/21/22 Opinion: CT must do more to help children facing trauma at home

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Providing evidence- and strengths-based resiliency services for children is paramount to the overall safety and stability of Connecticut families, but currently there is simply not a sustainable way to meet those needs. Connecticut can and should do more — it should start with fully funding child and family advocates.



CT Mirror Article 1/29/22: Safety net for neglected older teens can be difficult to secure

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DCF straddles a line to balance parental rights with children's welfare. "We have to prove that the parent has abused or neglected that child to the point where the child is not safe to be there. The proof of that is difficult," said DCF Deputy Commissioner Michael Williams. "Safety and neglect are the determining factors. If a child is unsafe, uncared for, they can come into care before their 18th birthday."

Recording of 2/2/22 Webinar: Advocating for Youth Incarcerated at Manson Youth Institution

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Manson Youth Institution (MYI) is the adult prison in Connecticut which incarcerates approximately 300-350 teens and young adult men. A recent report from the Department of Justice found that youth incarcerated at MYI had their constitutional rights violated, and CCA continues to represent and advocate on behalf of youth at MYI.

In this webinar, youth incarcerated at MYI spoke about their experiences at the prison, as well as how conditions at MYI can be improved. State and national speakers provided context on the state of youth incarceration in Connecticut, and detailed opportunities for individual and systemic advocacy on behalf of youth at MYI.

Interview by Tammy Sneed of DCF's HART with Theresa Leonard Rozyn, Co-Founder of The Underground, in *Trauma Matters*

[CLICK HERE](#)

Rozyn was trafficked by her mother as a child and went on to become a sex worker as an adult. She talks about her journey to change her life and help others change theirs.

The full conversation between Tammy and Theresa can also be heard in podcast form [here](#).



Events offered by CPAC, the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

CPAC offers free events. Examples include:

- Connecticut Has a New Individualized Education Program (IEP) Form!
- Transition to Adulthood and Employment Services

They also have a YouTube Channel with all of their recorded training videos.

Examples include:

- What's New and Trending in Special Education Law and Why It Matters
- TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE: A FOUR PART WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar: Student-Led IEPs & Youth Engagement as a Dispute Resolution Option

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Rising Out of Recession How Connecticut can Support Young Adults Transitioning Out of the Child Welfare System in Challenging Economic Times

[CLICK HERE](#)



CT Voices for Children's Youth at the Capitol Day on 2/24/22: Young people face immense barriers during economic recessions, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Young people aging out of foster care and older youth in foster care during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic face the dual challenges of being in State care and experiencing an economic catastrophe. These compounding challenges could negatively impact the life trajectories of youth. Still, strategic policies and targeted programs can help youth aging out of care gain stability during these challenging times.

Related WSHU Public Radio article about the Youth at the Capitol event can be found [here](#).

When Foster Youth Have Their Own Kids, Our Support Disappears

[CLICK HERE](#)



Attend any meeting or conference discussing the child protection system and you'll hear advocates coalesce upon our need to support kids aging out of foster care. Let's extend the amount of time they can stay in the system. Let's provide them with financial assistance. Let's give them housing. These policy solutions fit into what we know about youth who have experienced so much trauma in their lives. They need significant support to overcome the barriers they face and to achieve their hopes and dreams. Because they have the same hopes and dreams that all young adults do.

Hopes for positive change with Credible Messengers

Tow Youth Justice Institute Issue Brief, Winter 2022

[CLICK HERE](#)

When offered an opportunity, children and young offenders are more open to influences that promote positive change. As evident from research, constructive feedback, guidance, and advice from mentors can play a critical role in shaping the mental and emotional development of juveniles.



Criminal justice procedures that are overly punitive towards young and developing minds may create hurdles in rehabilitation and their paths to community reentry. A very positive development is that increasingly state agencies and not-for-profit organizations are realizing that creating learning and mentoring systems can help support rehabilitation, prevent recidivism, and thereby enhance public safety. An example of new mentoring initiatives in this area is the Credible Messenger Program.

Governor Lamont Announces Federal Approval of Connecticut's Family First Prevention Plan

[CLICK HERE](#)

Governor Ned Lamont today (3/8/22) announced that his administration has received notification from the U.S. Children's Bureau that the Family First Prevention Plan submitted by the State of Connecticut has been approved.



The plan was written in response to the Family First Prevention Services Act signed into law as part of the U.S. Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. This legislation represents a major shift in federal policy leading to families having greater access to mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home skill-based parenting supports intended to stabilize families and keep them safely together. It also sets forth enhancements for kinship providers and expectations when children require a treatment intervention in a congregate care facility.

Sex-Trafficking Couple Exploited Foster Care Loophole, Officials Say

[CLICK HERE](#)

New York Times article, March 9, 2022

A Bronx couple used foster care to exploit vulnerable young women, prosecutors and a woman who had been placed in their home said.

The ease with which the Mitchells deceived the foster care system to gain access to vulnerable young women revealed a blind spot in how foster homes are vetted and monitored in New York State. And it highlights a pervasive risk for foster youth, who remain targets of sex traffickers despite government safeguards.



The Lines Between Us: Two Families and a Quest to Cross Baltimore's Racial Divide

Book by Lawrence Lanahan

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The Lines Between Us is a riveting narrative that compels reflection on America's entrenched inequality—and on where the rubber meets the road not in the abstract, but in our own backyards. Taking readers from church sermons to community meetings to public hearings to protests to the Supreme Court to the death of Freddie Gray, Lanahan deftly exposes the intricacy of Baltimore's hypersegregation through the stories of ordinary people living it, shaping it, and fighting it, day in and day out.

This eye-opening account of how a city creates its black and white places, its rich and poor spaces, reveals that these problems are not intractable; but they are designed to endure until each of us—despite living in separate worlds—understands we have something at stake.

