

NETWORK NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH 2	Asset-based Community Recovery Workshops
MARCH 3	Preparing for Disasters During a Pandemic
MARCH 9	2021 Tax Updates
MARCH 10	Supporting Parents and Children Through Hazards and Disasters
MARCH 11	Going Beyond the Checklist in Emergency Preparedness
MARCH 17	Families in Disaster Recovery
MARCH 23	Food Waste vs Food Safety: A Balancing Act
MARCH 24	How to Best Support our EI/ECSE Communities
MARCH 25	Aging with Disabilities
MARCH 31	Connecting with Communities in Asset-Based Disaster Recovery

Connecting with Families Experiencing Cases of PSB

“We are a product of our environment.” Most of us are more than familiar with this saying, and the sentiment rings true in everything we do. Our history, connections, family, and friends help to create the person we are. Our experiences continuously shape who we will become. It’s incorporated in the work we do. Whatever your occupation, you bring your life experiences, expectations, and knowledge to your professional role and to your interactions with those you serve.

In the latest Sexual Behavior in Children and Youth (SBCY) series webinar, “Engaging Families in Clinical Services: A Discussion on Engagement in the Family Advocacy Setting,” we discussed how service providers and the families engaged in clinical services are impacted by their unique history and experiences. And how these factors shape the work of supporting children exhibiting problematic sexual behavior (PSB) and families impacted by PSB.

During each developmental stage, children experience unique milestones of celebration and unique challenges to overcome. As children grow and discover the world around them, it is normal for young children to become curious about their bodies. Young children begin to explore sexual behavior. These behaviors fall on a continuum from developmentally appropriate behaviors normative to their age and social-emotional growth, to cautionary, to problematic. More information about the continuum of PSB, including how these behaviors often show, can be found here.

When families seek intervention and begin working with clinicians for the next steps in addressing PSB, practicing mindfulness and self-reflection in the provider role can be a key factor in establishing meaningful, impactful relationships with families.

Overcoming barriers and building connections...

In today’s environment, our connection and engagement with one another have fundamentally shifted. Is it often difficult to find true connection and engagement with new acquaintances. This is no less true when connecting with caregivers and families currently dealing with behavioral problems with their children on top of the added stressors of the COVID-19 pandemic. Client’s past experiences with other services and/or helping professionals may impact their willingness to become open and receive the assistance provided.

Caregivers, fellow professionals, and families may believe common myths associated with PSB. Some common misconceptions include: there is little to no hope for the future, children exhibiting PSB can’t live with other children, or that youth will grow up to be adult offenders. There is no evidence suggesting this is the case. While there are some common factors associated with certain behaviors, there is no distinct profile or clear pattern of demographic, psychological, or social factors in youth exhibiting PSB. For more information on the impact of PSB, watch our SBCY webinar, “Problematic Sexual Behavior: The Importance of a Multidisciplinary Evidence-Based Approach.” We also covered how to dispel common misconceptions and strategies for connecting with professionals across disciplines to best serve families and those impacted by PSB. Fully understanding how families, children, and non-offending caring adults are impacted by this can go a long way when beginning the journey of advocating for these clients.

[Read the remainder of this blog post here!](#)

Asset-based Community Recovery Workshop | 2021 Academy Series

This workshop, based on the Asset-based Community Recovery Framework, will allow you to discover the assets and capacities of your community to make our military families more resilient and aid in their recovery after a disaster. This framework is different because it’s a bottom-up approach allowing individuals, organizations, and businesses to think about the roles people and communities play in moving forward.

[We encourage you to contribute your voice, experiences, and lessons learned to this workshop.](#)



[NEWSBITES]



Preparing for Disasters

Food and nutrition are core elements of survival. Therefore, it is vital to know how to access safe food before, during, and after disasters. While there is little that can be done to prevent disasters, there are many steps that military families may take to prepare themselves for the emergency state brought on by disasters.

What is “Learned Helplessness?”

Individuals with cancer or other long-term illnesses and their caregivers can and do experience “learned helplessness.” Care receivers are prone to “learned helplessness” because they are continually hearing bad news, experiencing medical complications and feeling stressed about their life and how it has and will change.

Early Intervention Telehealth: Thoughts from Providers’

Historically, in the U.S., individual states have varied greatly in their delivery of early intervention services; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered even greater differences. During this time of confusion and changing guidance, it is important to listen and learn from those implementing early intervention telehealth, many of whom are doing so for the first time in their career.

Maintaining Healthy Military Couple Relationships Despite Transitions

As we know, service members and their families face several unique transitions over their time in military service. With each transition a service member and their partner faces, it is important that they feel well-prepared, have resiliency skills, and are able to access resources and lean on their networks for support so that they can

A Discussion on Art Therapy for Military Families with Melissa Walker, Jessica Herman, and Valli Rebsamen | Anchored. Episode 22

In this Anchored podcast episode, we will be discussing the application of art therapy and military families. We will be joined by three art therapists; Melissa Walker, Jessica Herman, and Valli Rebsamen, to discuss their work, the therapeutic practices used in art therapy, and the prevalence of mental health issues and “invisible wounds of war” (traumatic brain injury, PTSD, etc.) for active duty service members and how these issues affect both the individuals and each member of the family.

[Listen to this episode!](#)

New Podcast Episode!



Practicing Reflection

In this episode, Jessica and Bob take some time to reflect on 2020 and look forward to 2021, sharing some of the questions they find most helpful for reflection and their answers to those questions.

[Listen to this episode!](#)

