

 Ready! Resilient!
**Utah Early Childhood
Mental Health Conference**

Tuesday, November 17, 2026
 Mountain America Expo Center
 9575 South State Street, Sandy

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00 am – 9:00 am: In-Person Check-in and Coffee/Tea

9:00 am – 9:15 am: Welcome

Mountain Hall 300	Board Member The Children's Center Utah	Welcome
In-Person and Virtual		
In-Person and Virtual	Rebecca J. Dutson President and CEO, The Children's Center Utah	Opening Remarks
In-Person and Virtual	TBD	Introduction of Morning Keynote Speaker

9:15 am – 10:45 am: Morning Keynote Session

Mountain Hall 300	Mary Gordon, CM, ONL, OON, LLD, D Lit Founder/President/CEO, Roots of Empathy	Morning Keynote Speaker
In-Person and Virtual		Childhood – The Springtime of Humanity
*CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees		
*CME eligible for in-person attendees		
In-Person and Virtual	Jennifer Mitchell, PhD, IECMH-E® VP, Clinical Strategy and Innovation, The Children's Center Utah	Conclusion of Morning Keynote Session

* CEU/CME approval pending

10:45 am – 11:00 am: Morning Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: Morning Breakout Sessions

11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Mountain Hall 3	Anabel Castillo, PhD Program Associate for Center for Early Childhood, WestEd.	Feeding the Baby, Supporting the Family: Rethinking Baby-Friendly Messaging Through an IECMH Lens	General IECMH Track
*CEU eligible for in-person	In-Person and Virtual	Marissa Diener, PhD Professor, Family & Consumer Studies, University of Utah		

and virtual attendees		Lukas Lopez, PhD Assistant Professor, Family Consumer Studies, University of Utah		
11:00 am – 12:00 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Annie Frazier, MS Education Manager, PBS Utah Melanie Pehrson-Noyce, MS Education Coordinator, PBS Utah	Won't You Be Our Neighbor? Aligning the Strengthening Families Curriculum to PBS KIDS resources to support protective factors	General IECMH Track
11:00 am – 12:00 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Ilse DeKoeyer, PhD Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Utah, Past President, Utah Association for Infant Mental Health	Relationships are the Foundation: IECMH and the Pyramid Model	General IECMH Track
11:00 am – 12:00 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Kara Byrne, MSW, PhD Senior Health and Human Services Analyst, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, David Eccles School of Business Devon Musson Rose, LCSW Assistant Professor, Utah Valley University, College of Humanities and Social Science, Bachelor of Social Work Program Erica Murdoch, LCSW, ECMH-E® Director of Field Education, Utah Valley University, Bachelor of Social Work Program	Domestic Violence Providers' Reflections on Identity, Lived Experience, and Trauma-Informed Practice	Mental Health Track
11:00 am – 12:00 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Alysse Loomis, LCSW, PhD Associate Professor, University of Utah College of Social Work Tiffany Perry, MPP State Coordinator, Utah Infant Toddler Court Program, The Children's Center Utah Cristina Barrera, M.Ed. Consultant, Early Childhood Administration	Challenging Behavior and Expulsion in Early Childhood: Utah Provider Perspectives	Early Care and Education Track
11:00 am – 12:00 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	René Baker, MAT Director of Intake & Outreach at Advanced Behavior Analysis Jaimie D'Agostini M.Ed, BCBA, LBA Director of Education at Advanced Behavior Education	Supporting Neurodivergent Children for Lifelong Well-Being	Early Care and Education Track
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Eagle TBD	Emma Green, MPH , Epidemiologist II, Home Visiting Program, Utah DHHS	Strengthening the Utah Home Visiting Workforce: An	Early Intervention and

*CEU eligible for in-person attendees	In-Person	Elizabeth VanSant-Webb, MAT, M.Ed. Program Manager, Home Visiting Program, Utah DHHS, Office of Early Childhood, Division of Family Health Jenny Yang Du, MSN, RN Supervisor, Parents as Teachers Program, Utah County Health Department Elizabeth Rivera Parent Educator, Cache County MIECHV	Evaluation of Modifiable Professional Supports	Home Visiting Track
11:00 am – 12:00 pm *CME eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Mark Gibson, RN, BSN Behavioral Health Supervisor, Huntsman Mental Health Institute - Youth Crisis Care Program Callie Robison, LCSW, Behavioral Health Supervisor, Huntsman Mental Health Institute - Youth Crisis Care Program Sarah Porter, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, Lead APC Huntsman Mental Health Institute - Youth Crisis Care Program Amy Wilson, MD Supporting Psychiatrist, Huntsman Mental Health Institute - Youth Crisis Care Program	Beyond the ER: Interdisciplinary Pediatric Crisis Care Panel Discussion	Pediatrics Track

*CEU/CME approval pending

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch (Mountain Hall 3)

1:00 pm – 2:00/2:30 pm: Afternoon Breakout Sessions

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm *CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees	Mountain Hall 3 In-Person and Virtual	Stephanie Stokes, MPH Community Health Manager, Children's Health, Intermountain Health Jace Meier, MHA Children's Community Health Consultant, Primary Children's Hospital Malinda Freitag, LCMHC Senior Clinical Director, The Children's Center Utah	Talk to Tots: Teaching children the ABCs of emotional regulation	General IECMH Track
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm *CEU eligible for	Eagle TBD In-Person	Alyssa Cohen, LCSW Pediatric Mental Health Therapist, Primary Children's Center for Safe and Healthy Families	Parent Child Interaction Therapy- Teacher Edition	General IECMH Track

in-person attendees		Giulianna Garcia, LCSW Pediatric Mental Health Therapist, Primary Children's Center for Safe and Healthy Families		
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Eduardo Bonilla, M.S., CMHC Program Manager, Youth Inpatient Hospital Liaison, Southwest Behavioral Health Center	The Compassionate Pause: Systemic Wayfinding and Dyadic Stabilization	General IECMH Track
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Jennifer Mitchell, PhD, IECMH-E Vice President, Clinical Strategy and Innovation, The Children's Center Utah Tiffany Perry, MPP State Coordinator, Utah Infant Toddler Court Program, The Children's Center Utah Margaux Miller, MD Assistant Professor General Pediatrics & Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Utah School of Medicine Department of Pediatric Behavioral Health	The Road to Child Welfare System Prevention in Utah	Mental Health Track
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Hannah Bluhm, IMHE® Lead Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, The Children's Center Utah	The Practice of Developing Effective Guidance Policy	Early Care and Education Track
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Laurie Hatch, M.S. Retired, California Community College, Consultant, Positive Discipline Association	Development, Experience, and Environment: The Big Three Influences on Behavior	Early Care and Education Track
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm *CEU eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Lisa A. Davenport, Ph.D., IMH-E® Program Manager, Part C Coordinator, Baby Watch Early Intervention Program, Utah Department of Health and Human Services Heather Waters, SSW, GUCEI, IMH-E® Performance Auditor, Baby Watch Early Intervention Program, Utah Department of Health and Human Services	Trauma-Informed Care: Supporting Regulation, Relationships, & Resilience	Early Intervention and Home Visiting

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm *CME eligible for in-person attendees	Eagle TBD In-Person	Quang-Tuyen Nguyen, MD Associate Professor, Division of General Pediatrics, Vice Chair for HERO, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah Katherine Fortenberry, PhD Professor, University of Utah Susan Cochella, M.D., M.P.H Professor, University of Utah	The Keystones of Development: Relational Health Skills to Foster Promote Early Childhood Development, Early Infant Mental Health, and Positive Parenting	Pediatric Track
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2:00 pm – 2:30 pm: Poster Presentations

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Anabel Castillo, PhD Program Associate for Center for Early Childhood, WestEd. Peter L. Mangione, PhD Senior Director of Early Childhood Strategic Initiatives, WestEd.	Watch, Ask, Adapt: Responsive Caregiving That Builds Emotionally Secure Relationships
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Courtney B. Bushnell, LCSW, PhD Student College of Social Work, University of Utah Finau Rabuka-Conklin, MSW, PhD Candidate / ABD / Lecturer, College of Social Work, The University of Utah	Emotion Regulation and Trauma-Informed Early Childhood Education: A Relational Contexts Approach
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Jasmine Crespo Research Associate, Department of Psychology, University of Utah	Therapeutic Music Strategies in Early Childhood Setting
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Ye Rang Park Assistant Professor, University of Utah Marissa Diener, PhD Professor, Family & Consumer Studies, University of Utah Lukas Lopez, PhD Assistant Professor, Family Consumer Studies, University of Utah	Parent Emotion Regulation and Real-Time Experiences of Joy, Surprise, Anger, Pride, and Guilt
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Alyssa R. Palmer, PhD Assistant Professor, Licensed Psychologist, University of Utah	Supporting Early Childhood Mental Health During Experiences of Homelessness
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Kelsey Sennett PhD Student, University of Utah	Roots to Resilience: Greenspace Exposure and Child Stress Physiology

		Erin L. Todd Clinical Psychology PhD Student, University of Utah LillyBelle Deer, PhD Assistant Professor, University of Utah	
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Erin L. Todd Clinical Psychology PhD Student, University of Utah LillyBelle Deer, PhD Assistant Professor, University of Utah	Tracing Trauma: Prenatal Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms and Neonatal Outcomes
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Zachary Haggerty, MSW University of Utah Alysse Loomis, LCSW, PhD Associate Professor, University of Utah College of Social Work Camille Buttin Research Assistant, University of Utah	Measuring What Matters: Assessing Trauma- Informed Teaching in Early Childhood
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Zoie Evans Preservice Early Childhood Educator	Advocacy Poster by Early Childhood Education Student
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Janae Giles Preservice Early Childhood Educator	Advocacy Poster by Early Childhood Education Student
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Emma Handy Preservice Early Childhood Educator	Advocacy Poster by Early Childhood Education Student
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Kaiya Hoki Preservice Early Childhood Educator	Advocacy Poster by Early Childhood Education Student
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eagle TBD	Alysse Loomis, LCSW, PhD Associate Professor, University of Utah College of Social Work Max Olivier, MSW, CSW Research Associate, University of Utah College of Social Work Melissa Aguilar Padilla, MSW Student, University of Utah College of Social Work	Gamifying Trauma-Informed Preschool Teacher Training: Findings from a Pilot Study

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm: Afternoon Break

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm Afternoon Keynote Session

Mountain Hall 3	TBD	Introduction of Afternoon Keynote Speaker
In-Person and Virtual		
In-Person and Virtual *CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees *CME eligible for in-person attendees	Laura Summers, MPP Director of Public Policy Research, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, David Eccles School of Business	Afternoon Plenary Speaker Early Childhood Mental Health in Utah: 2026 Update
In-Person and Virtual *CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees *CME eligible for in-person attendees	Neal Davis, MD, MS Associate Chief Medical Officer, Children's Health Intermountain Health	Afternoon Plenary Speaker Unleashing Joy
In-Person and Virtual	Rebecca J. Dutson President and CEO, The Children's Center Utah	Closing Remarks

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