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 **In-Person and Virtual**	**Greg Summerhays** Board Member, The Children's Center Utah	Welcome
Mountain Hall 300 **In-Person and Virtual**	**Rebecca J. Dutson** President and CEO, The Children's Center Utah	Opening Remarks
Mountain Hall 300 **In-Person and Virtual**	**Kaden Humphrey** Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation	Introduction of Morning Keynote Speaker

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

Mountain Hall 300 **In-Person and Virtual** *1.5 hours CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees *1.5 hours CME eligible for in-person attendees	**Mary Gordon, CM, ONL, OON, LLD, D Lit** Founder/President/CEO, Roots of Empathy	Morning Keynote Speaker **Childhood – The Springtime of Humanity**

Mountain Hall 300 **In-Person and Virtual**	**Jennifer Mitchell, PhD, IECMH-E®** VP, Clinical Strategy and Innovation, The Children's Center Utah	Conclusion of Morning Keynote Session

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10:45 am – 11:00 am: Morning Break

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

11:00 am – 12:00 pm *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees	**Mountain Hall 3** **In-Person and Virtual**	**Anabel Castillo, PhD** Program Associate for Center for Early Childhood, WestEd. **Marissa Diener, PhD** Professor, Family and Consumer Studies, University of Utah **Lukas Lopez, PhD** Assistant Professor, Family Consumer Studies, University of Utah	**Feeding the Baby, Supporting the Family: Rethinking Baby-Friendly Messaging Through an IECMH Lens**	General IECMH Track
11:00 am – 12:00 pm *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 200C** **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 *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 200B** **In-Person**	**Ilse DeKoeyer, PhD** Pyramid Model External Coach, Utah State University 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 *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 200A** **In-Person**	**Kara Byrne, MSW, PhD** Senior Health and Human Services Analyst, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, David Eccles School of Business	**Domestic Violence Providers' Reflections on Identity, Lived Experience, and Trauma-Informed Practice**	Mental Health Track

		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®** Research Assistant, University of Utah College of Social Work		
11:00 am – 12:00 pm *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 300A** **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, MEd** 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 *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 300B** **In-Person**	**René Baker, MAT** Director of Intake and Outreach at Advanced Behavior Analysis **Jaimie D'Agostini MEd, 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 *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 300C** **In-Person**	**Emma Green, MPH** Epidemiologist II, Home Visiting Program, Utah DHHS **Elizabeth VanSant-Webb, MAT, MEd** 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, Northern Utah Home Visiting	**Strengthening the Utah Home Visiting Workforce: An Evaluation of Modifiable Professional Supports**	Early Intervention and Home Visiting Track

11:00 am – 12:00 pm *1 hour CME eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 300D** **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

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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 *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees	**Mountain Hall 3** **In-Person and Virtual**	**Stephanie Stokes, MPH** Community Health Manager, Primary Children's Hospital **Jace Meier, MHA** Children's Community Health Consultant, Primary Children's Hospital **Malinda Freitag, CMHC, IECMH-E®** 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 *1.5 hours CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 200C** **In-Person**	**Alyssa Cohen, LCSW** Pediatric Mental Health Therapist, Primary Children's Center for Safe and Healthy Families **Giulianna Garcia, LCSW** Pediatric Mental Health Therapist, Primary Children's Center for Safe and Healthy Families	**Parent Child Interaction Therapy- Teacher Edition**	General IECMH Track

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm *1.5 hours CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 200B** **In-Person**	**Eduardo Bonilla, MS, 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 *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 200A** **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 and 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 *1.5 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 300A** **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 *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 300B** **In-Person**	**Laurie Hatch, MS** 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 *1 hour CEU eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 300C** **In-Person**	**Lisa A. Davenport, PhD, 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, and Resilience**	Early Intervention and Home Visiting

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm *1.5 hour CME eligible for in-person attendees	**Eagle 300D** **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** Clinical Professor, Associate Program Director and Behavioral Science Education Director, Family Medicine Residency, University of Utah **Susan Cochella, MD, MPH** Professor, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of Utah School of Medicine	**The Keystones of Development: Relational Health Skills to Foster and 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 200D** **In-person**	**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 200D** **In-person**	**Jasmine Crespo** Research Associate and Assistant Lab Manager, Department of Psychology, University of Utah	**Therapeutic Music Strategies in Early Childhood Setting**
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Eagle 200D** **In-person**	**Ye Rang Park** Assistant Professor, University of Utah **Marissa Diener, PhD** Professor, Family and 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 200D** **In-person**	**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 200D** **In-person**	**Kelsey Sennett** PhD Student, University of Utah **Erin L. Todd** Clinical Psychology PhD Student, University of Utah **LillyBelle Deer, PhD** Assistant Professor, University of Utah	**Roots to Resilience: Greenspace Exposure and Child Stress Physiology**
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Eagle 200D** **In-person**	**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 200D** **In-person**	**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 200D** **In-person**	**Zoie Evans** Preservice Early Childhood Educator	**Advocacy Poster by Early Childhood Education Student**
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Eagle 200D** **In-person**	**Janae Giles** Preservice Early Childhood Educator	**Advocacy Poster by Early Childhood Education Student**
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Eagle 200D** **In-person**	**Emma Handy** Preservice Early Childhood Educator	**Advocacy Poster by Early Childhood Education Student**
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Eagle 200D** **In-person**	**Kaiya Hoki** Preservice Early Childhood Educator	**Advocacy Poster by Early Childhood Education Student**
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Eagle 200D** **In-person**	**Max Olivier, MSW, CSW** Research Associate, University of Utah College of Social Work	**Gamifying Trauma-Informed Preschool Teacher Training: Findings from a Pilot Study**

		Melissa Aguilar Padilla, MSW Student, University of Utah College of Social Work **Alysse Loomis, LCSW, PhD** Associate Professor, University of Utah College of Social Work	
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	**Eagle 200D** **In-person**	**Jennifer Mitchell, PhD, IECMH-E** Vice President, Clinical Strategy and Innovation, The Children's Center Utah **Alysse Loomis, LCSW, PhD** Associate Professor, University of Utah College of Social Work	**Reflective Supervision/Consultation as a Facilitator for Interprofessional Collaboration**

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm: Afternoon Break

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

Mountain Hall 3 **In-Person and Virtual**	**TBD**	Introduction of Afternoon Keynote Speaker
Mountain Hall 3 **In-Person and Virtual** *0.5 hours CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees *0.5 hours 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**
Mountain Hall 3 **In-Person and Virtual** *0.5 hours CEU eligible for in-person and virtual attendees *0.5 hours CME eligible for in-person attendees	**Neal Davis, MD, MS** Associate Chief Medical Officer, Children's Health Intermountain Health	Afternoon Plenary Speaker **Unleashing Joy**
Mountain Hall 3	**Rebecca J. Dutson** President and CEO, The Children's Center Utah	Closing Remarks

In-Person and Virtual		

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