

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) Quarterly Meeting

Co-hosted with Ounce of Prevention Fund

Connecting Early Childhood & Violence Prevention | August 19, 2015

Panelists

Barbara Abel, PhD

Birth-to-Five Curriculum Manager

Ounce of Prevention

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Barbara Abel, PhD is the Birth to Five Curriculum Manager at the Ounce of Prevention Fund's Educare School Chicago. Barbara, who has worked in the field of infant and early childhood care and education for over 25 years, received her Ph.D. in Child Development from Erikson Institute/Loyola University Chicago, and her Masters in Infant/Toddler and Parent Development from Bank Street College of Education. Her experiences in the field range from being a teacher of infants and toddlers, to designing and directing programs for children from birth to five, to teaching graduate students, and conducting research particularly in the area of the influence of culture and context on children's social/emotional development. Since joining the Ounce in 2012, Barbara has been developing an approach and guide to instruction that emphasizes meeting children's social/emotional developmental needs in order to positively impact their academic success. This approach is built on the belief that children learn best in the context of trusting relationships. It is designed to help education staff create a safe school and individual classroom environments that promote self-regulation, executive functioning, cooperation and collaboration, and a sense of community.

Claudia Cattage, M.ED

Early Head Start Lead Teacher

Ounce of Prevention's Educare School Chicago

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Claudia Cattage holds a Master of Arts in Education, with a specialization in Early Childhood Education. She has over 20 years' experience working in the field of Early Childhood Education. Claudia is currently working as a Lead Early Head Start Teacher for Ounce of Prevention's Educare School Chicago. She has been in this position since 2006 and is responsible for creating an inclusive classroom community for children, families and staff, implementation of curriculum and assessment, individualized planning, scaffolding development, lesson planning, and supervision of co-teachers. Claudia's career has encompassed numerous leadership experiences in teacher research and professional learning. Additionally, she is a certified Developmental Therapist and is certified in the Greenspan Floor-Time Approach.

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Teresa Pennix-Gill, MA
Co-Founder, Board President and Executive Director
Parenting for Non-Violence | TGill@parenting4nonviolence.org

Teresa Pennix-Gill, MA is Co-Founder, Board President and Executive Director of Parenting for Non-Violence (P4NV), a non-profit organization that provides evidence-based parenting education programs to parents of children ages 1-18. Teresa shares that there is no doubt in today's culture, families have unique challenges and stresses and sometimes that seems overwhelming. She has spent years motivating and inspiring families who know that being a parent is the toughest job in the world AND the most rewarding. She has a Masters in Family Ministry and Faith Formation from Dominican University and when not delivering upbeat motivating programs for communities across Chicagoland, she is advancing the understanding of social issues; and encouraging organizations, schools, and families to become involved in the tough topics in our society that threaten the well-being of our families and our neighborhoods.

Karen Sheehan, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Injury Prevention and Research Center and Strengthening Chicago's Youth
Interim Co-Director, Smith Child Health Research Program
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago | KSheehan@luriechildrens.org

Karen Sheehan, MD, MPH is a Professor of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. In addition to her role with SCY, she is also the founding Medical Director of the Injury Prevention and Research Center (IPRC) at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago which focuses on unintentional and intentional (including child abuse) pediatric injury prevention. Dr. Sheehan's research and practice has been community engaged ranging from using community based participatory research to evaluate youth development programming as a strategy to prevent violence to applying policy-system-environmental change strategies in her work with the Chicago Park District to help inform the replacement of 350 playgrounds because of safety issues. Dr. Sheehan has held leadership positions in the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, Kids in Danger, and the American Academy of Pediatrics' former Section on Injury, Violence and Poison Prevention.

Anne G. Studzinski
Managing Director
Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition | astudzinski@voices4kids.org

Anne G. Studzinski has spent most of her career in the public service of children. Since 2007, she has been the managing director of the Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition made up of 80 organizations to advance the prevention and treatment of childhood trauma. She assists the Coalition in raising awareness of childhood trauma, training people about it and increasing capacity to assist children and families experiencing trauma in our state. Ms. Studzinski spent over 27 years working for the State of Illinois in juvenile justice, youth services and child welfare. She developed and implemented state and federal programs and policies regarding the treatment of children and youth as well as advocating for children and youth legislation in both Springfield and Washington. She also serves on the Advisory Committee for the Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch as well as its Chicago Council.

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