Celebrating everyday successes!

2017 INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

PROGRAM

celebrating everyday successes!
Join in on social media and post your thoughts, comments and images from this event to the wider Signs of Safety community using the hashtag #sofsgathering2017.

Be sure to visit www.signsofsafety.net, the hub for all things Signs of Safety.

You can download a PDF version of this program from www.signsofsafety.net/2017gathering.

This Gathering will not be streamed live. However, video of all sessions will be available online until 28 February 2018 at www.signsofsafety.net/2017gathering.

After 28 February 2018, video of the presentations will be available exclusively through the Signs of Safety Knowledge Bank. For more information about how to subscribe to the Knowledge Bank, go to www.signsofsafety.net/knowledgebank.
Welcome to the Eleventh International Signs of Safety Gathering!

This is the first North American Gathering that we have held outside of Minnesota, a state that has provided such a marvelous home for Signs of Safety. It is wonderful to come to Missouri, where state-wide implementation of Signs of Safety is into its third year. An absolute highlight of this Gathering will be the six presentations from across Missouri. I expect the ‘Show-Me’ state to rock the house!

The last international Gathering in North America was held in 2015, which we promoted under the banner of ‘Revolu- tion’. Child protection ‘casework-as-usual’, to use Kevin Campbell’s words, is a process where professionals define the problem and professional interventions define the solution. The Signs of Safety approach offers a paradigm shift to casework-as-usual by providing a clear vision of services that do everything humanly possible to put children, parents, and every person naturally connected to the children at the center of creating the healing and safety that vulnerable children need.

While the Signs of Safety practice model itself is radical, the revolution we were explicitly calling out in 2015 was organizational. We have known for a long time that practice models alone, no matter how good they are, have limited impact. In our final report on the English Signs of Safety Innovations Project the last year, Eileen Munro, Terry Murphy and I used the following quote from Lisbeth Schorr’s book Common Purpose: Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods to Rebuild America:

‘We failed to see that you can’t grow roses in concrete.’

Human service reformers and educators alike thought the challenge was to develop new ideas, not to change institutions. They assumed that an innovation or a ‘good product’ would become part of a mainstream system because of its merit, unconstrained by the system’s funding, rule making, standard setting, and accountability requirements – all of which are likely to be inconsistent with the innovation.

Organizational change and system change determine how much we can genuinely engage families in participative safety organized practice and are actually much more difficult than assisting families to change. While in 2015 we were getting clearer about what a robust Signs of Safety implementation science

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entailed, I am delighted to say that in 2017 we have filled in the detail of all the elements of the Signs of Safety implementation framework. This includes redrafting our practice and organizational theories of change based on independent research outcomes, and designing and testing the learning, measurement, organization, and leadership methods that are required in a whole system Signs of Safety implementation. This means that, for the first time, this Gathering will include a presentation detailing a Signs of Safety case information system that is fully configured and ready to use. Alongside this, we have designed detailed learning and development trajectories for all levels of an implementing agency, supported by collaborative measurement methods that allow an organization to achieve near real-time feedback about its use and the impact of Signs of Safety practice.

This Gathering will, as always, offer rich and detailed stories from practitioners and, in many instances, service recipients themselves about how the approach is being applied in their work and agencies. This is the heart of the approach and is what always makes a Signs of Safety Gathering so inspiring.

In addition to Missouri hosting this Gathering for the first time, there is another first I would like to highlight. Two years ago we started collaborating with the Cambodian Children’s Trust and Children’s Futures from Battambang, Cambodia, working with them to use Signs of Safety to organize their work with the most vulnerable children, families and communities. This is the first time the international community will hear presentations about how this work is unfolding. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Pon Jedtha, Tara Winkler, Sokhors Hor, and Giulia Ciucci. Make sure you talk to these folks during the Gathering – their work will inspire you. And don’t miss Tara’s book launch on Wednesday night before the dinner and party.

Finally, and most importantly, I honor and thank all those people who will make presentations at this Gathering. You will be brilliant and will make this Gathering a success. It is you who will show us what Signs of Safety looks like in practice and in organization!

Andrew Turnell
Welcome Message for 2017 Signs of Safety Gathering in Kansas City, Missouri

It is a distinct honor to host the 2017 International Signs of Safety Gathering in Kansas City, Missouri. We come together from around the globe as a passionate and courageous movement of practitioners, families, friends, and advocates devoted to worldwide transformation of child protection practices.

Those involved in system change are swimming upstream against powerful currents of fear, discontent, blame, isolation, and overwhelming responsibility. As we understand that ‘whatever we focus on grows’, a powerful counterbalance develops through ‘celebrating everyday successes’. We celebrate these successes in order to strengthen, support, and learn from those involved in day-to-day child protection work, build unwavering resolve throughout the system, and create momentum that one day ‘turns the river’ in the direction of safety, hope, courage, and shared responsibility.

In the summer and fall of 2015, the Kansas City Royals baseball team prepared their hearts and minds to play in the World Series Championship. Meanwhile, child welfare practitioners in the community prepared themselves to champion a more important cause – the protection and wellbeing of vulnerable children. History was made. The Kansas City Royals won their first championship in 30 years and Kansas City/Jackson County became the first site in Missouri to passionately embrace and implement Signs of Safety!

The Royals’ journey was built on many seasons of 162 games each and small successes that eventually created an attitude of hope, pride, and determination. After their 2014 World Series loss, the team had every reason to be proud and hopeful, as well as feel dissatisfied and determined to bounce back even stronger. This proved to be the attitude of winners, comparable only to the enthusiasm, determination, and wisdom of Signs of Safety pioneers in Kansas City/Jackson County.

While there were no championship flags hoisted in their honor, child welfare practitioners and teams across the community and throughout Missouri created hope, passion, and practical strategies that led to the implementation of Signs of Safety in all 115 jurisdictions in Missouri within three years.

We welcome you to the historic community of Kansas City! We hope you have a chance to enjoy the beauty of this special place and its people. KC is renowned for its friendliness, courage, en-
during hope, and refreshing, spectacular fountains. As the ‘Show-Me’ state, Missouri prides itself on humility, curiosity, and a bias for action.

Through our Signs of Safety journey, we are becoming the best of both worlds – people with ‘hard heads and soft hearts’ who are stubbornly committed to child protection and willing to do what works, while always remembering why it matters!

As an international community of inspiration, let us learn and grow together while turning everyday success into a better and safer world for our children!

**Tim Decker**, Director
Missouri Children’s Division
Tuesday 24 October

9.00 a.m. Opening Address
Mayor Sly James (Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri)

9.10 a.m. Welcome to the Signs of Safety Gathering
Dr Andrew Turnell (Signs of Safety Co-creator)

9.35 a.m. Welcome to Missouri
Tim Decker (Director of Children’s Division, Missouri Department of Social Services)

9.45 a.m. Using Signs of Safety to Address Domestic Violence
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

10.15 a.m. Words and Pictures: The Key to Many Doors
Western Australian Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support

10.45 a.m. Morning Tea & Coffee

11.15 a.m. Demonstrating Safety Within the Drug Epidemic
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

11.45 a.m. Ireland Leading the World Again with Signs of Safety
Tusla Child and Family Agency

12.15 a.m. What Is Generative? A Long Term Effect of Signs of Safety Practice: Nao’s Story After Seven Years
Ai Hishikawa and Satoshi Nakao

12.45 p.m. Lunch

1.45 p.m. Towards a Science of Implementation for Signs of Safety
Resolutions and Munro, Turnell & Murphy Child Protection Consulting

2.15 p.m. Building Local Child Protection Systems in Rural Cambodia
Children’s Future

2.45 p.m. Thinking Outside the Reunification Box
Cornerstones of Care

3.15 p.m. Afternoon Tea & Coffee

3.45 p.m. An IT System that Practitioners Will Want to Use
Munro, Turnell & Murphy Child Protection Consulting

4.15 p.m. Family Network Meetings
Suffolk County Council Children’s Services
Wednesday 25 October

9.00 a.m. Signs of Safety Implementation in a Developing Context
Cambodian Children’s Trust

9.45 a.m. Learn to Ask First
Chatham Kent Children’s Services

10.15 a.m. Allowing Signs of Safety Principles to Shape Our Work
Carver County Health and Human Services

10:45 a.m. Morning Tea & Coffee

11:15 a.m. Courage and Vulnerability: Teaching and Learning Together
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

11:45 a.m. A Cultural Shift: Leadership for Implementation
Children’s Aid Society of Toronto

12:15 p.m. Towards Practices of Safety, Healing and Belonging
Family Finding

12:45 p.m. Lunch

1:45 p.m. Signs of Safety with Teens: Working Towards Understanding, Clarity and Belonging
Ross Layton

2:15 p.m. It takes a Village: the Fine Art of Keeping a Family and their Children Held
Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center

2:45 p.m. Gathering Photo
(location to be advised)

3:00 p.m. Afternoon Tea & Coffee

3:30 p.m. The Swiss Army Knife Approach: Using a Risk Assessment Map to Address Concerns and Build Safety, Confidence and Professional Teams
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

4:00 p.m. Working in Indigenous Communities as Allies: The Journey from Dis-membered to Re-membered
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services
9:00 a.m. Utilizing Words and Pictures in Child Protection Practice  
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

9:30 a.m. Exclusion to Inclusion: Our Journey Before and After Signs of Safety  
Family and Children’s Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville

10:00 a.m. The Journey to Statewide Implementation  
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

10:30 a.m. Morning Tea & Coffee

11:00 a.m. Implementation in Real Time: A Case Example  
Mendocino County Family & Children’s Services

11:30 a.m. Never Give Up and Always Keep Moving Forward  
The Children’s Aid Society of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

12:00 noon Leadership Plenary  
Andrew Turnell, Tim Decker, Tara Winkler, Cormac Quinlan & Mahesh Prajapat

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Case Example: Signs of Safety Implementation in Stó:lō Community  
Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services (Xyolhemeylh)

2:00 p.m. Reflections on the 2017 Signs of Safety Gathering  
Andrew Turnell (Signs of Safety Co-creator)

2:30 p.m. Close of Gathering
ABSTRACTS

Tuesday 24 October

TUESDAY 9:45 – 10:15 AM
Using Signs of Safety to Address Domestic Violence

PRESENTER: Laura Jerabek (Children’s Service Worker)
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

Laura will highlight a case example of a mother’s dangerous choice of relationships and her struggle to bond with her children. Laura will show the harm and danger statements, as well as the triggers, red flags, and preventative plan.

TUESDAY 10:15 – 10:45 AM
Words and Pictures: The Key to Many Doors

PRESENTERS: Pippa Lane (Senior Child Protection Worker) and Dennis Taylor (Aboriginal Practice Leader)
Western Australian Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support

Pippa and Dennis will present the work they completed with a 12-year-old Aboriginal boy to create connection and understanding about his biological family.

Chris had had no face-to-face contact with his mother or father for a number of years and yearned to know more about them. The sudden death of his father in late 2015 triggered a range of emotions for Chris about his history, his place in his family and community, his cultural identity, and his future relationships.

Words and Pictures was used as a process and outcome to aid Chris’s understanding of mental health, suicide, grief and loss, and as a reintroduction to his paternal family.
TUESDAY 11:15 – 11:45 AM
Demonstrating Safety Within the Drug Epidemic

PRESENTER:
Garry Dorris (Training Tech)
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

Garry Dorris, a training tech and previously a Children’s Service Supervisor, will highlight a case example of a mother’s drug use and homelessness. He will demonstrate the worker’s journey from the initial harm to helping the mother learn how to keep her children safe while struggling with drug use. Garry will also highlight the work with the father, building on the existing safety, and developing a safety goal with the child in mind.

TUESDAY 11:45 – 12:15 PM
Ireland Leading the World Again with Signs of Safety

PRESENTERS:
Cormac Quinlan (Director of Transformation and Policy),
Debbie O’Shea (Principal Social Worker),
Sue Kane (Child Protection and Welfare Strategy, Implementation Lead)
Tusla Child and Family Agency

In May this year, Tusla Child and Family Agency formally adopted Signs of Safety as Ireland’s national child protection framework. This makes Ireland the world’s first nationwide, whole system adoption of Signs of Safety.

This presentation will provide an overview of the development journey that has established the whole system implementation that brings Signs of Safety into the casework from the first phone call. It will include describing the changes being made to the duty-to-conferencing response pathways. The presentation will cover some of the end-to-end case work and describe the impact this has had within Tusla and the broader system.
TUESDAY 12:15 – 12:45 PM

**What Is Generative?**
**A Long-term Effect of Signs of Safety Practice: Nao’s Story After Seven Years**

**PRESENTERS:**
Ai Hishikawa (External Supervisor) and Satoshi Nakao (Child Psychologist)

Was it generative, the casework with Signs of Safety framework and its safety planning? What influences did they have in the long-term? We tried to explore these questions with the family we presented at the Fourth International Signs of Safety Gathering in Leiden, Netherlands, in 2011.

After seven years, Satoshi Nakao made a home visit and conducted an AI interview (recorded). The Signs of Safety framework proved that it is equipped with the mechanisms for generating ideas and actions that stay with the family.

The family shared with us their stronger family ties and how they were doing. But the gift is reciprocal.

TUESDAY 1:45 – 2:15 PM

**Towards a Science of Implementation for Signs of Safety**

**Presenters: Terry Murphy** (Partner, Munro, Turnell & Murphy Child Protection Consulting) and Joke Wiggerink (Executive Director of Signs of Safety International)

Just as Signs of Safety as a practice model has evolved over time, our approach to implementation is an evolving one as well. What we see as important in the implementation of Signs of Safety now is reflected in our theory, framework and trajectory. These reflect our learning from implementations around the world. Child welfare organisations have substantial similarities and major differences, including how well they are operating at any point in time and so our implementations need to be sound and replicable, as well as able to respond to the needs of individual agencies.

We continue to develop materials to support the approach, including more congruence between our learning methods and the practice, a development trajectory for all levels of organisational leadership, the quality assurance system, and most recently Signs of Safety information technology.
Building Local Child Protection Systems in Rural Cambodia

PRESENTERS: Sokhors Hor (Head of Child Well-Being) and Giulia Ciucci (Country Director), Children’s Future

Children’s Future (CFI) is an international NGO in rural Battambang, Cambodia. Because there is no child protection system available that effectively and consistently protects children in rural Cambodia, and many adults lack the skills to do so, CFI began using the Signs of Safety planning framework in 2014 as an organizational response to all child protection issues.

Sokhors Hor will demonstrate Signs of Safety mapping and safety planning done over time with a typical Cambodian case of domestic violence that ‘broke ground’ – the first time a Signs of Safety mapping was held with families and local authorities in Cambodia. CFI now uses this model frequently to work alongside families and local authorities. The presentation will prove that the Three Columns framework, mapping and safety planning is effective at strengthening communities’ capacity and collaboration to protect children in a developing country.

Thinking Outside the Reunification Box

PRESENTERS:
Megan Elsen (Foster Care Case Management Specialist),
Amber Maledy (Foster Care Case Management Specialist),
Travanna Alexander (Associate Vice President of Community Based Programs)
Cornerstones of Care

Megan, Amber and Travanna will highlight the paradigm shift that occurred at their agency when they began to explore how to apply the Signs of Safety framework with non-reunification cases. Megan and Amber will present cases specific to adoption and to older youth who will exit the foster care system as adults. These case examples will demonstrate how to be creative with Signs of Safety tools (i.e. Safety House, House of Dreams/Worries/Good Things) while planning for safety when working with children and families with a non-reunification goal.
An IT System that Practitioners Will Want to Use

**PRESENTER:** Mark Stonell (Consultant)

Using the learning from the England Innovations Project, Munro, Turnell & Murphy Child Protection Consulting worked with leading IT companies in the UK to create an IT system designed around Signs of Safety practice. This system covers the whole practice continuum from intake to closure, including assessment, safety planning and children’s involvement within child protection; family support and children-in-care services; and even incorporates the meaningful measures work like Collaborative Case Audits and dashboards.

This presentation will provide an overview of the Signs of Safety Case Information System and show screenshots of the two different companies’ configurations that are currently on the market. The presentation will conclude with a description of anticipated coming developments in the UK and beyond, and an outline of what an organization must do to be ready to implement a Signs of Safety Case Information system.

Family Network Meetings

**PRESENTERS:**
Lynn Robinson (Social Worker)
Nicola Print (Social Worker)
Suffolk County Council Children’s Services

Lyn and Alison will share their experience of how they used family network meetings to significantly change the progress of five children’s lives and the lives of their parents. You will also hear from a group of Suffolk social workers sharing the positive impacts of Family Network Meetings on their practice.

The theme is looking for the ‘micro-moments of hope’.
We are excited to announce that the 2018 International Signs of Safety Gathering will be in Dublin.

Join us in Ireland to hear presentations by child protection practitioners and leaders from across Europe and around the globe. This Gathering will feature presentations from many Irish practitioners working in Tusla Child and Family Agency who, with their leaders, will describe their use of Signs of Safety in the world’s first whole-country implementation of the approach.
The 2018 Gathering will be held in the beautiful seaside town of Dún Laoghaire, 12 kilometers south of the center of Dublin.

Irish culture and hospitality is famous around the world and we have chosen the fabulous and historic Royal Marine Hotel in Dún Laoghaire for the 2018 Gathering because its meeting and accommodation facilities are perfect for all participants to share a fantastic three days of learning.

Signs of Safety Gatherings are special because they celebrate good child protection practice through presentations from practitioners and the leaders who are supporting them. Focusing on success creates hope and inspiration for child protection professionals and renews our enthusiasm for the work. Join us at the 2018 Signs of Safety Gathering in Dún Laoghaire and be part of changing the child protection story.

INFORMATION: signsofsafety.net/2018gathering
Child exploitation comes in many forms and is possibly the greatest threat to Cambodian children’s everyday safety. For many westerners, it comes as a shock to learn that Cambodian orphanages, like those throughout the developing world, are vehicles of this exploitation. Over the past two years, the Cambodian Children’s Trust (CCT) has been using the Signs of Safety approach to deepen its family and village involvement, and to better involve everyone who has natural connections to the children in building networks of safety and support around vulnerable children and their extended families.

In this presentation, Tara will speak about the broader social issues and importance of holistic children’s services. Jedtha will discuss the details of how CCT is using Signs of Safety to improve its work with children, families and communities.

PRESENTERS: Pon Jedtha (Co-founder and Governance Director) Tara Winkler (Co-founder and Managing Director) Cambodian Children’s Trust

Miriam and Jennifer will present a case that illustrates what Miriam learned from her experience and how her learning has changed the way she leads her team.

The presentation will focus on Miriam’s ‘Aha!’ moment and the details of what made it possible for her, a self-proclaimed ‘apprehension queen’, to change her mind. You will also hear about the incredible impact this single mapping conversation had in a case for Jen, the parents, and their child. We hope that the significance of this everyday success will encourage others to face the anxiety-ridden work of child protection with openness, a willingness to truly listen, and a vision for using mapping to build collaboration among professionals as well as partnership with families.
Celebrating everyday successes!

WEDNESDAY 10:15 – 10:45 AM
Allowing Signs of Safety Principles to Shape Our Work

**PRESENTERS:** Carole J. Cole (Investigative Child Protection Social Worker) and Jessica Robertson (Child Protection Case Management Social Worker)
Carver County Health and Human Services

This presentation will demonstrate safety-focused casework in which the workers engaged with the family in building safety for a five-year-old boy who appeared to be in physical danger due to some of his mother’s alternate personality states that were angry, jealous of him, and sometimes came out to harm him.

By applying Signs of Safety principles, the team was able to let the family be the experts in safety planning and develop a Words and Picture story to explain the worries to the child in a way he could understand.

The presentation will include the Words and Pictures story and case work, focusing on how the Signs of Safety principles were applied to guide the work throughout the life of the case and the difference it made for this child.

WEDNESDAY 11:15 – 11:45 AM
Courage and Vulnerability: Teaching and Learning Together

**PRESENTERS:** Jamie Pinney (Children’s Service Specialist) and Priscilla Mulac (Training Technician)
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

Jaime and Priscilla will present information about their journey as trainers and the catalysts during implementation of Signs of Safety. The presentation details the transition from being “experts” in the field to learning alongside staff and peers within the agency. They will provide observations and lessons learned during the multi-wave implementation of Signs of Safety.

Case examples will be provided and include three-columns mappings during both organisational and family meetings, group supervision and consultation experiences, and children’s tools such as My Three Houses and Words and Pictures.
A Cultural Shift: Leadership for Implementation

PRESENTERS: Mahesh Prajapat (Chief Operating Officer), Nancy Andrews (Director of Central Intake), Mary Auld (Intake Supervisor) and Nicole Bonnie (Director of Equity and Diversity), Children’s Aid Society of Toronto with Fred Magie (Signs of Safety Trainer and Consultant)

Organizational leadership is one of the fundamental elements of any Signs of Safety implementation. In 2013, the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, the largest child protection agency in Ontario, announced that Signs of Safety would be its model of practice. Five years later, members of the multi-faceted management team are ready to share what they have learned about leadership endeavors and how they have worked to shape a culture of appreciation in an organization that strives towards equity within rigorous risk assessment and safety planning processes.

Towards Practices of Safety, Healing and Belonging

PRESENTER: Kevin Campbell (Family Finding Model Developer) Family Finding

Kevin Campbell and Andrew Turnell have been engaged in dialogue for the past four years, looking at the intersections and connections between Signs of Safety and Family Finding. They have also been leading a conversation in the Signs of Safety and Family Finding communities about how to weave these approaches together to provide a stronger vision of participatory child protection practice and organization.

In this presentation, Kevin will speak of the challenges and opportunities he sees within children’s services to genuinely practice and organize in ways that bring healing and safety for vulnerable children. Kevin will also draw connections from Gathering presentations of the previous day and a half, honoring the work that particularly stands out for him, and challenging us to continue growing our practices and organizations as places of connection for professionals, as well as for the children and families we serve.
WEDNESDAY 1:45 AM – 2:15 PM
**Signs of Safety with Teens: Working Towards Understanding, Clarity and Belonging**

**PRESENTER:**
Ross Layton (Senior Child Protection Practitioner)

After becoming increasingly inquisitive about Signs of Safety over several years, Ross was instrumental in bringing the approach to social workers in the Cambodian Children’s Trust. After returning to Australia in 2016, Ross was determined to use Signs of Safety wherever possible in his day-to-day child protection work with adolescents. Being creative and courageous, Ross has challenged himself to use the approach in an organization where Signs of Safety is not the recognized practice model.

Using two different case examples, Ross will talk about the successes and challenges of using Signs of Safety alongside young people, their families, and their networks. The first involves a young person searching for belonging and stability. The second involves a young person returning to his family from out-of-home care. Ross will also talk about his journey from admiring the approach from a distance to using it in daily practice, and what he has found most useful in making this learning and practice possible.

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WEDNESDAY 2:15 – 2:45 PM
**It Takes a Village: The Fine Art of Keeping a Family and Their Children Held**

**PRESENTERS:**
Bridgette von Cordes (Front Line Child Protection Worker)
Jessica Jeppesen (Restorative Justice Circle Keeper)
Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center
with Shana Ellingboe (Mother), Chris Anderson (Father), Mary Lee (Circle Volunteer), Jim Lee (Circle Volunteer) and Mike Makarrall (Circle Volunteer)

Bridgette, Jessica and the father will present what it looks like when ‘it takes a village to raise up a family’. The presentation will detail how long-term relationships were built through the Circle process within the community. At the same time, it will show how Child Protection gracefully held hard lines around safety, around needing a network for the children, around practicing the safety plan in order to break the cycle of secret keeping, and around unhealthy behaviors of addiction, fighting, and emotional health needs. The result was a reputation change and pride for the family that has rippled out into the community and to other families involved in child protection.
WEDNESDAY 3:30 AM – 4:00 PM
The Swiss Army Knife Approach: Using a Risk Assessment Map to Address Concerns and Build Safety, Confidence and Professional Teams

PRESENTERS:
Gretchen Plaggenburg (Family Support Team Facilitator)
Noah Rienks (Family Centered Service Supervisor)
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

Gretchen and Noah will present a case on mapping for use with resource families. This presentation will illustrate the use of Signs of Safety mapping with resource families in an attempt to reduce placements and the trauma they cause.

Gretchen and Noah will utilize a risk assessment mapping completed with the resource family to demonstrate the use of mapping with professional team members.

WEDNESDAY 4:00 – 4:30 PM
Working in Indigenous Communities as Allies: The Journey from Dis-membered to Re-membered

PRESENTERS:
Caara Goddard (Signs of Safety Trainer and Consultant)
Anne Jimmie (Aboriginal Elder, KKCFs Board Member)
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services

Anne and Caara will present a collection of personal experiences, videos and casework to highlight the process of colonization through to the current path of reconciliation.

The presentation will show how to adapt the Signs of Safety tools and questions to elicit the sacred wisdom and traditions that have been used in Aboriginal communities to help keep their children and families safe and healthy. Together, Anne and Clara will talk about the importance of ensuring Aboriginal communities and child protection agencies work collaboratively to create long-lasting and meaningful shifts towards reconciliation.
Celebrating everyday successes!

THURSDAY 9:00 – 9:30 AM
Utilizing Words and Pictures in Child Protection Practice

PRESENTERS:
Alisa Connelly (Children’s Service Worker)
Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division

Alisa will discuss the benefits of Words and Pictures when working with families. She will demonstrate how the Words and Pictures process helps parents process the reason the case has come in, clarifies with the child the reason for being in care, and provides a consistent story for the team. Alisa will discuss different scenarios this tool can be used for and how the process takes time and cannot be rushed.

THURSDAY 9:30 – 10:00 AM
Exclusion to Inclusion: Our Journey Before and After Signs of Safety

PRESENTERS:
Christina Campbell (Access Supervisor and Child in Care Manager)
Lisha Elliston (Intake and Investigation Worker)
Family and Children’s Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville

Lisha and Christina will present a ‘compare and contrast’ of two youths’ experiences of coming into care. Notably, it will contrast how Signs of Safety allowed for a collaborative approach with Lisha’s family as opposed to the experience of Christina’s family where Signs of Safety was not used and relationships were severed by the welfare and court system. The presentation will include a Words and Pictures explanation along with the youths’ experience explored through appreciative inquiry.
The Journey to Statewide Implementation

**PRESENTER:**
Tim Decker (Director of Children’s Division)
Missouri Department of Social Services

Tim will discuss the journey Missouri undertook to implement Signs of Safety statewide, beginning with the first exposure in the fall of 2014 to the final training session for new staff at the beginning of this month.

Tim will discuss what can be achieved in just two years. He will highlight the strengths of the implementation as well as the struggles. Tim will also share lessons learned and tips for new implementation sites.

Implementation in Real Time: A Case Example

**PRESENTERS:**
Kendra Pashales (Program Administrator)
Natalie Shepard (Social Worker Supervisor)
Vicki Whitehead (Ongoing Social Worker)
Mendocino County Family & Children’s Services

Kendra, Natalie and Vicki will utilize the visual impact of the trajectory tool to represent the arc of a child welfare case.

This case will focus on the impact of collaborating with community partners on the safety and permanency of children in care.

They will explore how using Signs of Safety facilitated clarity, respect, and support for three young children in a rural California community.
THURSDAY 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Never Give Up and Always Keep Moving Forward

PRESENTER: Kimberly Gill (Director of Service)
The Children’s Aid Society of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Kimberly's team members will take you through their journey of successes and failures as they worked on getting their most complex youth-in-care case through the good times and the bad. Their journey from group care to family-based care was not easy, but in partnership with parents, foster parents and various community partners, they knew they had a strong team of family and professionals to help this youth reach her goals.

Kimberly and the team will demonstrate the marriage between the philosophies of trauma therapy and Signs of Safety, the powerful use of the Signs of Safety tools, and how, against all odds, this youth is living in family-based care successfully... all because of a team that believed in her. In turn, she learned to believe in herself.

THURSDAY 12:00 – 12:30 PM

Leadership Plenary

PRESENTERS:
Andrew Turnell, Tim Decker, Tara Winkler, Cormac Quinlan and Mahesh Prajapati

Mahesh Prajapati from Toronto, Tara Winkler from Cambodia, Tim Decker from Missouri, and Cormac Quinlan from Ireland will join Andrew Turnell to discuss the most important things they have heard and (re)learned from the Gathering presentations so far.

In addition, they will identify what stands out for them now as leaders and what they believe their and other children’s services organizations should focus on to better support Signs of Safety practice.
Case Example: Signs of Safety Implementation in Stó:lō Community

**PRESENTERS:** Melissa Celella (Collaborative Practice Team Leader) and Deanna John (Chawathil Band Representative)
Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services (Xyolhemeylh)

This presentation will look at the implementation of Signs of Safety in the Stó:lō Community of Chawathil First Nation in Hope, British Columbia.

The Delegated Aboriginal Agency servicing Chawathil is FVACFSS, better known as Xyolhemeylh. It has been slowly implementing Signs of Safety over the last five years, with the strongest efforts in the last 12 months. As team leader for collaborative practice, Melissa Celella has been working directly with communities to implement the mapping process at collaborative family planning meetings. She has been tasked with ensuring they are using the rigorous safety and risk reduction tools provided by the Signs of Safety framework, while also ensuring they fit the needs of communities as they undertake this difficult work of child protection through the lens of reconciliation and self-determination.

Reflections on the 2017 Signs of Safety Gathering

**PRESENTER:**
Andrew Turnell (Signs of Safety Co-creator)

Resolutions

Building on the observations and insights from the leadership plenary earlier in the day, Andrew Turnell will invite reflections from all participants about their learnings and highlights from this Gathering. Andrew will offer some final reflections followed by a photographic and musical reprise of our shared learning over the course of the Gathering.