



METRO DETROIT ASSOCIATION  
FOR  
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH  
*Supporting Nurturing Relationships*  
SUMMER NEWSLETTER  
August 2017



Upcoming Events:  
***Strong Beginnings: Building Stronger Roots for Children and Families in Foster Care and the B00!-LATHON***  
Please see page 2 for additional information

**Congratulations to Rebecca Wheeler for receiving the Esther Dean Callard Award!**



Rebecca is currently coordinating a large, multi-county research study focused upon supporting reflective functioning in early childhood teachers. Rebecca also provides reflective supervision to several groups and individuals across our chapter membership. She has also served on the Metro Detroit board in several roles including president.

*"Rebecca personifies relationship-based practice in all of her work. She has been a secure base to so many of us that has nurtured our growth as clinicians and researchers."*

Ann Stacks  
Director, Infant Mental Health Program  
Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute

*"Becca is calm and supportive."*  
Student supervised by Rebecca

*"Becca can make any situation look better!"*  
Marian Orihel  
MD-AIMH Board Member

Quotes:



Follow Metro Detroit Association for Infant Mental Health on Facebook!





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August 2017 page 2



**Fundraising  
News**



FUNDRAISING

Thank you to the Canton Township Employees for holding a “Denim Day” fundraiser in April and July to benefit the Metro Detroit Association for Infant Mental Health. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming fall fundraiser:

The minimum donation of \$30 will include 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and pop

The individual who raises the most donations will receive an **Ipad Mini!**

Look for more information coming soon!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
ANNUAL **BOO! - LATHON**

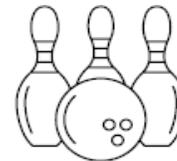
METRO DETROIT ASSOCIATION FOR



INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Sunday Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
12-2PM

Country Lanes  
30250 W. 9 Mile Rd  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336



***Strong Beginnings: Building Stronger Roots for Children and Families in Foster Care***

Danielle Davey, MSW, LLMSW, IMH-E (II)  
Vickie Novell, MSW, LMSW, IMH-E (IV-C)

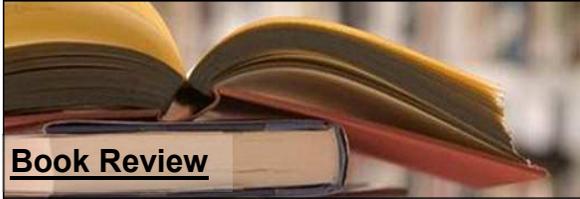
**Wednesday, September 20, 2017**  
**5:30pm-8:00pm (Dinner will be provided)**  
**Huntington Woods Library**

Join us to learn more about Strong Beginnings, the development of a new innovative practice that adds themes that are unique and critical to the care and parenting of children in foster care. Topics such as the complexity of fostering children, repairing parent-child relationships, and working in the child welfare system are explored. Strong Beginnings is a multifamily parenting, support and mental health intervention for both foster parents and biological parents with infants and young children in the child welfare system. The group aims to reduce caregiver’s mental health symptoms, increase sensitive and nurturing parenting and support and to build continuity into the relationships between judges, caseworkers, mental health providers and families involved in the child welfare system.



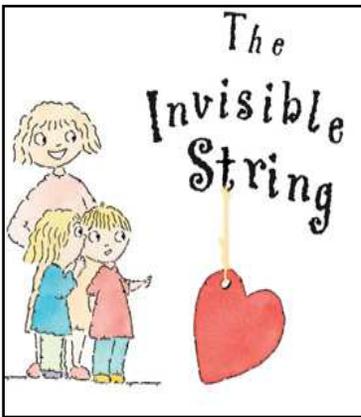
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**Book Review**

Kate Fox, LMSW, IMH-E (III)®, CD (DONA), is an Early Childhood Therapist at Livingston County Community Mental Health with her formative IMH years spent at Development Centers in Detroit. Previous work and volunteer experiences have included Early Head Start home visiting, doula support, pregnancy counseling, Healthy Families, Friend of the Court, and foster care.



I have my friend and fellow colleague, Jane Reitman, to thank for the heads up about the next children's book I'd like to share with all of you - "The Invisible String" by Patrice Karst. It's a cute, relatable story about two twins who wake in the middle of the night scared and anxious because of a storm outside, wanting to be close to their mother. Their mother decides that this is the perfect time to share with her twins the story that her mother told her when she was their age about "the invisible string" – you know the one that is connected from your heart to the heart of others you love. The story is a dialogue between the twins and their mother as they ask a variety of questions about whether or not the invisible string can reach far enough to different people and places – even to heaven where Uncle Brian now resides.



I used this book quite a bit with children and their families I had been working with when I was preparing to leave Development Centers for work in Livingston County as well as with children in foster care when preparing them for a change in placement. It was interesting how each little person and their families processed and expanded the message from this book. Some talked about all the people in their lives that their heart would be connected to if we could see the invisible strings, including at times the occasional mention of "Batman" or insert another character here \_\_\_\_\_. Some created their own visual with cutout hearts – one with their name and several other hearts with the names of important people in their lives – friends from daycare/school, foster family members, birth family members, neighbors, etc. – with strings attached from each heart leading back to their own heart. While the recommended age range for this book is 4-8 years, I've had great success using it with children as young as 3.

On a personal note, I read this story on Mother's Day at church during the children's time and was pleasantly surprised about a month later when my son and daughter – 7 and 3, respectively – started up their own conversation about the invisible strings they have attached to Molly, our dog, and Massey, our cat, in heaven. I had only read this book to them once! This book can leave quite the imprint.



MD-AIMH is proud to be a sponsor for *Explorations in Development*. We have sponsored this event for several years and encourage you to visit [www.mi-aimh.org](http://www.mi-aimh.org) for registration information.



**WHO WILL BENEFIT**  
Social Workers, and other Professionals working with infants and families

**HOSTED BY**  
MPSI, Infant Mental Health Program at WSU  
MPSI, Healthier Urban Families Outreach Program at WSU

Metro-Detroit Association for Infant Mental Health  
Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health

**NEW LOCATION:**  
Wayne State University  
Oakland Center  
33737 W. 12 Mile Rd,  
Farmington Hills, 48331  
Registration includes continental breakfast and CEUs, Lunch Not Included

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Save the Dates

# 2017

## Explorations in Development



Oct. 19

9 AM - 4:30 PM



*Working with Substance Abusing Youth and Their Families: Keeping In Mind the Developmental Context*

**Leslie Lundahl, PhD**, Assistant Professor  
Substance Abuse Research Division Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences WSU, School of Medicine

Oct. 20

9 AM - 4:30 PM



*Parents with Substance Use Disorders Who Have Young Children: The Complexities of Therapeutic Intervention*

**Ruth Paris, PhD, LICSW**, Assoc. Professor and Director, Family Therapy Certificate Program  
Boston University School of Social Work

Registration will open August 1 at: [www.mi-aimh.org](http://www.mi-aimh.org)








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