

The 2024 International Virtual Conference: A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare

The 2024 Catalyst Webinar and Dialogue Series

Our Invitation

Since 2020, in early October, Kempe Center faculty and their global partners have organized the [Annual International Conference: A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare](#)—a four-day virtual event to build and support a global movement of changemakers striving to bring radical and lasting transformation to child welfare practice, policy, systems and research. This five-part Catalyst Webinar and Dialogue Series, with leading scholars and thought leaders, publicly launches the 2024 Call to Action conference offerings.



Through the Catalyst Webinar and Dialogue Series, in synchrony with the Call to Action Conference, we are encouraging the international learning community to:



BE CURIOUS

about child welfare history.



MORE DEEPLY UNDERSTAND

the impacts of the child welfare system, which continues to have significant consequences on family life today.



LEARN AND GROW

to be in better service to children, youth, parents, families, professionals, service providers, and communities.



REFLECT

on how organizations may contribute to creating and upholding systemic injustices.



TELL TRUTH

to recognize the opportunity truth telling affords those who work in child welfare and adjacent institutions.



CONTEMPLATE

some of the policies and structures that the Kempe Center, along with many others, saw as solutions to address child abuse and neglect in the 1960s and 1970s, and remain ever-present in today's child welfare practice, policy and laws.



Webinar Series

Starting in May 2024 and continuing through September 2024, during the early part of each month, the Call to Action Conference will hold a thought-provoking webinar to catalyze learning and build momentum for the October event.

Dialogue Series

Approximately two weeks after the live presentation of the webinar or the posting of the webinar on Kempe's YouTube Channel, in the spirit of exploration and growth, we invite you to participate in a unique conversational experience. Here you can lean into the richness of your experiences and knowledge, which are often only shared within our own echo chambers. Profound insights often lie just beyond the boundaries of our comfort zones.

Entitled "Dialoguing at the Edges of Our Discomfort to Change Child Welfare," this is not just another meeting. It is a carefully curated space designed to foster open, honest, and, at times, challenging conversations that aim to push the boundaries of what we consider comfortable. Our goal is to explore those edges of discomfort together with intentional and diverse dialogues, in a supportive and respectful environment, to uncover deeper understandings, foster empathy, and promote personal and collective growth. We believe it is the perspectives that we all bring to a conversation that can influence, shape and create innovative ideas and strategies to eliminate, change or redesign what is not working in child welfare and adjacent systems.



Michelle Davis, MS, LPC
Director of Justice, Equity,
Diversity & Inclusion at
the Kempe Center

Why Join?

- To engage with diverse perspectives and challenge your own thinking in a safe space.
- To develop skills in navigating difficult conversations with grace and confidence.
- To connect with individuals committed to personal and professional development.
- To contribute to a culture of openness and vulnerability that is rare yet incredibly valuable in today's world.

What to expect:

- Guided discussions led by facilitators experienced in navigating complex dialogues.
- Small group breakouts to ensure everyone has a voice and can share more intimately.
- A judgment-free zone where all perspectives are welcomed and treated with respect.

In 2022, the Kempe Center and Pale Blue., an organization led by Family Seeing™ experts Kevin Campbell and Elizabeth Wendel (www.familyseeing.org) launched [Together in Truth](#), an initiative to catalyze truth-telling in multiple child welfare spaces around the nation. This includes truth-telling circles for impacted persons, service providers, organizations, and collective communities. To start, however, the Kempe Center cannot catalyze truth telling processes elsewhere without being willing to engage in our own truth telling. Click [here](#) for more information about Kempe's truth telling efforts. If you are interested in catalyzing truth telling in your community or organization, please contact the [Together in Truth team](#).

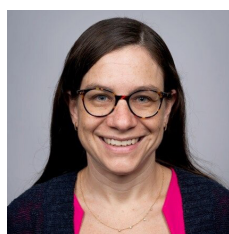
The Sessions

Click [here](#) for more information and to [register](#) for the sessions.

To join one or more of these webinars, you can register [here](#). We look forward to learning with you and we hope you will join us October 7-10, 2024 for this year's Call to Action conference.

Mandatory Reporting: Still A Policy without Reason

Webinar: May 6, 2024 1:00-1:45 PM MT
Dialogue: May 21, 2024 12:00-1:00 PM MT



Mical Raz,
Charles E. and Dale L. Phelps
Professor in Public Policy
and Health, University of
Rochester; & physician,
Strong Memorial Hospital

The Racist Legacy of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974

Webinar: June 3, 2024 1:00-1:45 PM MT Dialogue:
June 18, 2024 12:00-1:00 PM MT



Alan Detlaff,
Professor, University of Houston
Graduate School of Social Work

Promoting Advocates for Children and Ignoring Advocates for Families

Webinar: July 9, 2024 10:00-10:45 AM MT
Dialogue: July 16, 2024 12:00-1:00 PM MT



Marty Guggenheim,
Professor Emeritus, New York
University School of Law

The Uncoupling of Child Abuse/Neglect and Poverty

Webinar: September 12, 2024 12:00-12:45 PM MT
Dialogue: September 17, 2024 12:00-1:00 PM MT



Clare Anderson,
Senior Policy Fellow,
Chapin Hall at the
University of Chicago

Early Origins: Pathologizing Families and the Overmedicalization of Child Abuse and Neglect

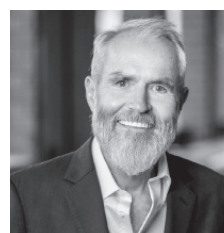
Webinar: August 7, 2024 11:00 AM-12:00 PM MT
Dialogue: August 20, 2024 12:00-1:00 PM MT



Elizabeth Wendel,
Co-Founder,
Pale Blue.



Kevin Campbell,
Co-Founder,
Pale Blue.



Jerry Milner,
Co-Founder
and Co-
Director,
Family Justice
Group