In 2018, children under the age of three made up 42% (1,829) of child abuse and neglect cases in Washington State. Early childhood experiences shape children’s brain development and have life-long impacts on their social, emotional and physical well-being. Timely and appropriate interventions help maltreated babies and families heal.

The Safe Babies Court Team™ (SBCT) approach is a community engagement and systems-change initiative focused on reducing trauma and improving how courts, child welfare and child-serving organizations work together to support young children in, or at-risk of entering, the child welfare system. Pierce County has led the way in Washington with the Best for Babies Program, and now we have the opportunity to bring the SBCT approach to communities across Washington State.

We have a HIGH IMPACT OPPORTUNITY to change the landscape of our child welfare system and

- REDUCE the number of babies, toddlers and families entering the dependency court
- IMPROVE the well-being and cognitive development of babies and toddlers
- PREVENT trauma and family separation in a safe, equitable and effective manner

Core Components of the SBCT approach include:

- Judicial and Child Welfare Leadership
- Dedicated staff driving the team approach at the family and community level
- Pre-/Post-Removal Conferences and monthly Family Team Meetings
- Frequent family time, parent empowerment, and access to treatment that supports parent-child relationships
- Technical assistance, training and evaluation enable teams to assess effectiveness and improve outcomes

For more information on the Core Components, visit: https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/services/the-safe-babies-court-team-approach

Evidence of SBCT Effectiveness

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<tr>
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<th>SBCT</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in recurrence of maltreatment</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More babies reunified with parents or placed with relatives</td>
<td>87.8%</td>
<td>66%</td>
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Children of all races and ethnicities were served equally well with regard to both placement stability and length of stay in foster care.

For more information, visit: https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2181-safe-babies-court-team-trauma-informed-care-that-s-changing-lives

ZERO TO THREE and CCYJ invite you to help design the Washington State Safe Babies Plan

Key stakeholders are invited to join the Safe Babies Design Team on April 29, 2020 to initiate work that will:

- Create a blueprint for state-wide implementation and sustainability
- Identify state, regional and local needs - including barriers, strengths, and existing resources
- Develop a strategy for the upcoming 2021 legislative session
- Create a robust funding plan

For more information, please contact:
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