
Improving Outcomes for Maltreated Babies and their Families: Bringing Baby Court to Your Community

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Referee

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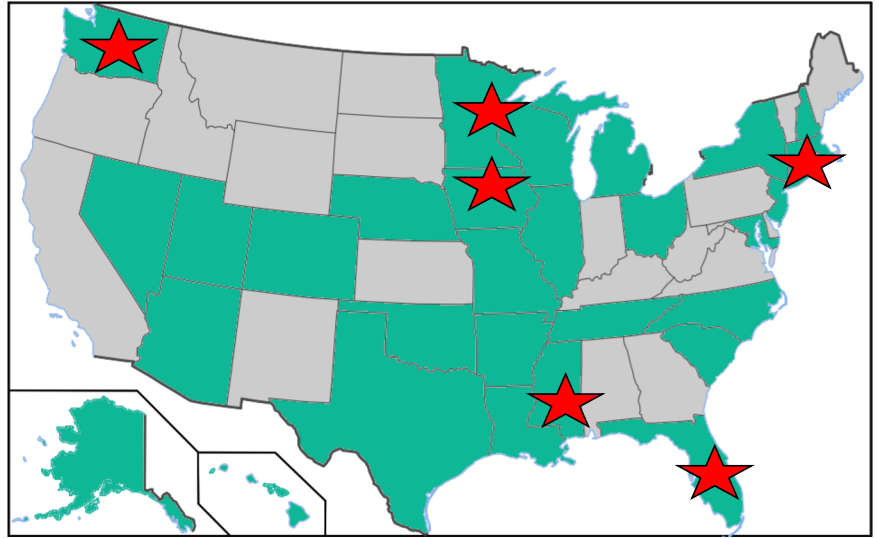
Goals for Today

1. Consider why a Baby Court might be right for your county
 - Lots of babies in care
 - They improve child welfare outcomes
 2. What makes Baby Courts different?
 3. How to get started
 - What we know from implementation science
 - Resources
 4. An opportunity to be part of the national Safe Babies Court Team model
 - Gauge interest from Michigan counties
 5. Q & A
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History of Baby Courts

- Began in 1990s in Florida & Louisiana
- 2005 Michigan
- 2015 Safe Babies Court Team Quality Improvement Center
- 2019-2021 evaluations
- 2022 state expansion

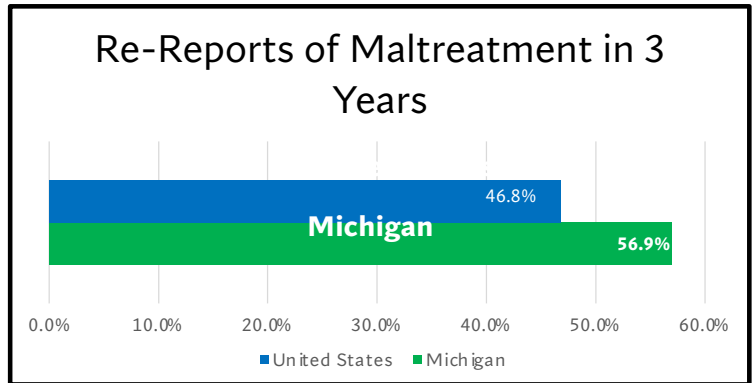
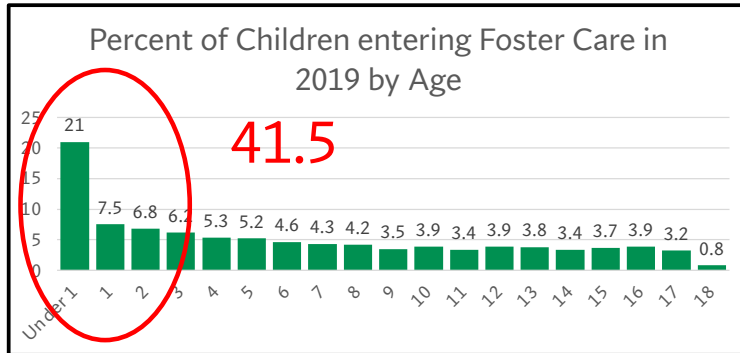


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- 1. Babies are over-represented in child welfare out-of-home care**
 - 2. Trauma has a profound impact on brain development & the most opportune time to “hard-wire” healthy development is birth to three.**
 - 3. Baby Court improves safety and permanency outcomes**

Babies are over-represented in child welfare out-of-home care and have Poor Outcomes



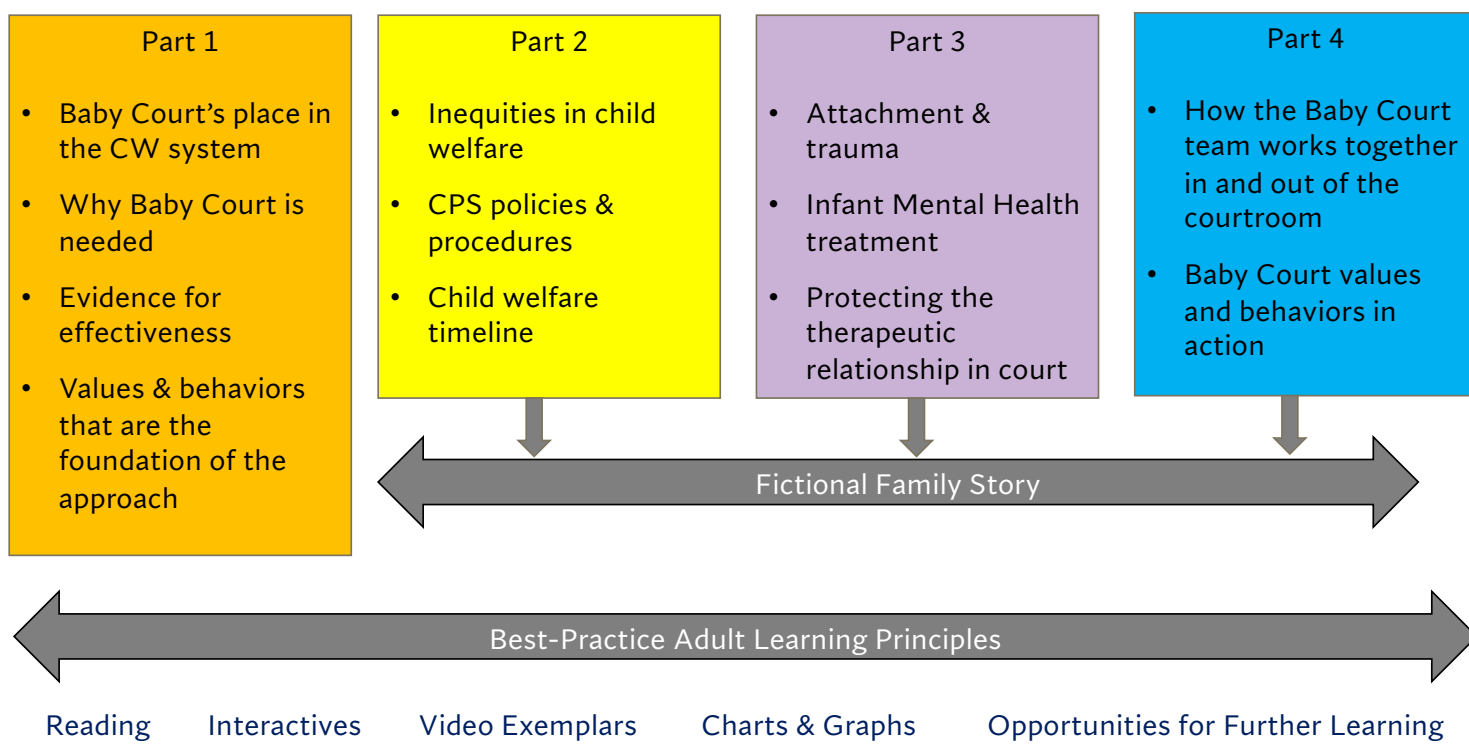
Kids Count Data 2020; <https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/pdf/michigan.html>; National Data Archive on Child Abuse & Neglect, Children's Bureau 2021

What makes Baby Courts Different?

- Judicial Leadership
- Non-adversarial problem-solving court
- More frequent hearings (monthly)
- Infant Mental Health treatment
- Testimony from IMH clinician
- Commitment to collaboration
- Cross-agency training



Photo: Bryan Creely

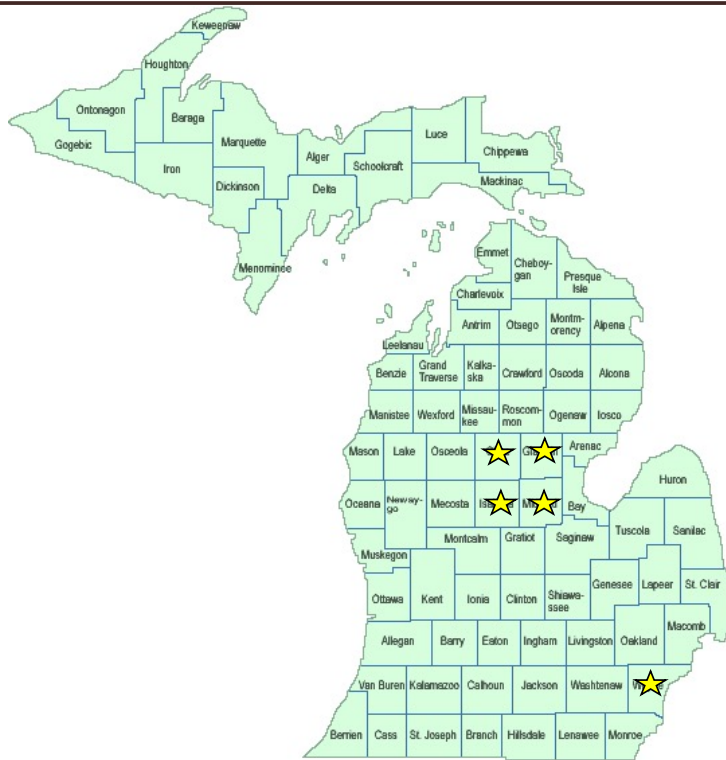


To learn more, email amstacks@wayne.edu



Assess your county's commitment & readiness

- Identify a judicial leader
- Bring a core team together (jurist, DHHS director, CMH Children's Services program director)
 - How many babies are in care?
 - Systems capacity?
 - Eligibility criteria?
 - How referrals get made to the Baby Court & to IMH?
 - How are attorneys assigned?
 - Meet regularly
- Review resources from existing court teams
- Visit one of Michigan's Baby Courts
- Core team **commits** to developing a Baby Court



Where are Michigan's Baby Courts?

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Start with a small pilot project

- Select 1 child welfare and IMH supervisors who are excited and committed
 - They select 1-2 foster care worker and 1-2 clinicians who are interested
- Select attorneys who are interested
- Cross training
- Team building
- Determine what data you will collect
- Start with 1-2 families
- Meet and reflect on what is going well and what needs adjusting



Expand Slowly and Monitor Progress

- What is your IMH capacity? How many babies can be on the docket?
- How will you manage staff turnover?
- How will you measure your progress?

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Safe Babies Court Team National Model

- Judicial and Child Welfare Leadership
- Local Community Coordinator
- Active Community Team

- Pre/Post Removal Conferences & FTM

- Continuum of Services for Children & Families

- Meeting Parents where the Are
- Nurturing Parents Relationships
- Frequent Quality Parenting Time
- Concurrent Planning

- Continuous Learning & Improvement

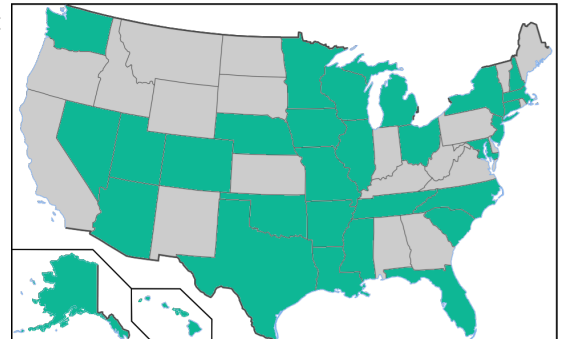
Interdisciplinary,
Collaborative &
Proactive Teamwork

Enhanced Oversight
& Collaborative
Problem Solving

Expedited,
Appropriate &
Effective Services

Trauma-Responsive
Support

Continuous Quality
Improvement



- Cooperative Agreement to expand research-based Baby Courts
- Develop state level leadership team: Integrate Baby Courts into early childhood systems of care, sustainability plan, analyze & interpret data, prevent maltreatment more broadly
- Existing counties: Assess and build fidelity to the national model, evaluate outcomes, contribute to national data
- New counties: Access to the Quality Improvement Center trainings to support fidelity to the model

Only Funding Eight States

Department of Health and Human Services
HRSA
Services Administration
Bureau
Systems

Infant-Toddler Court Program
Funding Opportunity Number
Funding Opportunity Type(s): Competitive
Assistance Listings (AL/CFDA) Number

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
Fiscal Year 2022

Application Due Date: May 4, 2022

Ensure your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations and passwords are current immediately!

HRSA will not approve deadline extensions for lack of registration.
Registration in all systems may take up to 1 month to complete.

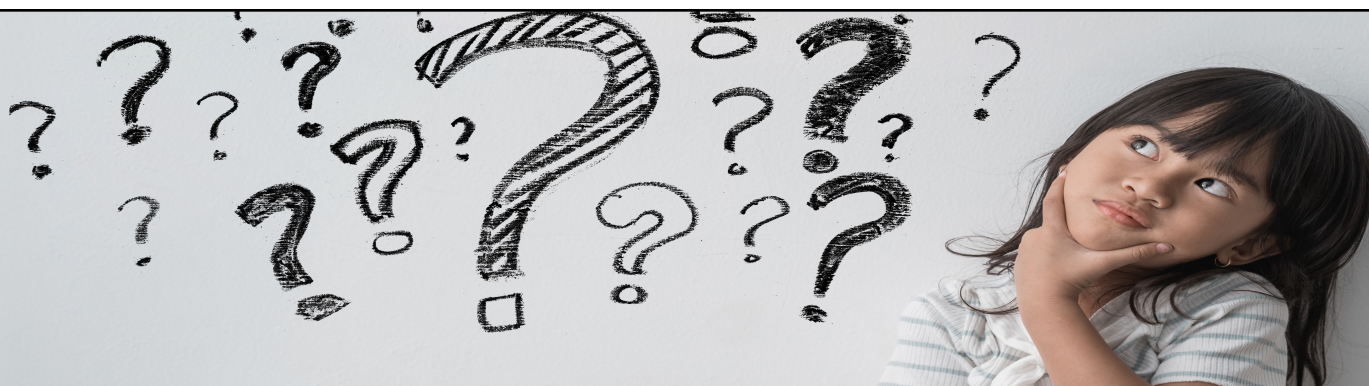
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See [Section VII](#) for a complete list of agency contacts.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. § 701(a)(2) (Title V, § 501(a)(2) of the Social Security Act)

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Judges and DHHS Directors

- If you are interested in EXPLORING bringing Baby Court to your county please type the name of your county in the chat.
- This helps us know if applying for the grant is viable because we have to expand to at least one new county

You don't have to wait to start exploring

- Put your email in the chat or email me
- I can give you a sneak peak at the online Baby Court training and help you think how you can use it in your county
- Download the materials in the chat today

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