

NATIONAL PREVENTION SCIENCE COALITION TO IMPROVE LIVES

Continue Learning: Resources from Our Speakers

Federal Research Investments in Whole Child Health and Wellbeing

Decade of the Child National Webinar • June 24, 2026

On June 24, 2026, the Decade of the Child (DOC) Committee convened a full-day national webinar, “Federal Research Investments in Whole Child Health and Wellbeing,” organized by the DOC Committee and sponsored by the Nova Institute for Health, the National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives (NPSC), Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative at Johns Hopkins, the Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center at Penn State University, and the Department of Maternal and Child Health at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina.

Fifteen speakers from NIH, academic research centers, and the prevention science field shared the latest evidence, frameworks, and federal investments shaping whole child health. This guide gathers the organizations, frameworks, reports, and resources each speaker referenced — drawn from their presentation slides, their remarks during the webinar, and resources shared in the webinar chat — so that attendees can continue learning after the event.

Dr. Diana “Denni” Fishbein, PhD

President, National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives (NPSC); Senior Scientist, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, UNC–Chapel Hill; Part-Time Research Faculty, Prevention Research Center at Penn State, Scholar, The Nova Institute for Health

Opening Remarks: Research to Facilitate the Translational Pipeline from Bench to Trench; Closing Remarks and Q&A

Dr. Fishbein opened the webinar by framing the urgent need to move whole child health research from discovery to real-world impact, setting the stage for the day's pragmatic research agenda. She closed the webinar synthesizing speaker themes and highlighting next steps, including an upcoming congressional briefing.

Key Topics

- Translating prevention science into practice, policy, and scaled implementation
- The Decade of the Child Research, Practice, and Policy Agenda
- Federal and congressional engagement on whole child health

Organizations Mentioned

- [National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives \(NPSC\)](#)
- [UNC–Chapel Hill, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute](#)
- [Penn State University, Prevention Research Center](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [The Full Translational Spectrum of Prevention Science \(Fishbein et al., 2016\)](#)
- [Decade of the Child Research, Practice, and Policy Agenda](#)

Suggested Reading

- Fishbein, D.H., Ridenour, T.A., Stahl, M., & Sussman, S. (2016). The full translational spectrum of prevention science: facilitating the transfer of knowledge to practices and policies that prevent behavioral health problems. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 6(1), 5–16.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13142-015-0376-2>
- Fishbein, D., & Rose, EJ (2025). A translational framework for personalizing intervention models to prevent substance use disorder. *Addiction Neuroscience*, 15: 2772-3925.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addicn.2025.100206>.
- Buckley, P., Fishbein, D., & Wollman, N. (2025). AI-Augmented Clearinghouse to Facilitate Evidence-Based Decision-Making and Social Spending: A Conceptual Framework. *Prevention Science*.

Dr. Fishbein also announced an upcoming Congressional Briefing, “Children First for a Prosperous America,” Tuesday, July 21, 12:00–1:30pm EST, 2060 Rayburn House Office Building — grounded in recommendations from the National Academies’ Launching Lifelong Health report.

Christina Bethell, PhD, MBA, MPH

Professor, Johns Hopkins University; Director, Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI); Scholar, The Nova Institute for Health

Overview of Whole Child Health and Wellbeing

Dr. Bethell presented a national and state-level profile of child and youth wellbeing, showing why the U.S. lags peer nations on childhood morbidity, mortality, and life satisfaction. She argued for shifting from a deficit model (reducing adversity) to proactively promoting flourishing, and highlighted the EnAct! framework, the Whole Person Health Index, and a 2026 National Academies report calling for a coordinated, whole-child NIH research portfolio.

Key Topics

- Whole child flourishing and the “dual continuum” of health (absence of illness vs. presence of wellbeing)
- Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) and biomarkers/epigenetic aging
- The EnAct! (Engagement in Action) framework for cross-sector, whole-child systems
- The Whole Person Health Index (WPHI)
- National and international child wellbeing rankings

Organizations Mentioned

- [Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative \(CAHMI\)](#), Johns Hopkins University
- [The Nova Institute for Health](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [OECD](#)
- [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [EnAct! \(Engagement in Action\) Framework](#), facilitated by CAHMI with HRSA
- [“We Are the Medicine” Framework](#)
- [Whole Person Health Index \(WPHI\)](#) — NIH cross-institute measure
- [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \(2026\). Strategies to Enhance NIH-Funded Pediatric Research: Optimizing Child Health](#)

- UNICEF Child Well-Being in Rich Countries report
- OECD Child Well-Being Dashboard

Websites & Resources

- cahmi.org
- communitiesthatcare.net
- nurturing-care.org (Global Nurturing Care Framework)
- albertafamilywellness.org (resilience scale figure)
- [EnAct! Framework two-pager \(PDF\)](#)
- nccih.nih.gov — Whole Person Health Index tool

Suggested Reading

- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2026). Strategies to Enhance NIH-Funded Pediatric Research: Optimizing Child Health. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/29346>
- Kohlhoff, J., Donkers, M., & Cibralic, S. (2026). Scaling Early Parenting Interventions: A Qualitative Investigation of Factors that Enable Successful Scaling. Administration and Policy in Mental Health. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-026-01500-2>
- Bethell, C.D., Garner, A.S., Gombojav, N., Blackwell, C., Heller, L., & Mendelson, T. (2022). Social and Relational Health Risks and Common Mental Health Problems Among US Children: The Mitigating Role of Family Resilience and Connection to Promote Positive Socioemotional and School-Related Outcomes. Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America, 31, 45–70. (Provided by Dr. Bethell) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chc.2021.08.001>
- Bethell, C.D., Gombojav, N., & Whitaker, R.C. (2019). Family Resilience And Connection Promote Flourishing Among US Children, Even Amid Adversity. Health Affairs, 38(5), 729–737. (Provided by Dr. Bethell) <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05425>
- Bethell, C., Blackwell, C.K., Gombojav, N., Davis, M.B., Bruner, C., & Garner, A.S. (2022). Toward Measurement for a Whole Child Health Policy: Validity and National and State Prevalence of the Integrated Child Risk Index. Academic Pediatrics. (Provided by Dr. Bethell) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acap.2021.12.001>
- Bethell, C.D., Jones, J., Gombojav, N., Linkenbach, J., & Sege, R. (2019). Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental and Relational Health in a Statewide Sample: Associations Across Adverse Childhood Experiences Levels. JAMA Pediatrics. (Provided by Dr. Bethell) <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.3007>
- Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. The Engagement In Action (EnAct!) Framework — One Big Doable Thing! Two-page summary. (Provided by Dr. Bethell) <https://www.cahmi.org/docs/default-source/ms-enact-documents/enact!-framework-two-pager.pdf>
- Sullivan, A.D.W., et al. (2024). Intervening After Trauma: Child-Parent Psychotherapy Treatment Is Associated With Lower Pediatric Epigenetic Age Acceleration. Psychological Science, 35(9), 1062–1073. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976241260247>

Zili Sloboda, ScD

President, Applied Prevention Science International (Former Division Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH)

Decade of the Child Framework

Dr. Sloboda introduced the Decade of the Child initiative, drawing a direct historical parallel to the Decade of the Brain (1990s), which she described as generating a foundation of NIH- and federally-funded research and best practices. She argued the same model of sustained, coordinated federal investment can be applied to whole child health and wellbeing.

Key Topics

- History and legacy of the Decade of the Brain
- Building a federal, cross-agency research and policy blueprint for children
- Translating a coordinated research investment into national practice change

Organizations Mentioned

- [Applied Prevention Science International](#)
- [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#)
- [National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke \(NINDS\)](#)
- [National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)
- [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [Decade of the Brain \(1990s\) as a model for the Decade of the Child](#)
- [National Academies' Launching Lifelong Health report](#)
- *1988 National Advisory Council of NINDS report, Decade of the Brain*
- *1989 National Advisory Mental Health Council report, Approaching the 21st Century: Opportunities for NIMH Neuroscience Research*

Suggested Reading

- Fishbein, D. H., & Sloboda, Z. (2023). A National Strategy for Preventing Substance and Opioid Use Disorders Through Evidence-Based Prevention Programming that Fosters Healthy Outcomes in Our Youth. *Clinical child and family psychology review*, 26(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10567-022-00420-5>
- Sloboda, Z., Johnson, K. A., Fishbein, D. H., Brown, C. H., Coatsworth, J. D., Fixsen, D. L., Kandel, D., Paschall, M. J., Silva, F. S., Sumnall, H., & Vanyukov, M. (2023). Normalization of Prevention Principles and Practices to Reduce Substance Use Disorders Through an Integrated Dissemination and Implementation Framework. *Prevention science : the official journal of the Society for Prevention Research*, 24(6), 1078–1090. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-023-01532-2>
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2025. Blueprint for a National Prevention Infrastructure for Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/28577>.
- Sloboda Z, Fishbein DH (2026) [Using an Epidemiologic Lens to Develop a National Comprehensive Substance Use Service Delivery System](#). *J Subst Abuse Alcohol* 13(1): 1108.
- Sloboda, Z., Johnson, K.A., Fishbein, D., Brown, C.A., Coatsworth, J.D., Paschall, M.J., Salazar Silva, F., Fixsen, D.L., Kandel, D., Sumnall, H., Vanyukov, M. (2023). Normalization of Prevention Principles and Practices to Reduce Substance Use Disorders, *Prevention Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-023-01532-2>

Deena J. Chisolm, PhD

Nationwide Foundation Endowed Chair in Health Equity Research; Director, Center for Health Equity and Outcomes Research, The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital; Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, The Ohio State University

Evidence and Research Foundations

Dr. Chisolm grounded the day's discussion in the existing evidence base for whole child health, tracing the field's roots in population health, health services, and health equity research. She highlighted federal payment and care models (InCK, ASPIRE) and community-driven initiatives (Harlem Children's Zone) as examples of multi-sector approaches, and pointed attendees toward further publications on measuring child health at a population level.

Key Topics

- Origins of the whole child health movement in population and health services research
- Multi-sector, community-driven models of care
- Value-based payment models for child health
- Measuring child health at a population level

Organizations Mentioned

- [Nationwide Children's Hospital / The Abigail Wexner Research Institute](#)
- [The Ohio State University](#)
- [Harlem Children's Zone](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [CMS Integrated Care for Kids \(InCK\) Model](#)
- [CMS ASPIRE Model](#)
- [Launching Lifelong Health \(National Academies\)](#)
- National Academy of Medicine. 2024. Valuing America's Health: Aligning Financing to Reward Better Health and Well-Being. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
<https://doi.org/10.17226/27141>

Suggested Reading

- Kelleher, K.J., Cooper, J., Deans, K., Carr, P., Brilli, R.J., Allen, S., & Gardner, W. (2015). Cost saving and quality of care in a pediatric accountable care organization. *Pediatrics*, 135(3), e582–e589.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25667248/>
- Munn, E.E., Griffin, J.W., R. Ciccarelli, M. *et al.* The impact of the Indiana Complex Care Coordination Collaborative (IC4) on caregivers of children with complex medical conditions. *BMC Pediatr* (2026).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-026-07112-x>
- [Peds article: Steps to Improving Child Population Health \(shared in webinar chat\)](#)
- [Peds article: Increasing Access to Antipoverty Tax Credits \(shared by Dr. Chisolm in chat\)](#)

Rohan Hazra, MD

Acting Director, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

NICHD/NIH Leadership in Whole Child Health Initiatives

Dr. Hazra gave an overview of pediatric research investment across NIH and NICHD's specific research programs, networks, and current funding priorities, including a new Autism Data Science Initiative and NIH's technology and digital media research agenda.

Key Topics

- Pediatric research investment and spending across NIH Institutes and Centers
- NICHD research networks and pediatric trials infrastructure
- The Autism Data Science Initiative (ADSI)
- MAHA (Make America Healthy Again) implementation strategy alignment

Organizations/Programs Mentioned

- [NICHD](#)
- [NIH Pediatric Research Consortium \(NPeRC\)](#)
- [All of Us Research Program](#)
- [Helping to End Addiction Long-term \(HEAL\) Initiative](#)
- [Gabiella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [NIH Autism Data Science Initiative \(ADSI\)](#)
- [NIH Technology and Digital Media Research Agenda](#)
- [NICHD Strategic Plan 2025](#)

Websites & Resources

- nichd.nih.gov/research
- [nichd.nih.gov — tech & digital media research](#)

David Shurtleff, PhD

Director, National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), NIH

NCCIH Institute Investments in Whole Child Health and Wellbeing

Dr. Shurtleff discussed how NCCIH advances a whole person health research framework across the lifespan, including for children, moving beyond fragmented, disease-focused pediatric care models toward research on complementary, integrative, and mind-body approaches.

Key Topics

- Whole person health research framework
- Complementary and integrative health approaches for children
- Recent National Academies reports converging on whole child health recommendations
- The Whole Person Health Index

Organizations Mentioned

- [National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health \(NCCIH\)](#)

Research Mentioned

- *Kuklinski, M., & Sterling, S. A Pragmatic Trial of Parent-Focused Prevention in Pediatric Primary Care: Implementation and Adolescent Health Outcomes in Three Health Systems. (Tests Guiding Good*

Choices, a universal anticipatory guidance curriculum for parents of early adolescents;
<https://reporter.nih.gov/project-details/9493866>

- [Food-Body-Mind Intervention: Promote Whole Child Health](#)
- [Talking Circle for Native American Youth Living Well \(A Yo Li\)](#)
- [Can a Youth Leadership and Mindfulness Program Support Well-Being in Adolescence?](#)

Suggested Reading

- *Pitcher, M.H., & Langevin, H.M. (2026). The Whole Person Health Index: A Self-Reported Tool to Assess Whole Person Health. Global Advances in Integrative Medicine and Health, 15.*
<https://doi.org/10.1177/27536130261455354>

Nora Volkow, MD

Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), NIH

NIDA Investments in Whole Child Health and Wellbeing

Dr. Volkow presented on NIDA's two major longitudinal studies of brain and behavioral development — the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study and the HEALTHy Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study — and how large-scale, open-access data and AI-enabled analysis are informing understanding of how social determinants shape children's brain development.

Key Topics

- The ABCD Study (nearly 12,000 youth followed from late childhood into early adulthood)
- The HBCD Study (prenatal through early childhood brain development)
- Social determinants (income, parental stress) and child brain/behavioral outcomes
- Open-access research data and AI-enabled developmental trajectory modeling

Organizations Mentioned

- [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#)
- [NIH HEAL Initiative® \(Helping to End Addiction Long-term®\)](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development \(ABCD\) Study](#)
- [HEALTHy Brain and Child Development \(HBCD\) Study](#)

Websites & Resources

- [ABCD/HBCD biospecimen access program](#) (shared in chat by Gayathri Dowling, NIDA)
- [ABCD Study paper: Extreme Heat and Externalizing Symptoms](#) (shared in chat by Gayathri Dowling, NIDA)

Andrea Beckel-Mitchener, PhD

Acting Director, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), NIH

NIMH Investments in Whole Child Health and Wellbeing

Dr. Beckel-Mitchener reviewed the burden of youth mental illness and NIMH's research priorities, including social media's impact on youth mental health, suicide prevention, and mental health research with American Indian/Alaska Native youth.

Key Topics

- Burden and prevalence of youth mental illness
- Social media and youth mental health research
- Youth suicide prevention
- AI/AN youth mental health research partnerships

Organizations Mentioned

- [National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)
- [SAMHSA](#)
- [Indian Health Service \(IHS\)](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \(2024\). Social Media and Adolescent Health](#)

Websites & Resources

- mchb.hrsa.gov — National Survey of Children's Health data
- [NIMH Highlighted Topics funding opportunities](#)
- [Simpler.Grants.gov](https://simpler.grants.gov)
- [IHS-NIMH ASQ Suicide Prevention Program](#)

Suggested Reading

- Merikangas, K.R., He, J.P., Burstein, M., Swanson, S.A., Avenevoli, S., Cui, L., Benjet, C., Georgiades, K., & Swendsen, J. (2010). Lifetime prevalence of mental disorders in U.S. adolescents: Results from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication—Adolescent Supplement (NCS-A). *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 49(10), 980–989.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2010.05.017>

Brigitte Widemann, MD

Chief, Pediatric Oncology Branch; Special Advisor to the NCI Director for Childhood Cancer, National Cancer Institute (NCI)

NCI Investments in Whole Child Health and Wellbeing

Dr. Widemann discussed NCI's intramural and extramural investments in childhood cancer research, the unique challenges of pediatric oncology, and NCI-wide initiatives and networks that support research, clinical trials, and psychosocial care standards for children with cancer.

Key Topics

- NCI pediatric oncology research portfolio (intramural and extramural)
- Childhood Cancer Data Initiative and Molecular Characterization Initiative
- Clinical trials networks for pediatric cancer
- Standards of psychosocial care for pediatric cancer patients

Organizations Mentioned

- [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\), Pediatric Oncology Branch](#)
- [Children's Oncology Group \(COG\)](#)

- [My Pediatric and Adult Rare Tumor Network \(MyPART\)](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [NCI Childhood Cancer Data Initiative \(CCDI\)](#)
- Wiener, L., Kazak, A. E., Noll, R. B., Patenaude, A. F., & Kupst, M. J. (2015). Standards for the Psychosocial Care of Children With Cancer and Their Families: An Introduction to the Special Issue. *Pediatric blood & cancer*, 62 Suppl 5(Suppl 5), S419–S424. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.25675>

Ronald Prinz, PhD

Carolina Distinguished Professor; Co-Director, Research Center for Child Well-Being, University of South Carolina

The Future of Whole Child Health Research — Parenting Support: A Missing Ingredient for Child Well-Being?

Dr. Prinz argued for a shift from reactive, crisis-oriented family intervention to population-wide, proactive, evidence-based parenting support delivered through a multi-tiered public health framework — accessible to all families rather than reserved for those already in crisis.

Key Topics

- The shift from individual crisis response to population-based prevention
- Multi-tiered (universal, moderate, intensive) parenting support frameworks
- Opportunity points for parenting support across child development
- Return on investment of population-wide parenting support

Organizations Mentioned

- [Research Center for Child Well-Being, University of South Carolina](#)
- [Washington State Institute for Public Policy](#)
- [RAND Corporation](#)

Websites & Resources

- [International Congress on Evidence-Based Parenting Support \(June 2–4, 2027\)](#)

Anthony Biglan, PhD

Senior Scientist, Oregon Research Institute; Director, Values to Action

The Future of Whole Child Health Research

Dr. Biglan focused on family poverty and economic inequality as two of the most powerful, and most under-addressed, social determinants of health. He reviewed evidence that increasing family income directly benefits children's health and development, described how federal policy choices over the past 50 years have driven up poverty and inequality, and closed with a call to build a broad social movement — paralleling the abolitionist, labor, civil rights, and environmental movements — behind the Decade of the Child.

Key Topics

- Family poverty and economic inequality as social determinants of health
- Evidence that increasing family income improves child health, cognitive, and behavioral outcomes

- The 2021 expanded Child Tax Credit as a natural experiment
- Building community-level infrastructure and coalitions to sustain effective family-income policies
- The five pillars of the Decade of the Child

Organizations Mentioned

- [Oregon Research Institute](#)
- [Values to Action](#)

Suggested Reading

- [“A Nurturing Nation” \(Substack, Anthony Biglan\)](#)
- Biglan, A., Prinz, R., & Fishbein, D. (2023). Prevention Science and Health Equity: A Comprehensive Framework for Preventing Health Inequities and Disparities Associated with Race, Ethnicity, and Social Class. *Prevention Science*, 24, 602–612. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-022-01482-1>
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2019). *A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25246>
- Biglan, A. (2020). *Rebooting Capitalism: How We Can Forge a Society That Works for Everyone*.
- Milton Friedman, “The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits,” *New York Times*, Sept. 13, 1970 (shared in chat)

William F. Wieczorek, PhD

CEO, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE)

The Future of Whole Child Health Research — A Prevention-Centered Policy and Research Framework for High-Impact Federal Investments in Whole Child Health

Dr. Wieczorek presented a prevention-centered policy framework for aligning federal, state, and local systems around whole child wellbeing, arguing for realigned incentives, integrated delivery and accountability systems, and stronger connections between research and policy at every level of government.

Key Topics

- Aligning public systems around prevention rather than treatment
- Realigning federal, state, and local policy incentives
- Integrated delivery and accountability systems for child wellbeing
- Alignment with NIH priorities and MAHA goals

Websites & Resources

- [Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation \(PIRE\)](#)

Margaret Kuklinski, PhD

Endowed Professor of Prevention in Social Work; Director, Social Development Research Group, School of Social Work, University of Washington

Opportunities for Transformation Through Scalable Solutions

Dr. Kuklinski shifted the framing from “what works for whole child health” to “what is needed to scale strategies for whole child health,” walking through four decades of National Academies consensus reports on prevention,

and using the Communities That Care (CTC) model and Washington State's prevention infrastructure as a real-world case study in governance, funding, data, evidence, and workforce.

Key Topics

- Scaling evidence-based prevention strategies to achieve population-level impact
- Communities That Care (CTC) as a five-phase implementation model
- Washington State's cross-sector prevention infrastructure (CPWI, Healthy Youth Survey)
- Four decades of National Academies consensus reports on preventing mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders
- Cost-effectiveness of prevention infrastructure investment

Organizations Mentioned

- [Social Development Research Group, University of Washington](#)
- [Center for Communities That Care, University of Washington](#)
- [Washington State Health Care Authority, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery](#)
- [Washington State Institute for Public Policy](#)

Frameworks & Reports

- [Communities That Care \(CTC\) model](#)

Websites & Resources

- communitiesthatcare.net
- <https://www.askhys.net/>
- <https://theathenaforum.org/prevention-101/excellence-prevention-eip>

Suggested Reading

- Schorr, L.B., with Schorr, D. (1988). *Within Our Reach: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage*. New York: Doubleday.
https://books.google.com/books/about/Within_Our_Reach.html?id=JB2NQdCIGBIC
- *Blueprint for a National Prevention Infrastructure for Behavioral Health Disorders*, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2025 consensus report)
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/HMD-BPH-23-07>

Charles Bruner, PhD

Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Policy and the RISE Institute

Identifying Policy and Economic Levers to Sustain Impactful Change

Dr. Bruner argued that health is more than the absence of disease, and that biomedical research alone cannot advance population-level child health — broader research on social and community determinants, and on scaling effective strategies, is needed. He closed with a call to action for every sector (advocates, researchers, Congress, states, NIH, and voters) to prioritize whole child health investment.

Key Topics

- Health as more than the absence of disease or disability (WHO/UNICEF framing)
- The case for whole child, whole family investment across sectors
- Roles for researchers, Congress, states, NIH, and the public in advancing whole child health

- Evidence-based healthy parenting programs in primary care

Organizations Mentioned

- [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#)
- [InCK Marks](#)

Websites & Resources

- inckmarks.org
- valuestovotes.com

Suggested Reading

- Bruner, C., & Hayes, C. (2023). Federal Health Policy Requires Child Health Investment Focus. Health Affairs Forefront. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/federal-health-policy-requires-child-health-investment-focus>
- Bruner, C., et al. (2024). Exemplary and Evidenced-Based Healthy Parenting in Primary Care Programs, Practices, and Systems Change Initiatives. InCK Marks.

Jesse Kohler

Founder & President, The Change Campaign

Identifying Policy and Economic Levers to Sustain Impactful Change — Community Is Medicine: The Full Press

Mr. Kohler presented “The Full Press,” an argument that the U.S. has a prevention problem, not just a spending problem, illustrated by Cowlitz County, Washington's community-led, trauma-informed system reforms. He laid out a financing model in which community-driven reductions in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) generate measurable cost savings that can be captured and reinvested in the work that produced them.

Key Topics

- The cost of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) versus the cost of prevention
- The Cowlitz County, WA case study (self-healing communities model)
- “The Full Press” financing framework (build capacity → reduce ACE prevalence → measure cost avoidance → reinvest returns)
- Community-led, systems-focused, trauma-informed reform

Organizations Mentioned

- [HEAL PA](#)
- [The Change Campaign](#)
- [Family Policy Council \(Cowlitz County, WA self-healing communities work\)](#)