

# **Infusing a Developmental Approach into Child Welfare Services for Infants and Toddlers**

**Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at 2:00 pm eastern (1:00 pm central, 12:00 pm mountain, and 11:00 am pacific)**

This webinar, hosted by the ZERO TO THREE Policy Center, will highlight the release of an assessment tool for states entitled *A Developmental Approach to Child Welfare Services for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families: A Self-Assessment Tool for States and Counties Administering Child Welfare Services*. The webinar will include a discussion of relevant data on infants, toddlers, and their families that will help states develop a clearer picture of strengths and gaps in their child welfare system. Representatives from Iowa and Connecticut will discuss their state initiatives to ensure a developmental approach to child welfare services for very young children, identify challenges they have faced in producing data on infants and toddlers in the child welfare system, and share how they plan to use the tool.

Infants and toddlers are the age group most vulnerable to maltreatment and its aftermath. Although this time of life is one of great vulnerability, it is a time of great potential to intervene early and effectively to prevent or minimize negative effects that may prove to be irreversible later in life. It is crucial that child welfare systems infuse guiding principles for infant and toddler development into practices and policies. The September 2011 passage of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, which instituted a new requirement for states to describe in their child welfare state plans how they promote permanency for and address the developmental needs of young children in their care, offers an opportunity for states to be more intentional in their efforts to meet the unique needs of infants, toddlers, and their families.

## **Agenda**

- Facilitation by:

**Barbara Gebhard**

Assistant Director of Public Policy  
ZERO TO THREE

- Presentations by:

**Patricia Cole**

Director of Government Relations  
ZERO TO THREE

**Arlene F. Lee**

Associate Director, Public Policy  
Center for the Study of Social Policy

**Wendy A. Rickman, LISW**  
Division Administrator  
Iowa Department of Human Services

**Janice Gruendel, Ph.D., M.Ed.**  
Deputy Commissioner for Operations  
Connecticut Department of Children and Families

- Question and answer session