

Applying the ABCD Paradigm to integrate children's rights into university curricula for preparing doctoral students to lead systemic improvements and workforce development for child protection

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This presentation focuses on the integration of child rights into university curricula by using real world cases and applying the ABCD Child Safety Paradigm with masters and doctoral level students. By building on critical thinking skills, the ABCD Paradigm guides a way of thinking about assessment in the areas of Adult Parental Protective Capacity (A), Parental Behaviors that May Cause Harm such as substance use, untreated mental health, domestic violence (B), Child Vulnerabilities due to tender age and special needs (C), and Dangerous Conditions in the environment (D). It provides a structured, deliberate approach to assessing child safety while embedding core principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC).

By utilizing real-world case studies, this approach bridges theoretical understanding with practical application, fostering critical thinking skills, and promoting ethical decision-making among graduate –level social work students and child welfare professionals. The model brings to life the ways that skillful safety assessments protect children's rights to be raised by caregivers who can ensure their safety and well-being; to be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; to grow up in safe and secure environments, particularly when children are more vulnerable due to age and special needs; and when unsafe settings put them at greater risk. Dr. Joyce Taylor has taught at 3 Schools of Social Work in the United States, and has been collaborating with HMU faculty and PhD students to bring the ABCD Paradigm to Greece with cultural adaptation and special plans to engage community leaders in Athens and Crete.

Presentation language: English

Dr. Joyce Taylor is the Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF). She is credited with creating and implementing the ABCD Paradigm. Beyond DCF, Dr. Taylor has led large nonprofit agencies, and was retained on consulting contracts. Her academic career includes faculty positions at Springfield College, Yale University, and Southern Connecticut State University. She is named as a child welfare expert on the Fulbright Specialist Roster.