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# CHLA Early Childhood Mental Health Program Birth to Five Mental Health Core Training Series



## **Navigating the System of Care for Young Children with Special Needs and their Families: A Trauma-Informed Approach**

**Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
9 am – 11 am**

**Presented by Marian Williams, PhD**

**TRAINING DESCRIPTION:** Families of young children who have been exposed to pediatric medical traumatic stress and/or have developmental delays face challenges in navigating a complex and confusing system of care to address all of their child's needs. This training provides a framework to apply trauma-informed care to the process of supporting families as they navigate the service system. In addition, the speaker will provide an overview of the service system for young children, including early intervention, Regional Center, special education, and family resource center. Participants will learn the key eligibility criteria for each system, tips for navigating the system, and strategies to help families work as a team with providers. This training will be helpful to clinicians implementing the Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) framework.

**Free to Riverside County 0-5 Providers (Funded by RUHS-BH Growing Healthy Minds & First 5 Riverside)**

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Participants must have received a direct invitation from RUHS-BH *and* be a birth – five provider in Riverside County; **please do not forward the invitation to others.** This is an ADA compliant course. If you need a reasonable accommodation/alternative format for this training event, please contact Diana DaSilva at (951) 955-7175 at least fourteen days prior to the course date.

**REGISTRATION LINK:**

[\*\*RS \(5.26\): Navigating the System of Care for Young Children with Special Needs – Fill out form\*\*](#)

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#### TRAINING OBJECTIVES:

1. Apply principles of trauma-informed care to helping families of young children to navigate the service system.
2. Understand the differences between the services coordinated by the Regional Center through early intervention versus those for ages 3 and older.
3. Learn ways to support families in navigating the special education system for preschoolers.

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION:

*Board of Behavioral Sciences Licensees:* The University of Southern California is an accredited educational institution, and this training meets the qualifications for **2 hours** of continuing education credit for MFTs, LPCCs, LEPs, and/or LCSWs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.

#### SPEAKER BIOS:

**Marian Williams, PhD**, is a licensed psychologist and has been the program area lead for the Early Childhood Mental Health program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles for 20 years. In this role, Dr. Williams directs infant-family mental health programs for CHLA, which serve more than 1,000 infants, toddlers and preschoolers each year. With more than 30 years of professional experience, Dr. Williams is trained in child-parent psychotherapy and is certified by the California Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health as a Reflective Practice Mentor. She directs the Stein Tikun Olam Infant-Family Mental Health Initiative, focusing on infants with special health care and developmental needs. Her special areas of interest include access to infant-family mental health services for underserved populations, services for young children with mental health needs and developmental disabilities, early identification and intervention for young children, interdisciplinary training and program development. She is also co-director of Interdisciplinary Training at the University of Southern California University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Psychology at the University of Southern California.

#### FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Diana DaSilva, M.S., LMFT**

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