



# OFRC Family Matters Conference Returns!

The Family Matters conference successfully resumed this summer. Attendees participated in sessions addressing hope science, challenging behaviors of early childhood, and positive parenting strategies. The conference turnout was incredible and we enjoyed seeing everyone, as well as the many door prizes and fun. Many thanks to our speakers, Dr. Chan Hellman, Trena Hickinbotham, and Dr. Lana Beasley! We'll see **you** next year!



Dr. Chan Hellman



Dr. Lana Beasley



Trena Hickbotham

The 2022 Families Matter award was presented to veteran child development specialist, **MaryAnn Boersma**. This award is presented to an individual or organization that promotes healthy families. MaryAnn has spent her career serving families, communities, as well as her co-workers. We are so grateful for her.






# Membership Spotlight

- **Hi, my name is:** Gina Richardson
- **My role/s is/are:** I am the current President of OFRC and Assistant Director for Oklahoma's Early Intervention-Part C program, SoonerStart, at the State Dept. of Health.
- **I have been an OFRC member since:** I have been a member of OFRC since 2006 and have served on the OFRC board since 2011.
- **Something/s you should know about me:** I am a wife to my husband Jeffery of 29 years and the mother to 3 children, my oldest is our daughter Sydney and we have twin boys, Justin & Joshua.
- **My favorite part of OFRC is:** My favorite part is OFRC's dedication to serving boots-on-the-ground providers as they serve children and families. This is why the organization was founded and is so important. As a Child Development Specialist and a person that supports staff who deliver direct serves to families, it is necessary we have the most up to date, evidence based information and resources to share with families.
- **The funniest lesson I have learned while working in this field is:** I can't think of a "funniest" but the most important lesson I have learned working in the field is; families truly love their children and they want what is best for them. Supporting and helping develop skills is what I do, loving families is who I am.
- **A fun fact about me:** This is my second career, I was a legal assistant before going back to school for Child Development.
- **The most important part of serving families is:** Giving back and loving on people.

## Trainings

- **Zero to Three Virtual Conference**  
Sept 12-15
  - **Division for Early Childhood Conference**  
Sept 27-30
  - **ODMHSAS Training Institute**
  - **OKAEYC events**
  - **Early Childhood Investigations**
  - **Coffee Chats with Brookes**
  - More  are on the way!
- Watch your email and social media for updates.

## Advocacy

- Elections are coming! Do you know how candidates in your area plan to support families and children? Now is the time to find out! One nonpartisan place to start is [Ballotpedia](https://www.ballotpedia.org/).



**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 25 at 1:00 p.m.  
Everyone is welcome!



## Research & Resources

- New research challenges established ideas about infant crying
- Healthy development thanks to older siblings
- Depression in fathers and children linked, regardless of genetic relatedness
- Children with a non-typically developing twin show more understanding of others' emotions
- Additional resources for conference topics:
  - Hope Research Center publications,
  - PACES Connection
  - Aces and Paces
- 988 Comprehensive Crisis Response

## Membership

## Jobs

- State child and family related positions available at <https://jobapscloud.com/OK/>
- Have a job or internship to share? Let us know and we can share it on our facebook page.

Interested in **membership**  
and/or certification?  
contact: [ofrcok@gmail.com](mailto:ofrcok@gmail.com)

We are a membership and networking organization made up of individuals who believe that families are the primary influence in the lives of children. The mission of the Oklahoma Family Resource Coalition is to support resources within our communities that build on family strengths to ensure the best possible outcome for Oklahoma families.

*WANT TO SHARE A TRAINING, ARTICLE, RESEARCH, LEGISLATION  
FOR AN UPCOMING NEWSLETTER? REACH OUT TO US AT :*