

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wicked Problems Institute**  
**September 28 & 29, 2023**

### **11th Foundational Pre-Convening Overview**

The preparation materials offer a mix of listening, viewing, and reading. The content will not be repeated at the convening. A cursory glance or cram session on the plane or in the car to Charlotte will not likely be sufficient. By working the estimated 2.5 to 3 hours of preparation into your activities over the next month, you're beginning the cycle of discovery that will continue at Wicked and lead to the maximum impact we can make together.

As you review the Foundational Pre-Convening Preparation Materials, hold these questions inspired by the podcast series, *Overloaded: Understanding Neglect*, in mind:

- *How might we change or better coordinate our systems, invest more in promising or proven practices, and improve policies, so that overloaded families receive the support they need?*
- *How might we challenge inequities in policies, practices and systems that contribute to racial and class discrimination and disproportionality?*

### **Purpose of the Pre-Convening Preparation**

The event design for Wicked is different from a typical conference. The content covered in the Pre-Convening Preparation Materials will not be repeated at the convening. Instead, the content contributors at Wicked will build off elements of this material by adding their up-to-the-minute ahas and insights. This approach is intended to optimize our time together to inspire new ways of thinking and spark fresh takes that accelerate this work.

### **About the Preparation Materials**

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### **Full Group Learning; Small Group Work**

The Institute offers the time and space – "the container" – to be together to study complex conditions and situations, generate ideas, and then advance solutions. The agenda is designed to expand and contract through full group sessions for learning and reflection, then deeper dives in small groups. The interactive small group work of the convening will occur in Table Teams where you will join with about 7 other participants. The Table Teams will be intentionally assembled to ensure multiple perspectives are represented in each working group.

By reviewing the Foundational Pre-Convening Preparation Materials, you can ensure you're ready to engage from the get-go.

## Foundational Pre-Convening Preparation Materials

### Discovery Cycle, Part 1 - Overloaded Families

Please listen to the following episodes of the podcast *Overloaded: Understanding Neglect*, produced by the Institute for Child and Family Well-Being at Children's Wisconsin:

- [Understanding Neglect](#), episode 1 (36 minutes)
- [Understanding Neglect: Trauma and Systemic Oppression](#), episode 2 (42 minutes)
- [Understanding Neglect: Poverty](#), episode 3 (39 minutes)

*Note: You can also find the Overloaded podcast on Apple Podcast or Spotify, if you prefer to listen from your device. The podcast webpage offers written transcripts of each episode, if you prefer reading to listening.*

### Discovery Cycle, Part 2 - Financial Strain as a Contributor to Overload

Please familiarize yourself with these documents.

- [The Bridge to Self-Sufficiency](#)® from EMPATH
- [Economic Stability and Family Well-Being: Building Evidence and Developing Policy Recommendations to Address Economic Hardship, Chapin Hall](#)

*Optional: This brief document offers a QR code that will link you to a more in-depth review of this research, if you'd like to read more. If this is your first introduction to this body of research, you may wish to watch this [50-minute presentation](#) made by Clare Anderson, Senior Fellow, Chapin Hall. Clare's presentation begins at the 20 minute mark on the video and ends at the 1 hour and 9 minute mark.*

### Discovery Cycle, Part 3 - Post-Partum Focus: Overloading Factors Intensified

For this segment, simply review this first bullet point:

- Key findings from child welfare data in 2019 show that nearly 75% of child maltreatment cases were due to neglect and that children under 1 year of age were represented at the highest rate within confirmed cases. The rate declines as children age.  
Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2021). Child Maltreatment 2019: Summary of key findings. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/canstats/>
- Then read [read this article from Zero to Three](#) that focuses on the importance of the months following the birth of a baby for the mother/infant dyad.

The article alerts that, "There is a fourth trimester to pregnancy and we neglect it at our peril." It describes the need to "move forward from treating mothers and infants as separate individuals to considering them as mutually regulating dyads." It explores barriers to health and maternal role adaptation and concludes with recommendations for change to enhance well-being for women, the mother-infant dyad and the family at large. The article highlights some of the multiple issues that intersect during this critical

time: maternal mood and emotional well-being; infant care and feeding; sexuality, contraception, and birth spacing; sleep and fatigue; physical recovery from childbirth; and medications, substances, and exposures. By comprehensively addressing these interconnecting needs, service providers can improve health and well-being across two generations.

### **Personal Reflection and Preparation**

As part of your preparation, you may wish to jot down notes about statistics and/or promising practices, systems changes, innovations, etc. that are happening in your state or sphere of work.

And, finally, as you think about your presence and participation as part of the Wicked community, consider these two questions:

- What intention will you set for yourself?
- What intention would you call your fellow participants to?

Examples of answers to these questions include: sharing big ideas, asking hard questions, being generative, having courageous conversations, thinking at the “next level” of action, listening deeply, centering authenticity, identifying mental models, learning, absorbing, presence, etc.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare for your experience and the shared work at Wicked!