

2026 Wicked Institute, Orlando, Florida
April 30 & May 1, 2026
Pre-Work & Convening Details
The Future We Shape Together: Real Solutions for Families in Changing Times



Thank you to our sponsors!



Special thank you to DEX Imaging, Starbucks and
Combs Insurance Services for supporting CHSA's board retreat!

Thank you to our collaborators!



Pre-Work and Convening Details

In this document, you will find:

- Link to 16- minute podcast for the brief pre-work you are requested to complete
- Information for your comfort & connection, including dress code, weather, the Comfort Room, and a participant list
- Practical details for the hotel, transportation, breakfast (eat before the convening begins each day!) and more
- Tips and ideas for your stay featuring restaurants and activities in Downtown Orlando

We are glad you are coming. Wicked isn't a typical convening. It's a space to pause, reflect, learn, and co-create new ways of thinking and working. In a time of rapid change, it offers a rare chance to move forward with greater clarity, purpose, and connection within community.

Pre-Work - Centering the Voices of Families (podcast)

Before you arrive in Orlando next week, please listen to this 16-minute podcast "*Unlocking the Power of Lived Experience: A Call to Action for Today's Wicked Problems.*" This will prepare you for the opening panel, which will pick up from the podcast content.

Seven changemakers remind us that families navigating today's challenges carry the insight we need to lead differently – and that listening deeply is where meaningful change begins. As you listen, consider this question, "what is most important about building a better future *with* families, not just *for* them?" and briefly note your thoughts.

-  Listen directly here: [Unlocking the Power of Lived Experience](#)
<written transcript also available>

Note to Listeners: This Bonus Episode of the *Overloaded: Understanding Neglect* podcast was recorded when we planned to convene for Wicked last November. Though there are references to the November dates, the messages remain relevant in setting the stage for our time together now.

For more great content, the *Overloaded: Understanding Neglect* podcast, produced by CHSA member - the Institute for Child and Family Well-being at Children's Wisconsin, now has four seasons available. Listen and subscribe wherever you find your favorite podcasts.

Convening Information

Please refer to the [Wicked web page](#) before you travel for the agenda and all updates and any changes.

Information Table: There will be an Information Table outside the Ascension Ballroom on the 2nd floor if you need assistance.

Registration: Your nametag, program, and other materials will be set at your table on Thursday morning. Simply come to the Ascension Ballroom on the 2nd floor of the Marriott Orlando, Downtown between 8:00 - 8:15 am on April 30 and find the place with your name – that's your seat. Team members will be moving around the room to assist as needed.

For Your Comfort

Dress & Weather

- Dress is business casual.
- Expect highs in the upper 80s, and meeting rooms can run cool – layers are recommended.

Convening Times

- Day 1: Thursday, April 30, 8:00 - 5:30 pm Eastern
- Day 2: Friday, May 1, 2026, 8:30-2:30 pm Eastern

Meals

- **Breakfast will not be served** as part of the convening, so we highly encourage you to eat at the Marriott or grab breakfast on your way.
- If you're **staying at the convening site (Marriott)**, **breakfast for one guest is included** in your hotel stay. Offered in the Shade Bar & Grill on the 1st floor of the hotel beginning at 6:30 am each day.
- Lunch will be provided as part of the convening.
 - Day 1, Thursday: Hot buffet lunch
 - Day 2, Friday: Boxed lunches
- Dinner is on your own. Join fellow participants in the hotel lobby on the evening of April 30 to network and coordinate dinner plans.

- Several coffee, tea breaks will be offered during the two days. Water stations will be available at all times – you are invited to bring your refillable water bottle. There is a full-service Starbucks inside the hotel.

The Wellness/Comfort Room

The Wellness/Comfort Room is a dedicated, peaceful space that will be located near the main meeting area and noted with a sign. It is offered as a space for participants to recharge or decompress. During the convening, support will be available from:

- Sonia Cohen, Child + Family Wellbeing Advocate and Sound Healing & Breathwork Practitioner
- Paola Kalb, MSW, RCSWI, Clinical Counselor
- Sandra Nonez-Mera, Clinical Counselor

All three individuals will be wearing pink nametags. You are encouraged to reach out to them and/or visit the Comfort Room during breaks or when you need access to comfortable seating, a quiet moment, water, snacks, and/or support.

Participant List: The participant list is included at the end of this document.

Practical Details

Meeting Site: [Marriott Orlando, Downtown](#) 400 W Livingston St, Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 868-8686. *Hotel accessibility information can be found [here](#).*

Getting there from Orlando International Airport (MCO)

Travel Time & Distance

- The Marriott Orlando Downtown is about 13 miles (21 km) from Orlando International Airport.
- Typical travel time is 20–25 minutes by car or rideshare under normal conditions.
- During weekday rush hours (7–9 AM and 4–7 PM), expect 30–40 minutes due to I-4 and SR-408 traffic.

Transportation Options

- Shared Shuttle Services – Available from the Ground Transportation Level; typically \$25–\$40 per person, with travel times of 45–60 minutes depending on stops.
- LYNX Bus #11 – Budget option (\$2 fare); departs every 30 minutes from the airport and arrives near downtown in about 45–55 minutes.

*Note: The hotel does **not** offer an airport shuttle. Please plan transportation from/to Orlando International Airport accordingly.*

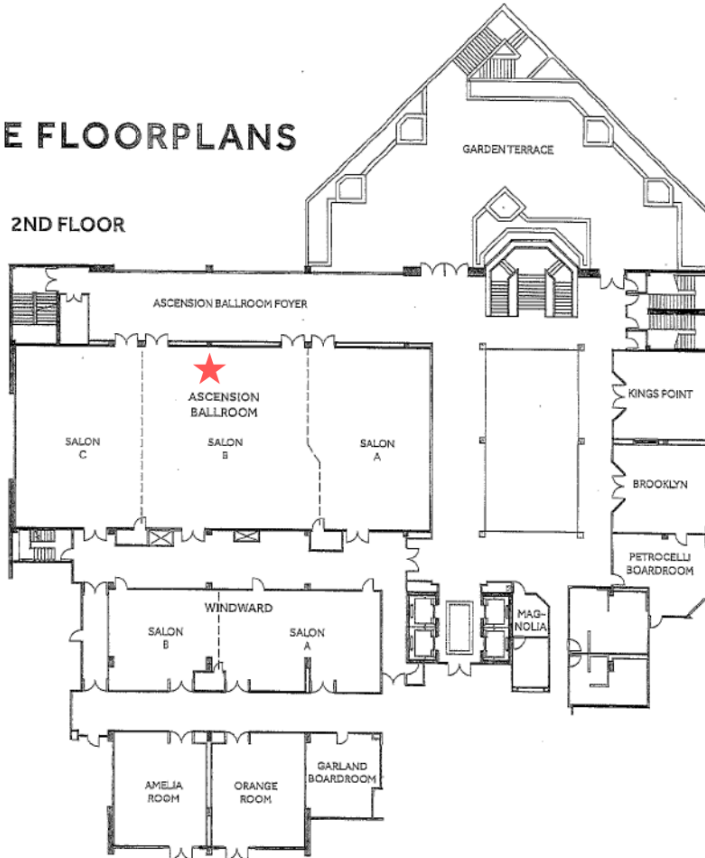
Arrival Tips

- Pick-up areas for taxis and rideshares are located on Level 2 of Terminals A and B.
- Public transit, follow signs to LYNX Bus Stop 11 on Level 1 (Ground Transportation).
- Allow extra time if arriving during late-afternoon traffic or weekend event hours downtown.

Meeting Room(s) We will gather in the **Ascension Ballroom, 2nd Floor**, for both days of the convening. See *2nd floor hotel map below*.



MEETING SPACE FLOORPLANS



MARRIOTT ORLANDO DOWNTOWN
400 W LIVINGSTON STREET, ORLANDO, FL 32801
407.868.8886, MARRIOTT.COM/MCODO
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Tips & Ideas for Your Stay

Hotel amenities include:

- Downtown location in the Orlando Arts District; restaurants and Lake Eola are nearby.
- Shade Bar & Grill on-site, 1st floor — American menu
- Outdoor pool and 24/7 fitness center, 2nd floor

- Parking: Valet only (\$38/day); self-parking available at Livingston St. city lot (pay at kiosk).

Getting Around

- LYMMO Bus – Free downtown circulator; stops near major attractions. Ask the hotel front desk for information about where to catch the bus.
- Walking – Downtown spots are usually within a 10-minute walking distance of the Marriott. However, check with the hotel desk for walkability as some locations require walking under an overpass.
- Rideshare – Rideshare services are typically available for farther destinations.
- Scooters & Bikes – Rentable throughout downtown for short rides.

Dining Options and Fun Things to Do Nearby

(5–10 min from Marriott Orlando Downtown) *(expense levels reflect typical dinner range per person.)*

- [Craft & Common](#) – Chic café for coffee, wine, and small plates.
407-723-8078 • 💰 (\$10–20)
- [The Monroe](#) – Stylish comfort-food spot with modern décor.
407-734-2102 • 💰💰 (\$20–30)
- [Elixir Kitchen & Bar](#) – Global pub fare and DJs in a rustic-hip space.
407-985-3507 • 💰💰 (\$20–30)
- [Gringos Locos Downtown](#) – Casual Mexican café with outdoor seating and late hours. 407-841-5626 • 💰 (\$10–20)
- [Kres Chophouse](#) – Historic steakhouse with modern flair and late-night dining. 407-447-7950 • 💰💰💰 (\$100 +)

Things to See and Do

- Lake Eola Park
- Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
- CityArts Gallery & Wall Street Plaza
- Thornton Park District

Helpful Resources

- Visit Orlando – visitorlando.com for dining, attractions, and local events.
- Downtown Orlando Partnership – downtownorlando.com for maps and neighborhood guides.

Questions contact:

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Participant List

All of the speakers at Wicked are also participants. You can find their contact information below and their bios on the [web page](#). If you review your contact information and find an error, please contact Amy Ramirez, amy.ramirez@chsamerica.org

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<An updated list will be posted to the [web page](#) next week>

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