



Who were the convening organizations for the initial gathering?

The following organizations participated in the initial 2012 gathering in Indianapolis, Indiana:

- American Association of Children's Residential Centers (AACRC)
- Association of Child and Youth Care Practice, Inc. (ACYCP)
- Child and Youth Care Certification Board (CYCCB)
- National Afterschool Association (NAA)
- National Partnership for Juvenile Services (NPJS)
- National Staff Development and Training Association (NSDTA)

Who can I contact for more information?

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Workforce Coalition

Linking professional development across child and youth work settings

Our vision is individuals and organizations across the profession of child and youth work collaborating strategically to create a well-prepared and sustainable workforce aligned to meet the evolving needs of children, youth, families, and communities.

What are the guiding values of the coalition?

Child and youth work is a unifying profession, which spans a variety of unique practice settings and shared values including respect, dignity and collaboration.

The coalition believes that the essence of quality child and youth work includes a commitment to high standards of professionalism, core knowledge that spans practice settings, and recognition of the value and potential of young people and families.

What does the coalition aim to accomplish?

The coalition exists to strengthen children, youth and families by:

- Providing a national voice for the development of the child and youth work profession across practice settings
- Linking existing professional development systems
- Establishing career pathways that promote an accessible, stable and competent workforce

Why is this work important?

Child and youth work is the largest human service profession in the United States with an estimated 2.3 to 6 million members. The profession significantly contributes to the wellbeing of children, youth, families, and communities. Research conducted over the past 15 years has documented systemic challenges that have limited the availability of a well-prepared, competent workforce to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding field of child and youth care work.

How did the coalition begin and how does it operate?

In 2012 a number of leading national associations gathered in Indiana to explore how they – and others in the future – might work together in linking efforts related to the development of the workforce.

The coalition is currently operating in a start up structure guided by three co-chairs and a forming group of leaders. Efforts at formalizing the structure into a board are planned for the future.