

Announcing our new Community Partnership!



We are very pleased to announce BPSI's first ever community partnership with the Center for [Early Relationship Support® \(CERS\)](#) at Jewish Family & Children's Service (JF&CS). CERS is an example of **an agency that applies psychoanalytic principles at the community level to effect change and support healthy relationships**. This "Partnership" will create unique opportunities for members of both organizations as well as increased visibility for BPSI and CERS as models for psychoanalytically informed services in the community.

[The Center for Early Relationship Support](#) has been providing support for new parents and their babies for thirty years. With a focus on supporting the development of a responsive early parent-child relationship, CERS provides in-home and community services for new parents who may face a variety of challenges. Services offered include:

1. support for new parents and babies from experienced mothers ([Rubin Visiting Moms®](#));
2. therapeutic support for post-partum depression, anxiety, or trauma ([Early Connections/Conexiones Tempranas](#));
3. specialized programs for parents of premature babies ([Wolk Fragile Beginnings](#));
4. support for substance-exposed babies and for families in recovery from substance use disorder ([Project NESST®](#)).
5. CERS also offers young parent support through the [Healthy Families program](#), adoption support services, and sleep and feeding consultations.

In addition to clinical services, CERS offers training for professionals through the [Infant-Parent Training Institute \(IPTI\)](#). The IPTI has strong ties to BPSI through three of its founding faculty

members, Sarah Birss, Ann Epstein, and the late Judith Arons.

- IPTI offers an intensive two-year post-graduate Fellowship in Infant Mental Health. This certificate program offers clinical training in infant-parent psychotherapy, coursework in early infant and early relationship development, assessment, and consultation, and clinical supervision.
- IPTI offers a year-long course in Infant Observation, which helps prepare clinicians to work with infants, parents, and families, as well as providing experience in managing the emotional demands of intensive clinical work such as psychoanalysis.
- Other professional trainings include post-graduate courses on special topics in infant and maternal mental health, professional development seminars (Master Classes), and professional consultation, supervision, and support services to meet the needs of professionals in public and private organizations working with infants, young children, and families.

It is our hope that this partnership will offer enriching opportunities for both organizations:

- A “two way street” in terms of educational/training programs. BPSI trainees and graduate members may want to pursue training in parent-infant work at CERS, and CERS/IPTI trainees may want to pursue psychotherapy training or psychoanalytic training. The teaching of Infant Observation (IO) is an integral part of the IPTI Fellowship. Infant Observation is taught in relatively few Institutes in the United States, and IPTI is the only site in New England offering the course. A section of the class will be offered at BPSI this fall, taught by Sarah Birss.
- Increased visibility of CERS and BPSI programming via the websites of each organization.
- Volunteering opportunities for BPSI members across a variety of CERS programs.
- CERS has partnered with academic researchers to look at outcomes of different interventions. There is a potential role for BPSI members who are interested in research to partner or receive mentoring.

These are some of the ideas we hope will be of benefit to both BPSI and CERS. The fact that the organizations are separate entities, and that a “community partner” is a loosely-defined connection will allow for the appropriate flexibility and creativity over time. We look forward to our collaboration.

JF&CS | 1430 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451 | 781-647-5327 | jfcsboston.org

BPSI | 141 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459 | 617-266-0953 | bpsi.org