



Attachment Network Of Connecticut (ANCT) presents
No One Eats Alone lunchtime series

Empathic Care:
Building Strength and New Possibility
for Infants and Mothers Affected by
Substances through an Attachment Framework



Presented by
Margaret McLaren, MD

July 20, 2021, from 12-1 pm
Please Join Us!

To Register for this event please use the following link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tJAldOuppgjwqHNaYrZBpeMocleyRfZ51O-b1>

About This Presentation



The early years are critical for brain development and building a foundation for health and wellbeing. Attachment relationships provide the context for this development. This presentation addresses how antecedents and co-morbidities of maternal substance use disorder (SUD), as well as societal responses, can impact the caregiving relationship and contribute to negative life trajectories for the infant and intergenerational transfer of risk. The opioid crisis has revived concerns about the safety of substance exposed infants, with emphasis on Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (previously referred to as neonatal abstinence syndrome/NAS). The need for ongoing therapeutic support for the dyad after discharge from the birthing hospital has received less attention. However, the early months are a window of opportunity for engagement of mothers with their infants in systems of care that support the attachment relationship. Empathic Care provides an attachment-based framework for staff at all levels and in different contexts working with mother-infant dyads. It draws on trauma, addiction/recovery, mindfulness, and neuroscience research and seeks to promote new possibilities for mothers and positive trajectories for the child.



To Register for this event please use the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAldOuppjwqHNaYrZBpeMocleyRfZ51O-b1>

About the Presenter



Margaret McLaren's interest in prevention began in South Africa. Post medical graduation, she conducted a major study on heart disease in children. After emigrating, she completed epidemiology fellowships at NIH and Yale, and a pediatric residency at the University of Connecticut. While director of Hartford Hospital's newborn nursery (1990-2017) and primary care attending at Connecticut Children's, she developed an intervention for young children and caregivers affected by substance use, PROkids, (1991-2015). Empathic Care grew out of this experience and learning from attachment and related fields. Margaret received a ZERO TO THREE leadership award (2005) and currently serves on the Fellows' Academy Council.

