

Members of ACER Brasil were invited to organize and present their experience with Kinship Care at the IV Simpósio Internacional de Acolhimento Familiar (IV International Symposium on Foster Care).

Organized by Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp), Núcleo de Estudos de Políticas Públicas (NEPP), Observatório da Infância e Adolescência da Unicamp (OIA) and Instituto Geração do Amanhã (IGA), the “IV Simpósio Internacional de Acolhimento Familiar” (SIMAF) took place between March 20th and 23rd, 2023 at Unicamp’s Convention Center, in Campinas (SP), a city considered a reference when it comes to Foster Care in Brazil.

Since its first edition in 2005, the conference has been recognized for its national and international lectures and presentations. In this year’s edition, SIMAF proposed a more innovative and participative approach, with debates, short courses and submission of papers, for example, enabling greater exchange of experiences among participants.

As in 2019, Jonathan Hannay, secretary general of ACER Brasil, and Kelly Lima, consultant, were present at the 2023 edition not only as spectators, but also as recognized authorities on the subject. Jonathan, in fact, also integrates the organizing committee of the event. He received an invitation to help organize a panel on extended family and participate as an international expert, representing CARF-UK, while Kelly participated representing ACER Brasil. “I presented an international overview

of how different countries are working on extended family support for children without parental care, as well as international and Brazilian legal frameworks for carrying out and prioritizing this work with the extended family,” he explains.



Our members also displayed a poster, prepared by Kelly, to present to the audience how ACER Brasil uses family diagnosis as the starting point of all work with families, introducing various tools used for this. During the meeting, our consultant presented ACER Brasil’s experience of more than a decade implementing the Family Guardi-

an Program, where, according to her, “the theme presented by us emerged as one of the most debated points during SIMAF, as working with extended families is a central point for actions involving children without parental care, both in the preservation of family life and in reintegration after the process of institutional care. In this sense, it was possible to dialogue with different spheres of the rights guarantee system, such as experts, judges, prosecutors, managers and professionals directly involved in assisting these publics.”

As for the relevance that meetings like these contribute to strengthening this agenda in the country and in the world, Jonathan reiterates that there is already a scientific consensus that proves that placing children in institutions, especially at certain ages, can bring permanent damage to their development, but transitioning from a care model based on children’s homes to one with care



Interview with Kelly Lima, Consultant for ACER Brasil

in families involves many actors, many interests and both social and structural changes. “Events like this, bringing 800 people from all over Brazil to attend lectures, chats, presentations of articles and national and international research strengthen this movement towards deinstitutionalization, in addition to taking this knowledge to the rest of the country when participants return to their municipalities and share it with others. Bringing international experiences helps participants and Brazil to reflect on their own reality and systems, and they can use this knowledge to create new ways of caring for children in Brazil, that would be adapted and appropriate to their own reality”, he concludes. We would like to thank the Simpósio Internacional de Acolhimento Familiar for the invitation, enabling us to exchange knowledge with other agents engaged in the topic of Foster Care, which is extremely valuable for our work carried out over three decades at ACER Brasil. We are looking forward to the next edition, which will surely be a huge success.

I am Kelly Lima, I have a degree in Psychology, with specialization in Neuropsychology, Clinical Pharmacology and post-graduate studies in Neuropsychology of Inclusive and Special Education and also of Indigenous Education. I have been working for 14 years at ACER Brasil, with families in situations of risk and/or vulnerability based on the rights guaranteed by the Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente (Child and Adolescent Statute) to live as a family and in the community. Two fronts of action are being developed for this: one with extended families for children without parental care and the other with teenage mothers.

In view of the work with extended families, which was also presented at the IV Simpósio Internacional de Acolhimento Familiar in Campinas, our proposal is to carry out a project focused on providing guidance for protection and guarantee of rights with extended families, responsible for the care of children and adolescents who have been judicially removed from their parents.

In the event, although the work with ACER Brasil has over 12 years of existence, both in the mini course presentation and in the elaboration of the poster pres-

entation, the use of diagnostic actions to ascertain the referral situation of children and adolescents, thinking about their best care, were relatively new and unknown to the public. I had the chance to dialogue with several colleagues who deliver protection policies, such as public prosecutors and managers, many of whom showed interest regarding the work with extended families for the expansion of propositions in the work for children and adolescents who are without parental care and become eligible for foster care, institutional care or adoption.



My particular view on this topic is that although kinship care is present in the lives of many families, its organization as a policy and with a specific and particular methodology of action, represents the future in child care when it comes to the

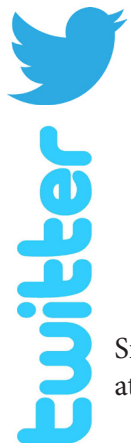
right to live in a family. I see ACER Brasil as having great potential to offer the necessary qualifications and implement their experience of more than a decade in other municipalities.



The work with teenage mothers is also carried out with a view to promoting family and community life, but it comes from another origin: in this program, pregnant teenagers aged 11 to 17 years and 11 months old, who are in their first pregnancy and who live in the city of Diadema, receive special and individual monitoring, guidance and support so that they can exercise protective mothering with their babies from pregnancy, without the use of violence. This project, which was already developed by ACER Brasil in 2012 and is now being funded by the Fundo Municipal da Criança e do Adoles-

Image gallery: the return of activities in the first half of 2023

cente de Diadema (Municipal Fund for Children and Adolescents in Diadema), aims to guarantee adolescents their rights for prenatal care and healthy pregnancy and birth conditions, as well as to establish child-care references and the construction of attachment that is so important in the baby's first years. To conclude, as the project supervisor, I see many challenges for the adolescent girls who remain in an invisible situation even though they are considered a priority group for public policies and the criminal imminence of separation of these adolescent mothers from their babies, often justified by situations of negligence that stem from the lack of protection offered by society and the state.



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Siga-nos no Twitter para atualizações regulares

OPEN REGISTRATION FOR MEN'S FUTSAL | In partnership with @jdsapopema, we opened enrollment for children and teenagers aged 11 to 17 for futsal classes at Quadra do Sapopema, Eldorado. 15 Mar

The "National Health and Nutrition Day", celebrated on March 31, is a date to raise awareness of the importance of healthy eating for health. 31 Mar



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AGENDA

April

10 to 15 - Delivery of Easter Eggs

26 to 28 - National and International Seminar on Public Policies for Early Childhood