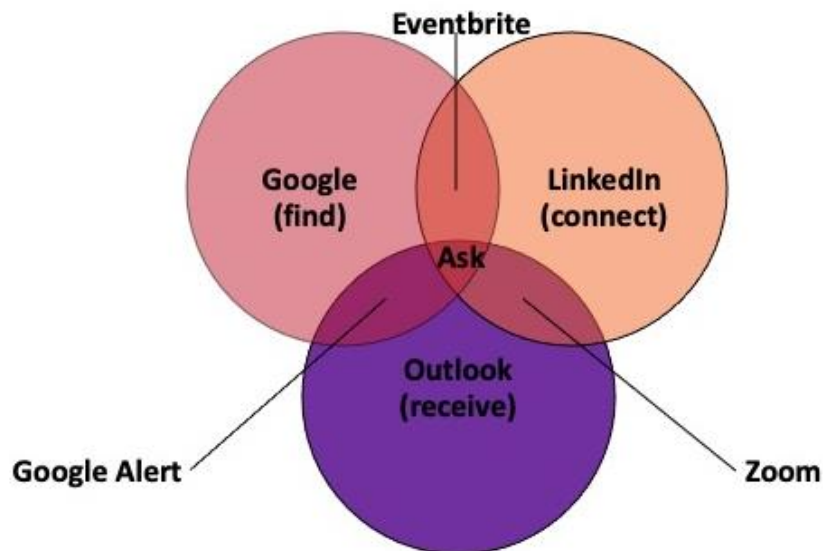


Leveraging Out-Of-Home Care Global Learning

Introduction This resource sheet was developed to support our 2021 series of nine tailored webinars on leveraging out-of-home care global learning with three each in relation to transitioning from care, foster care and residential care, and across three different time-zones. There may be something here that you can action quickly and easily and/or take up new opportunities like attendance at an international conference that you've not previously had the budget or time for. I've structured IT platforms which, as well as being metaphorical, is also our part of our new reality.



Outlook



Use incoming emails to improve your information diet – set and forget and just read as time, priorities and interests allow:

- Join an international OOHHC organisation as a paying member and get regular information from them into your inbox:
 - International Foster Care Organisation <https://www.ifco.info>
 - Association of Children's Residential Centers <https://togetherthevoice.org>
- Subscribe to mailing lists and blogs of international or overseas organisations, for example (some organisations can also be followed on Twitter and/or Facebook):
 - INTRAC International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care <https://globalintrac.com>
 - CELCIS (Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection and formally the Centre of Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland; also incorporates the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care) <https://www.celcis.org/about-us/>

Google Alerts



Get to know about some new developments as they come onstream?

- Google Alerts is a content change detection and notification service. The service sends emails to the user when it finds new results, such as web pages, newspaper articles, blogs, or scientific research, that match the user's search term. You can choose a particular country and determine whether to receive notifications daily or weekly. While its quite basic and not fail-safe, setting up Google Alerts is really easy. Here's a link to Google's set-up instructions <https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/4815696?hl=en>

Google



Make more and better use of search engines:

- Free online journals, for example, the International Child and Youth Care Network (CYC-Net) <https://cyc-net.org/cyc-online/> and the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care (also includes material on foster care and transitioning from care) <https://www.celcis.org/knowledge-bank/sircc-journal/>
- Cochrane Library <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/> and Campbell Collaboration <https://www.campbellcollaboration.org> for systematic reviews of published randomised trials that meet specified quality criteria.
- Evidence-based websites, for example the California Evidence-based Clearing House on Child Welfare <https://www.cebc4cw.org/>
- PracticeWise website on what works in children's mental health and evidence-based practices <https://practicewise.com/>
- Many or most peer-reviewed online research articles is now available to those without access through a university to academic journal databases, for example, open access, free repository copy on institution websites, pay to view, or related material in another document, a YouTube video, or PowerPoint slides.
- Most reports ever written on OOHC, including some old ones, can now be found online using Google or other search engines
- Most newly published books are now available instantly on Amazon in Kindle format www.amazon.com – you don't need a Kindle device and can access content from desktops, laptops, tablets and phones. For some more popular titles you can add the option of audio narration (while many non-academic Kindle books only cost a few dollars).
- Podcasts:
 - Canadian Wolfgang Vachon has conversations with young people, parents and professionals about the child & youth social service system. Wolfgang is currently a full-time faculty member at Humber College teaching in the Child and Youth Care program <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/cyc-podcast/id1006649551>
 - Care-leaver Thomas Mongan and advocate Peter Lane run the Care Experienced Podcast including interviews with care experience people from other countries. They are part of EPIC the advocacy organisation for young people in or leaving care in Ireland <https://www.epiconline.ie/the-care-experience-podcast/>
 - Joe Gibb in Scotland does a podcast on residential youth care at <https://anchor.fm/scottishrcc> where he interviews those in the field from Scotland and internationally
- Google Scholar www.scholar.google.com indexes metadata from peer reviewed online academic journals and books, and in some instances full-text is available (and many instances if you are able to access through an academic library).

Eventbrite



While looking forward to the return of some in-person events, more accessible online events are also here to stay:

- Online, hybrid and in-person conference opportunities
 - Hybrid Association of Children’s Residential Centers (ACRC) annual (international) conference (3-6 Aug)
<https://togetherthevoice.org/engage/annual-conference>
 - Online EUSARF (European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents) biennial international conference (1-3 Sept)
<https://eusarf2021.ch>
 - Online Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care annual conference (provisionally 29/30 Sept) – yet to be announced - 2020 details at <https://www.celcis.org/training-and-events/events-pages/sircc-online-2020/>
- Online discussion series
 - CYC-NET Characteristics of Relational Child and Youth Care. 10 one hour weekly online discussions commencing 12 July 2021
<https://cyc-net.org>
 - Global INTRAC annual (online) meetings
- Various other events and opportunities:
 - Bespoke and public webinars
 - Masterclasses
 - Online training workshops
 - Coaching programs
 - Mentoring

LinkedIn



Most of us are on LinkedIn, but use it more purposefully and strategically:

- Identify key individuals in your field and consider asking for the connection. If you don’t know them better to include a message on why you would like to connect. If they are on active on LinkedIn most will accept your request.
- Follow organisations (company pages) and any individuals who you may be reluctant to ask for a connection as you’ll get to see what they are sharing and talking about.
- Join a well-functioning LinkedIn group, for example Patrick Tomlinson’s *Therapeutic Residential and Foster Care for Traumatized Children*.
- Post a question either from your own page (to your connections) or a group page (to group members) on a topic that you are looking for information on, or initiate an online discussion. And respond to the posts of others.
- Write a LinkedIn article on a particular topic of interest and have people find you!
- Facebook also has some private professional groups, for example *CYC-Net Discussion Group* has 2,500 members and is very active; they also have *CYC-Net Student Discussion Group* with 1,200 members.

Zoom



Using video to build learning relationships:

- Set up some one-to-one meetings with some new connections around a topic and/or role and build relationships
- Join an international organisation, attend meetings, become a board members and/or contributor. For example the Association of Residential Children’s Center’s hold regular “affinity group meetings” those with an ongoing interest in a specific topic and non-members can join their first meeting without joining this membership organisation.

- Interview key leaders, researchers or practitioners who have already done something that you're considering doing. Researchers in particular generally love to talk about their work.

Extra

Consider doing an overseas qualification or course:

- Study formally with a university overseas, for example Strathclyde University's online *MSc in Child and Youth Care Studies*
- Enrol on a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). For example CELCIS periodically runs a 6 week free course on implementing the United Nations Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children with thousands from across the world at a time <http://www.alternativecaremooc.com/index.php/en/>

Better Outcomes

Who we are

Led by Dr Iain Matheson, Better Outcomes (The Research Centre for Better Outcomes from Fostering and Residential Care) is a New Zealand-based research centre and social enterprise. We exist to help organisations in New Zealand, Australia and internationally, to generate and use evidence and learning so that children and young people in or leaving out-of-home care can thrive. Better Outcomes undertakes research and consultancy for and with government departments and NGOs; we also partner with universities and other research organisations. As well as sitting on advisory boards, peer reviewing research and strategies, and advisory services, Iain also mentors leaders, teams and start-ups across the world, facilitates groups, and delivers in-person and virtual training workshops and events.

Mailing List

Join our mailing list

Iain Matheson blogs weekly on foster care, residential care and/or transitioning from care. To join our mailing list for these blog posts and occasional updates on webinars, masterclasses, training workshops and other professional development opportunities, you can sign up at www.betteroutcomes.org.nz

Contact Iain

We'd love to hear from you, and/or you can connect with Iain on social media

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