



*Connie Lillas, PhD*

Dr. Connie Lillas is a National Graduate Zero to Three Leadership Fellow and an infant mental health and early intervention specialist with a background in maternal-child nursing, family systems, and developmental psychoanalysis.

Dr. Lillas is the Director of the Interdisciplinary Training Institute, whose curriculum regarding high-risk pre-birth to five-years-olds in the foster care system is employed to train service providers across disciplines in Los Angeles County, through collaborative training efforts from the Department of Child and Protective Services, the Department of Mental Health, and Regional Centers. She currently co-chairs the Foster Youth Mental Health Initiative Capacity Building Policy Workgroup at the Children's Law Center, which houses 90% of all attorneys representing infants and children in the foster care system. She also functions as a Court Team Liaison for a 0-3 court team pilot that is being organized in Service Planning Area 6 (South Los Angeles). Dr. Lillas also serves as Chief Faculty for the Los Angeles Child Guidance's Early Intervention Training Institute.

With a long-established private clinical practice, Dr. Lillas services both ends of the age spectrum—from birth to five-year-olds and latency-aged children, to adults. She has co-authored a book with Dr. Janiece Turnbull, *Infant Mental Health, Early Intervention, & Relationship-Based Therapies: A Neurorelational Framework for Interdisciplinary Practice*, part of the W.W. Norton series on "interpersonal neurobiology."

WELLSPRING MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER  
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# INFANT/CHILD MENTAL HEALTH, EARLY INTERVENTION AND RELATIONSHIP-BASED THERAPIES:

*A Neurorelational Framework  
for Interdisciplinary Practice*

*With Connie Lillas, PhD*

Friday, September 24, 2010

The Hilton  
Burlington, VT

*Dr. Lillas presents a neurologically-based, multilevel, cross-disciplinary, functional approach to diagnosis and intervention.*

## *Training Program*

The importance of early intervention for at-risk and atypically developing children has long been recognized. What remains a challenge are the multiple complexities inherent in assessing, intervening, and integrating service planning for these children and their families.

To address these issues, Dr. Lillas presents a neurologically-based, multilevel, cross-disciplinary, functional approach to diagnosis and intervention.

This neurorelational framework describes four behaviorally-indexed global brain systems, each representing a distributed brain system and a collection of brain functions: regulation (arousal, stress responses, and adaptive energy regulation), sensory (sensory registration, processing and modulation, vision, language), relevance (emotion, learning, memory, private and shared meanings), and executive (behavior activation and inhibition, thoughts, and the balance of thoughts and emotions).

Each system is in a dynamic, interdependent, and reciprocal relationship with every other brain system, the body, and the world: the child's developing nervous system/brain is both embedded in and modified by interpersonal relational experiences, particularly those found in the family or primary caregiving unit.

Diagnosis and intervention must address the dynamics of the relational unit as these dynamics affect the fit between the child's multilevel neurodevelopmental needs and the parent's understanding and ability to provide developmentally appropriate, supportive, and consistent parenting.

### **Outcome Goals**

Participants will be able to describe

1. the brain components of each system,
2. the functions and behaviors of each system,
3. how to assess the functional level of each system
4. system-specific intervention strategies for each system.

CEU: 7

## *Schedule*

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 10:45	Conceptual Framework
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:15	Application – Video
12:15 – 1:30	Case Study – Infant
1:30 – 3:15	Lunch; on your own
3:15 – 3:30	Application – Video
3:30 – 4:00	Big Picture: review and discussion
4:00 – 5:30	Mock Parent Interview, Applying the 4 Brain Systems to a Clinical Interview with Discussion (child 8 years or older)

## *Who Should Attend*

Anyone working with at-risk or atypically developing young children and their families: professionals within the fields of mental health, early intervention, education, medicine (including MD, PA, RN/LPN, NP, OT, PT, SLP), and family law.



## *Location*

The Hilton  
60 Battery Street, Burlington, Vermont  
(public parking garage behind hotel)

## *Inquire*

Maggie McGuire, PhD  
PO Box 147 Hardwick, VT 05843  
wellspringvt@gmail.com 802-472-6694

## *Registration*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Deadline: 9/14/10

### **FEES**

\$150 Early Registration (by 8/23/10)  
\$160 Regular Registration (after 8/23/10)

Financial assistance available through group rates and VSAC grants.

Please send payment (check payable to Wellspring) with completed registration form to:

Wellspring Mental Health & Wellness Center  
PO Box 147  
Hardwick, VT 05843

