**Introduction**

- The first five years of life are critical for physical, emotional, and brain development (Shonkoff, 2003)
- The child-parent relationship is essential in assisting with this development (Schore, 2001)
- Trauma or maltreatment during this development period can have long-lasting and detrimental effects (DHHS, 2015)
- Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) is an intervention that aims to restore the child-parent relationship after trauma or maltreatment
- CPP strives to improve the child's cognitive, behavioral, and social activity by reestablishing and reinforcing attachment (Lieberman & Van Horn, 2005)
- Children enter the child welfare system after experiencing trauma and maltreatment
- Parents in the child welfare system are ordered to participate in court services such as CPP to work towards reunification
- The Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children (NRPVYC) evaluated whether CPP is related to positive court outcomes for families in the child welfare system

**Method**

- Research assistants coded court records of 158 families (157 mothers, 89 fathers) with abuse/neglect cases in the Lancaster Court Juvenile Court for whether:
  - Parents were ordered to complete a CPP assessment
  - Parents were ordered to participate in CPP
  - Parents were participating in CPP
  - Parents were reunified with their children

- Reunification more likely for mother once ordered to complete assessment and complete the assessment but do not need to be ordered to follow through on recommendations
- Reunification more likely for father once complete assessment and ordered to follow recommendations
- Barrier for father is engagement in the assessment, regardless of court order
- Once mother ordered to complete assessment she will engage with the service
- Different methods of engaging mothers and fathers in services toward reunification
- CPP predicts case outcomes in court involved abuse and neglect cases

**Results**

- **CPP Assessment Ordered * Reunification**
  - CPP Ordered * Reunification
    - Mom: r = .14, p = .10
    - Dad*: r = .26, p = .01

- **CPP Assessment Completed * Reunification**
  - CPP Assessment Completed * Reunification
    - Mom*: r = .37, p < .01
    - Dad: r = .35, p < .01

- **CPP Ordered * Reunification**
  - CPP Participation * Reunification
    - Mom*: r = .32, p < .01

- **CPP Participation * Reunification**
  - CPP Participation * Reunification
    - Mom*: r = .36, p < .01

**Future Directions**

- Explore additional correlates of participation in CPP and reunification
- Substance abuse, age of child, reason for removal
- Explore differences between mothers and fathers on engagement techniques
- Impact of framing service, predictors of completing CPP assessment
- Continue data collection

**Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to thank the Nebraska Child-Parent Psychotherapy Learning Collaborative, Judge Heideman & the Lancaster County Family Treatment Judge Court, The Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children, & UNL UCARE.