

**SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION RESEARCH
23RD ANNUAL MEETING
WASHINGTON, DC**

Pre-Conference Workshop I

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Implementing Parent Training at Scale in Child Welfare with Linked Policy, Fiscal, and Practice Reforms

Organizer: Patricia Chamberlain, PhD, Oregon Social Learning Center

Presenters

Bryan Samuels, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago

Patricia Chamberlain, PhD, Oregon Social Learning Center

Marion Forgatch, PhD, Implementation Sciences International, Inc.

Fred Wolczyn, PhD, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago

Sara Wolf-Feldman, PhD, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago

Lisa Saldana, PhD, Oregon Social Learning Center

John Landsverk, PhD, Oregon Social Learning Center

Description

During the past 5 years, there have been significant opportunities to successfully implement a policy and practice agenda to improve social, emotional, physical, and educational outcomes for children and families in child welfare. Under the leadership of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the role of academic research on child welfare practice was elevated as was the importance of child well-being as a primary outcome of concern for child welfare practice. This included the goal of addressing the long-term impact of maltreatment and associated poor outcomes commonly reported in research involving foster youth. Policy initiatives have called for child welfare systems to be proactive in using research to enhance their capacities for making informed policy and program decisions using scientific evidence. This work emphasizes the emergence of a cutting-edge body of scholarship in evidence-based interventions and neuroscience and the potential for innovative contributions to understanding the effects of maltreatment on child development.

An example of a large-scale foster care reform that linked policy, fiscal incentives, and evidence-based interventions will be described. The goal was to achieve a reduction in the following outcomes: a) placement disruptions (lateral moves); b) the number of placement days; length of stay; and c) the number of re-entries in to care. Achieving 20% reductions in these targets would make the reform effort cost-neutral. Two evidence-based interventions were chosen by the child welfare system in a large urban city to achieve these targets: KEEP (Keeping foster and kinship parents trained and supported) and PMTO (Parenting Through Change to support and increase skills of biological parents). These interventions were linked in that they are based on the same theory (social learning), used similar intervention components, used an observation-based fidelity monitoring system, and the training and ongoing consultation of case workers and supervisors were coordinated. The start-up time for this system reform was rapid: 5 months from conceptualization, design, agency selection, planning/readiness, and

installation of fidelity monitoring system design. This presented numerous challenges for the implementation.

A multiple baseline study designed to detect whether, relative to the past, performance differed from what would have been expected under a business as usual design. Innovative strategies were used for establishing what was likely to happen as a counterfactual against which to compare what did happen. The evaluation methodology and results will be described.

Objectives

- a) To offer participants a conceptual framework that aligns policy and fiscal incentives to optimize the impact of parent mediated clinical interventions.
- b) To demonstrate methods for training the frontline workforce to implement theoretically linked interventions.
- c) To use existing administrative data to conduct a multiple-baseline evaluation of at-scale impacts.
- d) To “pull down” key intervention components into daily interactions between supervisors, caseworkers, parents, and children to affect routine practice.

Workshop Outline

- A. The Policy of Context (Samuels)
 1. Brief history
 2. Changes during the Obama administration
 3. Focus on child well-being
 4. Aligning policy and practice
 5. Discussion of future policy directions
- B. Fiscal Incentives (Wulczyn)
 1. History of fiscal reforms
 2. Analysis of costs associated with worker time use and effects on implementation
 3. Alignment of fiscal incentives with policy and clinical reforms
 4. Discussion of opportunities to use administrative data to measure at-scale level change
- C. Linked Clinical Interventions (Chamberlain & Forgatch)
 1. Harmonizing multiple interventions; concepts and language
 2. Producing unified training protocols
 3. Caseworker engagement
 4. Working across multiple agencies
 5. Lessons learned
 6. Hands-on design practice of designing multi-level interventions
- D. At-Scale Evaluation (Wolf-Feldman & Wulczyn)
 1. Design,
 2. Qualitative and quantitative methods
 3. Results
 4. Discussion of alternative strategies

E. Development of a Practice Model that Incorporates Clinical Intervention Components (Saldana)

1. Concept of optimizing rather than supplanting usual caseworker work routines
2. Use of practitioner input
3. Hands-on practice to reinforce effort, relationships, and roles

F. Limitations, Barriers, and Unintended Consequences (Landsverk)

G. Discussion: What if and Going Forward (Landsverk)

1. What if we got a do-over?
2. What if we got 2 jobs at once? — Capacity building
3. Application of linked approach to other systems (hands-on)
4. Further discussion and closing remarks

Target Audience: Attendees should have experience in one of the following areas: policy, implementation, intervention development, program evaluation, child welfare or other public service system practice (e.g., juvenile justice, mental health, public health). Audience members will be encouraged to ask questions and give examples of their own work throughout the presentations.

Materials: Video recording of interventions (viewed during workshop), fidelity scales, slides of presentations.

Presenters:

Bryan Samuels is the Executive Director of Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. His work centers around the creation of a well-being framework based on the best scientific developmental understanding of normal childhood development; understanding the effects of exposure to violence, trauma, poverty, and adverse childhood experiences on the mental, emotional, behavioral, and physical health of children; integrating empirical evidence into public policy and service delivery; and building the capacity of public and private child- and family-serving systems and organizations to produce positive outcomes for the most vulnerable children. Samuels was appointed by President Obama as the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF), where he served from 2009 to 2013, and leveraged the work of federal departments including Health and Human Services, Justice, and Education, among others, on behalf of vulnerable child and youth populations, especially foster children, homeless youth, children and families impacted by domestic violence, and children exposed to trauma and violence. Prior to that, he served as the Chief of Staff at Chicago Public Schools, and the Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Samuels has testified in front of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means on issues related to the needs of children exposed to violence in the home and the over reliance on the use of psychotropic medications. Among Samuels awards are: a Distinguished Service Award, American Professional Society of the Abuse of Children, 2011; a Community Health in Partnership Service Award, 2010; a Lifeline Celebration Award, Community Mental Health Council, 2005; a 40 Under 40 Leadership Award, Crain's Chicago Business, 2003; and an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation PPIA Fellowship, 1989. He is an expert in child welfare policy having served as the Director of the Administration on Children, Youth & Families during the first 6 years of the Obama administration. He was instrumental in shifting the policy focus to include child well-being.

Fred Wulczyn is a Senior Research Fellow at Chapin Hall. He is the 2011 recipient of the James E. Flynn Prize for Research and has been recipient of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators' (NAPCWA) Peter Forsythe Award for leadership in public child welfare. In 2014, he was elected to the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. He is lead author of *Beyond Common Sense: Child Welfare, Child Well-Being, and the Evidence for Policy Reform* (Aldine, 2005) and coeditor of *Child Protection: Using Research to Improve Policy and Practice* (Brookings 2007). Dr. Wulczyn is director of the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data, a collaboration of Chapin Hall, the American Public Human Services Association, and other research partners. An expert in the analysis of administrative data, he was an architect of Chapin Hall's Multistate Foster Care Data Archive and constructed the original integrated longitudinal database on children's services in Illinois, now in use for more than 25 years. The databases he has developed give state administrators capacity to analyze key child welfare outcomes, compare outcomes across agencies and jurisdictions, project future service patterns, test the impact of policy and service innovations, and monitor progress. Dr. Wulczyn also designed two major social experiments: the Child Assistance Program and the HomeRebuilders project. The Child Assistance Program was awarded the Innovations in Government Award from Harvard University and the Ford Foundation. Also in the realm of public policy, he developed the nation's first proposal to change the federal law limiting the ability of states to design innovative child welfare programs, which then led to the development of the Title IV-E waiver programs used by states to undertake system reform in child welfare programs. He continues to lead the field in developing alternative approaches to financing child welfare programs.

Sara Wolf Feldman is a Senior Researcher at Chapin Hall. Her work concentrates on understanding the implementation and impact of child welfare reform efforts, both in the context of foster care and preventive services. Dr. Feldman uses both administrative data and qualitative methods to understand private and public child welfare agency performance. She develops and measures performance outcomes in the areas of safety and risk assessments, maltreatment investigations and the use of multiple response systems, foster care, and preventive services. She works with public and private agencies to develop service models with coherent theories of change that are responsive to local contexts and allow for ongoing engagement in continuous quality improvement processes. Recently, Dr. Feldman has focused on studying the extent to which evidence-based practices influence various well-being outcomes for children in foster care. She has also been working with integrated administrative databases to understand the range of developmental factors that can affect child and young adult well-being. She is currently serving as co-PI on the evaluations of two Title IV-E Waiver demonstration projects. Prior to coming to Chapin Hall, Dr. Feldman worked as a clinical social worker and administrative supervisor within a large, New York City-based foster care agency

Patricia Chamberlain is the Science Director at the Oregon Social Learning Center and the Principal Investigator (with Fisher) on a NIDA P50 Center of Excellence; Translational Drug Abuse Prevention in Child Welfare Systems. . She developed and tested the KEEP and Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care evidence-based interventions that are widely implemented in the U.S. and internationally. She has conducted several studies on treatment for children, youth, and families in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health systems. She has been the Principal Investigator on 8 randomized trials examining the efficacy of parent mediated intervention approaches. A current area of focus is on implementation research which examines what it takes to integrate and scale-up evidence-based practices in to real world agencies and systems. Dr. Chamberlain's recent work has also focused on the development of

intervention models for adolescent girls in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. In addition to working on research aimed at improving outcomes for youth and foster and biological families, she is interested in how to support child public service systems to improve the efficiency of their routine practices. She is currently involved in helping communities in the U.S. and Europe implement and scale up evidence-based interventions. Chamberlain is a senior fellow at the Society for Prevention Research

Marion Forgatch is Senior Scientist Emerita at the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC), where she developed and tested programs for families with children at-risk or referred for child adjustment problems and substance abuse. In 2001, Dr. Forgatch founded Implementation Sciences International Inc. (ISII), a non-profit affiliate of OSLC, to conduct implementation projects based on Parent Management Training, the Oregon Model (PMTO[®]), a set of evidence-based practices developed and tested by the OSLC group. At ISII she serves as Executive Director and Director of Research. She and her team conduct large-scale implementations for systems providing services to families in child mental health and child welfare. Implementations include nationwide programs (Norway, Iceland, The Netherlands, Denmark), statewide programs (Michigan, Kansas), and citywide programs (New York City, Detroit, Mexico City). Since 2000, Dr. Forgatch and her team have adapted and applied the *Parenting through Change (PTC)* program for use with diverse populations, including Spanish speaking Latinos, mothers living in shelters to escape homelessness or violence, parents whose children have been removed for reasons of abuse/neglect, and for national guardsmen and women reintegrating home following service in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. A Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, Forgatch has received awards from the Society of Prevention Research (*Friend of the Early Career Prevention Network* in 2003 and *Award for International Collaborative Prevention Research* in 2008) and the American Family Therapy Academy (*Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research* in 2012).

John Landsverk is a Research Scientist at the Oregon Social Learning Center and a Senior Scholar at the Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, and Senior Research Professor at the School of Social Work, University of Southern California. Dr. Landsverk has received numerous project and center grants from the NIMH and other federal agencies to conduct research primarily on mental health care for children and adolescents involved with child welfare. These include: a current NIMH funded advanced center (Implementation Research Methods Group) focusing on the development of innovative research methods to conduct implementation research related to public child welfare and child mental health service systems; and a recently completed NIMH funded Child and Adolescent Interdisciplinary Research Network (network of 25 researchers and service system managers from the disciplines of clinical and developmental psychology, anthropology, sociology, social work, health care economics, and pediatrics with a principal focus to improve mental health services for children involved with child welfare systems through the implementation of evidence-based interventions). Dr. Landsverk has published widely on findings from the national child welfare study, National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW), with support from his completed NIMH funded R01 study, Caring for Children in Child Welfare. Recent publications include multiple chapters in two books based on NSCAW, Child Protection: Using Research to Improve Policy and Practice, published by Brookings, and Child welfare and child well-being: New perspectives from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being, published by Oxford University Press, on which he was a co-editor. In addition, he is a co-author for Beyond Common Sense: Children Welfare, Child Well-Being, and the Evidence for Policy Reform, published in 2005. Dr. Landsverk chairs the Braam Oversight Panel that is providing technical assistance and monitoring oversight for a mediated settlement to a class action suit involving the child welfare and mental health systems in the State of Washington.

Lisa Saldana is a Senior Research Scientist at the Oregon Social Learning Center. She has been active in the development, evaluation, and implementation of evidence-based practices, with a particular emphasis in services for child welfare populations. She is currently the PI on the Stages of Implementation Completion for Evidence-Based Practice, an NIMH-funded R01 that examines the successful implementation of interventions in community settings. She is also working on NIH-funded research grants focusing on the economic evaluation of EBPs and is a Co-Investigator on the NIDA-funded Translational Drug Abuse Prevention Center at OSLC. She is a Co-Investigator on a large real-world implementation of two linked EBPs in a large multi-site child welfare system. She is the developer of the Stages of Implementation Completion (SIC) and Cost of Implementing New Strategies (COINS) implementation tools. Recently, in collaboration with OSLC colleague Patti Chamberlain, Dr. Saldana has helped to develop the R³ practice model focused on maximizing the quality of positive relationships between caseworkers and families involved in the child welfare system. Previously, she was the PI on a NIDA-funded Career Development award to develop an integrative treatment for maternal substance abuse and child neglect and was a Co-Investigator on a large-scale trial evaluating “what it takes” to implement an evidence-based practice (MTFC) for youth in foster care in communities with barriers to implementation. Dr. Saldana also collaborated on a trial evaluating the dissemination of the KEEP foster parent training group to prevent placement disruptions in foster children.