MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has been a busy but productive summer for the Institute. This summer, I traveled to four conferences.

First, I presented at the DCF Academic Partner Summit at Daytona State College, on the work of the Institute and upcoming activities and opportunities. During this Summit, I was able to connect with the University of Florida and begin cultivating the Institute's interdisciplinary goals.

I also attended the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) Conference in Boca Raton. I was delighted to be in attendance and continue to support the work of FCC and other state partners.

Next, I participated in a Behavioral Health Conference in Orlando, which was sponsored by the Florida Council for Community Mental Health and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association. I was asked to present on how socio-economic, ethnic and cultural issues impact the effectiveness of our state's service array. The presentation was well received and the Institute is keenly aware of the importance of considering circumstances and demographic factors in clinical interventions and will strive to be a leader in strengthening the effectiveness of Florida's services.

Lastly, I attended the Child Protection Summit and as a partner to DCF, our team will continue to support their mission of providing safety, permanency and well-being to every child in our state. It is my goal to keep our Institute connected and aware of the most pressing issues facing families and working diligently with partners to create longstanding improvement and change.

CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

It is the overall goal of the Institute to create evidence that informs policy and practice. We are currently engaged in: 1) an evaluation of child welfare pre-service/in-service training curriculum; 2) an evaluation of DCF’s Results Oriented Accountability program; and 3) we are gathering data on foster care quality standards in our state and nationally and preparing a report for the Department.

As we continue to engage in research and evaluation, we keep in mind that Legislative Session is set to begin on January 9, 2018 and end on March 9, 2018. Committee week began on September 11 and the Institute will be attending committee meetings and presenting significant results from funded research when requested by legislative staff. We look forward to sharing the integral work on behalf of our Institute affiliates and staff.

CHILD PROTECTION SUMMIT

At this year's Child Protection Summit, ten Institute Affiliates shared their expertise on various subjects related to child welfare with Summit attendees, four of which were workshops conducted on the Institute's behalf. Joining Dean Jim Clark, Jessica Pryce, and Marianna Tutwiler, 13 affiliates gathered together for a casual dinner to discuss their respective research and interests and to see where collaborations could be fostered.

NEW RESEARCH AFFILIATES

The Institute recently expanded the faculty affiliate network to include research affiliates that have expertise in areas related to the vulnerabilities of at-risk families. We are proud to welcome: Dr. Heather Agazzi, Dr. Patty Babcock, Dr. Mary Kay Falconer, Dr. Martie Gillen, Dr. Mimi Graham, Denise Marzullo, Dr. Kimberly McGrath, Karen Oehme, Dr. Kimberly Renk, Dr. Terry Rhodes, Teri Saunders, and Andry Sweet. More information about their research background and our other partnerships is included in the Institute's Affiliate Directory. View the latest version at http://ficw.fsu.edu/affiliates

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

Pediatric Primary Care and Behavioral Health Integration Summit
September 29 - 30, 2017
Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate, Florida

The Pediatric Primary Care and Behavioral Health Integration Summit will unite health care professionals from different disciplines, including primary care and behavioral health, by increasing inter-professional collaboration and training to bridge policy and practice gaps in the delivery of behavioral health services to children and youth.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

31st Annual Research & Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health
Deadline: October 27, 2017

Florida Institute for Child Welfare, along with Casey Foundation, is co-sponsoring a child welfare specialty track for this exciting and well-attended conference. Visit ficw.fsu.edu for more information posted to the homepage.
Although a substantial amount of research documents the increased likelihood of maltreated youths to engage in delinquency, very little is known about them once they cross into delinquency. These youth are often referred to as “crossover youth,” “dual jurisdiction,” or “dually involved” youth, and based on a growing amount of research, it appears these youth face a number of challenges. They have significant educational problems, high rates of placement changes and high rates of substance abuse and mental health problems. When they enter the juvenile justice system, they are more likely to stay longer and penetrate deeper into the system than their non-maltreated counterparts.

Clear definitions of crossover youth are still forming as research expands in this area, but multiple references to different subgroups of this population can cause confusion. For instance, at least three terms are used to refer to this population: crossover youth, dually involved youth, and dually adjudicated youth. The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University recently attempted to clarify the use of these terms. Ultimately, this work views the latter two terms as subgroups of crossover youth, the broadest category. Crossover youth includes any youth who has experienced maltreatment and also engaged in delinquency. This is the broadest definition because it refers to youth with these experiences regardless of whether the maltreatment and/or delinquency have come to the attention of the child welfare and/or delinquency systems. Dually involved youth represent a subgroup of crossover youth who are simultaneously receiving services, at any level, from both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Finally, dually adjudicated youth constitute a subgroup of dually involved youth, encompassing only those youth who are concurrently adjudicated by both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.