



**FLORIDA
INSTITUTE
FOR CHILD
WELFARE**
AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE INSIGHTS

Issue 3 | December 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the Institute I want to extend our appreciation for a very productive year. Our affiliate network and Institute team has been actively engaged with DCF, the CBC agencies, and the Florida Legislature. As the new year approaches, we are looking forward to continuing to work with our statewide partners on research and evaluation that will effectively address the challenges we face in our child welfare community. Florida's Legislative Session begins on January 9, 2018, and our Institute will be present and available to provide research informed recommendations to child welfare policy makers.

I am excited to announce our Spring Symposium which will be held April 26-27, 2018 in Tallahassee. The Symposium's theme will revolve around child abuse prevention strategies. It is our goal to identify evidence-based prevention strategies and explore barriers to prevention that we face in our state. It is widely understood that primary prevention (an intervention that is implemented before child abuse occurs) would positively impact our child welfare system on multiple levels, including but not limited to, workforce stability, caseload sizes, and resource allocation. Though the sustainability of prevention efforts is inherently challenging. I am looking forward to bringing stakeholders together in April to dive into what prevention efforts are present, identify the prevention gaps and create an action plan moving ahead on strengthening our state's child abuse prevention efforts.

Please save the date. More details about the Symposium will be forthcoming.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The Florida House of Representatives' Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee invited Dr. Jessica Pryce and Dr. Dina Wilke to make presentations on the child welfare workforce. Dr. Wilke, an Institute faculty affiliate, presented on the five-year workforce study progress and Dr. Pryce provided workforce recommendations, as well as, an update on relevant research underway. To view the presentation, please [click here](#). To read the most recent Research Brief from the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families [click here](#). You can also read about the [full study](#) to date.

FACULTY AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



The Institute would like to highlight **Khalilah Louis-Caines**. Khalilah currently serves as the Director of Field Education and Instructor for the Master of Social Work Program at Saint Leo University. Prior to teaching, she served in various adoption related roles including Adoption Case Manager, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, and Adoption Competent Therapist. She is a licensed clinical social worker who continues to provide adoption training and consultation to community-based care organizations, community mental health agencies, and foster and adoptive families. She works closely with Pasco County's Early Childhood Court and was an advisory board member for the Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay. Her research interests include foster care and adolescent adoption, adoption disruption rates, and evidence-based treatment approaches for adoptive children and families.

CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Service Array

The Institute is assisting the Department of Children and Families on two service array projects by providing them with research on the most effective interventions for vulnerable children and their families.

CaseAIM

Children's Home Society has contracted with the Institute to conduct a mixed methods evaluation of CaseAIM, an innovative case management initiative. CaseAIM's goal is to divert certain case tasks to a Unified Support Center, thereby giving the case manager more time to engage with their clients. The Institute will evaluate CaseAIM and identify its impact on child safety, permanency, and well-being.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**Society for Social Work Research
Achieving Equal Opportunity,
Equity, and Justice**

January 10 - 14, 2018

Marriott Marquis Washington, DC

**31st Annual Research & Policy
Conference on Child, Adolescent,
& Young Adult Behavioral Health**

March 4 - 7, 2018

Hilton Tampa Downtown | Tampa, FL

**Florida Institute for Child Welfare
Spring Symposium**

April 26 - 27, 2018

Tallahassee, FL

STAFF UPDATES

Anna Yelick, our Dissertation Fellow and Florida State University PhD candidate, joined the Institute team in November. She will be assisting with research and evaluation activities.

Greg Nix, a graduate assistant with the Institute, recently accepted an internship with the Ounce of Prevention Florida with Drs. Terry Rhodes and Mary Kay Falconer.



850-645-3429 (FICW)



fsuchildwelfare@gmail.com



www.ficw.fsu.edu



Facebook.com/FSUChildWelfare