MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Social Work Month! Our Institute has worked diligently to establish a robust network of social work researchers who are committed to testing the most innovative and effective practice interventions. Our affiliate network has expanded to include research-oriented practitioners, as well as, scholars from non-social work disciplines. We have utilized our affiliates for a number of activities, including a developmental evaluation of DCF’s Results Oriented Accountability program (ROA); a study of the successful implementation of an Early Childhood Court program (ECC); an analysis of the strength of our network and our collaborations across the state; evaluation of pre-service training; and the transition components for case workers as they begin their jobs. Additionally, several affiliates have presented their work at statewide, national, and international conferences.

With all that has been accomplished, there is still work to be done. As we prepare for our Child Abuse Prevention Research Symposium in April, I want the attendees to bring their ideas and their passion for prevention. At the Symposium, attendees will have the opportunity to meet our affiliate network of scholars and engage on a variety of topics. Our Institute is uniquely positioned to make significant contributions to the prevention service array in Florida. This year, I am looking forward to opportunities for more evaluation research, which will inform our recommendations to policy makers, advisement to DCF, and solution-focused strategies to child welfare stakeholders statewide. I hope you have had a great start to this year and look forward to seeing you in April!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Florida’s Legislative Session ended this past weekend. This newsletter highlights two bills as child safety is our priority and addressing the overuse of opioids throughout our state is an important policy for children and their families.

HB 21: Controlled Substances
This new legislation requires practitioners to complete certain continuing education courses in order to prescribe controlled substances; offers a definition for acute pain, includes standards of practice for treatment of acute pain; limits prescribing of opioids for acute pain, creates requirements for pain management clinic owners and pharmacists & practitioners for dispensing of controlled substances to persons not known to them. To read more click here.

HB 1435: Child Welfare
This bill requires that DCF, in collaboration with community-based care lead agencies, develop statewide family-finding programs and authorizes the creation of kinship navigator programs; it also requires court to request that parents’ consent on access to additional records that may be needed during the life of a case. This piece of legislation is unique because policymakers have highlighted the importance of emotional permanency, as well as legal permanency. To read more click here.

LOOKING AHEAD

Spring Symposium - Registration is OPEN!!
We are pleased to invite each of you to a Spring Research Symposium convening on April 26-27, 2018, in Tallahassee. The Institute is partnering with the USF Florida Mental Health Institute and the FSU College of Social Work to host “Promising Strategies for Child Abuse Prevention.” The goal of the Symposium is to develop effective strategies and identify barriers to prevention. An investment in the wellness of vulnerable families, through educational and preventive efforts, would positively impact our child welfare system on multiple levels such as: workforce stability, caseload sizes, resource allocation, and improved outcomes.

The deadline to register for the Symposium is April 13. There are still a few spots left. Join us in Tallahassee on April 26 and 27 to learn about innovative initiatives to prevent child abuse from national and state experts. Visit our Symposium page for registration details: http://ficw.fsu.edu/symposium.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Mayors 4th Summit on Children Family First Week
April 30 - May 3, 2018
Community Summit on Children
May 3, 2018
Tallahassee, FL

National Association of Social Workers Florida Chapter
2018 Social Work Conference
June 14 - 16, 2018
Marriott Ft. Lauderdale North
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Florida Coalition for Children
2018 Annual FCC Conference
July 23 - 25, 2018
Boca Raton Resort & Club
Boca Raton, FL
Women in Social Work

In 1980 President Jimmy Carter designated March 2-8 as National Women's History Week. Seven years later, congress declared March as national Women's History Month. This creates a special opportunity in our schools, our workplaces, and our communities to recognize and celebrate the often-overlooked achievements of American women.

March is also recognized as Professional Social Work month. The Institute would like to highlight some influential women in the field of social work, including:

Barbara Mikulski (1936 - )
Senator Mikulski was the first Democratic woman to serve in both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, the first woman to win a statewide election in Maryland, and the longest serving woman in the history of Congress.

Frances Feldman (1913 - 2008)
Feldman, a University of Southern California professor and social work pioneer, conducted a groundbreaking study in the 1970s that showed cancer patients faced discrimination in the workplace.

Grace Coyle (1892 - 1962)
Coyle is most famous for developing and popularizing group work as a social work practice.

Mary Ellen Richmond (1861 - 1928)
Richmond was one of the first social workers to push for the standards and professionalization of social work.

Harriett Rinaldo (1906 - 1981)
Rinaldo created rating and recruitment procedures and higher personnel standards for the Veterans Administration Social Work Service, which were later adopted by the federal government.

Edith Abbott (1876 - 1957)
Abbott was president of the American Association of Schools of Social Work and the National Conference of Social Work.

Jeannette Rankin (1880 - 1973)
Rankin was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. In addition, she was an advocate of women's suffrage and a lifelong pacifist.

Frances Perkins (1880 - 1965)
Perkins was the first woman to be a Presidential Cabinet member, serving as Secretary of Labor under Roosevelt, and was a champion of labor reform.

Jane Addams (1860 - 1935)
Addams founded the renowned Hull House in Chicago and received the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize.

Research Spotlight

Dr. Bruce Thyer, a distinguished professor at the FSU College of Social Work completed a technical report entitled Evaluation Child Welfare Programs that reviews the importance of individual child welfare agencies conducting periodic program evaluations of their own services’ outcomes. Dr. Thyer stresses that evaluations make use of reliable and valid outcome measures that directly pertain to the agency’s purposes, and be as specific as possible.

Affiliate Spotlight

Dr. Lisa Schelbe is an Assistant Professor at Florida State University College of Social Work and a Faculty Affiliate at the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. She serves as co-Editor-in-Chief of Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal. Lisa received a Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being (2011-2013).

Lisa's primary research interest focuses broadly on child welfare and child maltreatment prevention. Specifically, her research examines on the population of youth aging out and their experiences of the transition from the system to life on their own as adults. Most recently, Lisa's focus is on educational and parenting experiences and outcomes of youth aging out. She currently is involved with the evaluation of a campus based support program for foster care alumni and is working with colleagues to develop a national consortium of researchers evaluating campus based support programs for foster care alumni. In 2017, Lisa co-authored a monograph, "Intergenerational Transmission of Child Maltreatment," which serves as a primer for understanding the cycle of violence and the continuation of child maltreatment. In addition to her research in the area of child welfare and child maltreatment prevention, Lisa is an expert in qualitative methods and collaborates with others as a methodologist on a range of topics using different qualitative research designs including ethnography, phenomenological studies, and content analysis.

Lisa is committed to teaching and mentoring students. At the BSW and MSW levels, she teaches Human Behavior in the Social Environment as well as the elective Child Maltreatment and Child Welfare. She also teaches Qualitative Research Methods at the PhD level. In addition to teaching, Lisa mentors students working with her on various research projects as well as those working on the FSU College of Social Work Arts & Athletics Camp which she oversees.

In her spare time, Lisa enjoys spending time outdoors, gardening, biking, and participating in triathlons. Having grown up in landlocked Pennsylvania, she especially loves the Florida climate and tries to get to the beach as frequently as possible.

Articles that Lisa has authored are available at Florida State University’s Institutional Repository, DigiNoles.

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The Institute can now engage in contracts to conduct evaluations, and provide technical assistance and training. Please contact Dr. Pryce at jpryce@fsu.edu.