



FLORIDA  
INSTITUTE  
for CHILD  
WELFARE

# INSTITUTE INSIGHTS

Issue 2 | September 2017

## 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.

## 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.

## 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>



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://ficw.fsu.edu) for more information posted to the homepage.

## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

### Crossover Youth

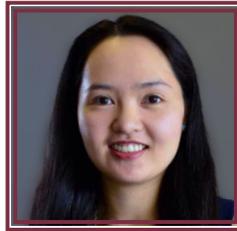
Although a substantial amount of research documents the increased likelihood of maltreated youths to engage in delinquency, very little is known about them once they cross into delinquency. These youth are often referred to as “crossover youth,” “dual jurisdiction,” or “dually involved” youth, and based 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.”

**Herz, D., Ryan, J., & Bilchik, S.** (2010). Challenges facing crossover youth: an examination of juvenile justice decision making and recidivism. *Family Court Review* 48(2). 305-321.

## AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Hui Huang is an Assistant Professor at Florida International University (FIU) and has been a faculty affiliate with the Institute since 2015. With graduate degrees in both Social Work (PhD) and Statistics (Master),



Dr. Huang has the advantage of being able to translate social work policy questions into research questions, design and

implement research to answer the questions, and translate research findings into policy implications. In her project on the Crossover Youth Practice Model, she showed the effectiveness of the model, identified the key components of the Model that make it effective, and suggested implications on timely access to health-related services. She used a quasi-experimental research design, a creative way that addresses the limited ability of social science research to maintain tightly controlled experiment conditions, as might be more readily available in laboratory research. This design helped to rule out the impacts of confounding factors on the reoffending outcome, and to draw causal conclusions on the effectiveness of the model under study, which enhanced the rigor of her research.

In another project funded by our Institute, Dr. Huang collaborated with Dr. Miguel Villodas in the Department of Psychology at FIU to study the prevention of child maltreatment among families identified as at risk for abuse and/or neglect. The team examined the feasibility and initial effectiveness of implementing an evidence-based parent-child relational intervention, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), in combination with Motivational Interviewing (MI). Testing the intervention among a sample of 55 families in Miami, they reported that for the families who engaged in services, even a small dose of the PCIT with MI intervention, had significant impacts on caregivers' parental distress and use of physically assaultive discipline strategies, emotion suppression strategies, and positive parent-child interaction strategies, as well as children's externalizing behavior problems. Read the report on [ficw.fsu.edu](http://ficw.fsu.edu), under Research & Evaluation Pilot Projects.

Dr. Huang also currently serves as Co-PI on another Institute funded project that works closely with the DCF to develop and test a quality rating scale for group homes that serve foster youth in Florida. Read about the project on [ficw.fsu.edu](http://ficw.fsu.edu), under Technical Assistance & Training. As required by the 2017 Florida Legislature in HB 1121, this rating scale will be used by the state as a tool for measuring accountability of group home programs, and is to be implemented by July 1, 2022.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The Institute is proud to welcome Donna Brown as a research assistant. Donna is currently a doctoral candidate in the FSU College of Social Work, and her dissertation focuses on the evaluation of Safer, Smarter Kids, a child sexual abuse curriculum. She has worked most of her professional life in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse and foster care. For the past nine years, she has served as the Research & Prevention Consultant at the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence. Donna will be leading the evaluation of Case Aim, a workforce innovation provided by Children's Home Society.



## FICW Staff

**James Clark, PhD**  
*Dean of College of Social Work*

**Jessica Pryce, PhD**  
*Director*

**Marianna Tutwiler, MPA, MSW**  
*Program Director*

**Danielle Runtschke, MBA**  
*Administrative Specialist*

**Ying Zhang, PhD**  
*Data Analyst*

**Alina Bachmann**  
*Graphic Artist*

**MaKenna Woods, MSW**  
*Graduate Assistant*

**Greg Nix**  
*Graduate Assistant*

**Donna Brown, MSW**  
*Research Assistant*

THE INSTITUTE CAN NOW ENGAGE IN CONTRACTS TO CONDUCT EVALUATIONS AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT **DR. PRYCE** AT [JPRYCE@FSU.EDU](mailto:JPRYCE@FSU.EDU)

850-645-3429 (FICW)

[fsuchildwelfare@gmail.com](mailto:fsuchildwelfare@gmail.com)

[www.ficw.fsu.edu](http://www.ficw.fsu.edu)

[Facebook.com/FSUChildWelfare](https://www.facebook.com/FSUChildWelfare)