Greetings to our Child Welfare Community:
I am hoping you and your loved ones are well as we all adjust to the challenges that are upon us relating to the Coronavirus. A big thank you to healthcare professionals around our state and country. We also express our gratitude to frontline child welfare workers who are risking themselves as they continue to protect and advocate for children and their families.

Our Institute is still fully operational, and we are taking every precaution to protect the health of ourselves, our team, and our research partners. Legislative Session ended mid-March, and our Institute was impacted by very exciting legislation relating to social work curriculum, child welfare certification/specialization, and consulting with child welfare agencies around our state.

Additionally, many of you know that our Season 1 podcast is currently streaming. Season 2 is underway for a release in late summer or early fall. This series will center on Innovation and Technology within our child welfare system. In light of the Coronavirus, it will be helpful to know what technology assisted during such a challenging time.

I would also like to announce that out of an abundance of caution, and with the health and well-being of our community and statewide colleagues in mind, our Institute Spring Symposium is cancelled. We look forward to hosting this event next Spring 2021.

Please stay tuned for potential webinars this Fall so we can stay engaged around essential topics that affect our child welfare community.

Senate Bill 1326, which passed unanimously, requires the Florida Institute for Child Welfare to:

► Collaborate with the FSU College of Social Work to redesign the social work curriculum to include interactive and interdisciplinary approaches to better equip students for child welfare work.
► Collaborate with DCF to co-design and implement a career-long professional development curriculum which leads to specialization for child welfare workers.
► Establish a consulting program to assist child welfare organizations to improve retention, effectiveness, and overall well-being of the organization.

From the National Child Traumatic Stress Network:
► Supporting Children during a Public Health Emergency

From Child Mind Institute:
► Supporting Families During COVID-19

From the FSU Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy:
► Coping with the Coronavirus Pandemic

From the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University:
► Stress, Resilience, and the Role of Science: Responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic

From Child Trends:
► Supporting Children's Emotional Well-being during COVID-19

From Child Welfare League of America:
► COVID-19 Resources for Child Welfare Professionals and Others

From Children's Bureau:
► COVID-19 Resources

Have a resource to share with the child welfare community? Please email FICW@FSU.EDU for possible distribution on our social media.

Evaluation of Safer, Smarter Kids: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Curriculum for Kindergartners

Interested in being interviewed in a future season of our podcast series? Please email FICW@FSU.EDU.
Jennifer Marshall, Ph.D., MPH is an Associate Professor at the University of South Florida College of Public Health, LeadEvaluator for Florida’s Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact Project, and the Director of Planning and Evaluation for the Sunshine Education and Research Center. She also conducts community-based research assessing maternal and child health programs; safe infant sleep practices and interventions; disaster management; perinatal substance use; family-centered care and access to services for families of children with birth defects and other special needs. Her research interests stem from over 25 years of experience working in community health, education, and social services programs. Dr. Marshall joined the Institute as an affiliate in 2018 and served as Co-Principal Investigator of the 2018-2019 Early Childhood Court Evaluation. She recently co-authored the peer-reviewed manuscript: Early Childhood Court in Florida: Qualitative Results of a Statewide Evaluation. Learn more about Dr. Marshall and her work in our affiliate directory.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Anna Yelick, Ph.D., MSW has worked as a Postdoctoral Scholar with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare since 2018, after successfully defending her dissertation, which was supported, in part, by the Dissertation Fellowship Award from the Institute. Dr. Yelick’s primary area of expertise is on decision-making in the child welfare system. She recently authored a publication in the Journal of Public Child Welfare, highlighting the need to further explore the fidelity of the Florida Practice Model (Safety Methodology) and assess its impact on decision-making across the state. She also has an interest in racial disparities in the child welfare system and has been working with Dr. Jessica Pryce on exploring the impact decision-making has on disparity and child welfare outcomes.

Jennifer Marshall, Ph.D., MPH

Since 1983, April has been observed as Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month to raise awareness and prevent child abuse in the community.

Along with government efforts, communities and businesses play an important role in protecting children and strengthening families. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are not limited to affecting only the children or families involved. The impact is felt in our society and in our economy as well. The impacts can extend across generations.

In times of crisis, children are often at a higher risk of violence and abuse. Stress, health outcomes, and economic pressure could lead to an increase in domestic violence and child abuse. Child Helpline International is a worldwide network of 173 helplines across the world to raise child protection issues with national authorities.

Throughout CAP Month, and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prevent Child Abuse Florida is reinforcing the message that “Everyone can make great childhoods happen—especially you, especially now!” Find ways you can become involved online through their Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign.

For more on protecting children during the COVID-19 outbreak, End Violence Against Children has put together a resource page.

The Institute has published the following infographic for Child Abuse Prevention Month that includes more Florida-specific stats.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

We will be covering more of this topic all month long on our social media pages so be sure to follow along!