MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope that Summer is going well for each of you!

I want to thank our sponsors and attendees for their support for our Spring Child Abuse Prevention Symposium. Our Institute has continued the conversation with hopes that the Symposium mobilized our partners in the effort to prevent child abuse.

It is our goal to have a Symposium on an annual basis, so we hope to see our attendees again next year! Please click here for a summary of our Symposium.

We are also gearing up for our annual Affiliate meeting, which will be held in Tampa this year. Our Institute has established an impressive 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 and look forward to connecting with them in August.

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

We’d like to recognize Dr. Marianna Colvin, an Assistant Professor with the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University. As a mixed-methods researcher, Marianna combines network analysis and qualitative methods to examine interorganizational human service delivery systems related to vulnerable children and families. She approaches child welfare from a community-wide orientation, inclusive of multiple disciplines, and concentrates on interactions across organizations, theories of systems and complexity, and implications for policy and network development. Her academic pursuits are guided by experiences as a social work practitioner in international, national, and local child welfare roles, including community development for street children and impoverished populations in India, and U.S. based capacities in child protective services, family preservation, resource development, and supervision.

As an inaugural affiliate with the Institute, Dr. Colvin, along with her colleague and fellow affiliate Dr. Heather Thompson, conducted a qualitative study at a local community-based mental health agency to identify training needs of the therapeutic service providers. The most noticeable finding was that therapeutic service providers practiced without fully understanding the child welfare system structure and court processes. In all of the focus groups, the therapeutic providers expressed concern about not knowing basic key players and procedures. This is a critical finding for provider agencies to consider internally, as well as for other child welfare professionals and legal entities to recognize.

Based on the findings, an outline of a curriculum was developed for the Institute’s consideration. Dr. Colvin and her team are currently under contract to create two training modules for both dependency case workers and therapeutic service providers. Dr. Colvin is also conducting a network analysis of the Institute and its stakeholders as we work to build our collaborative capacity across the state. Results will be forthcoming—stay tuned. The Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers recently recognized her as the NASW social work educator of the year.

INTERESTED IN BEING AN AFFILIATE?
EMAIL US AT FICW@FSU.EDU

VIEW OUR AFFILIATE NETWORK HERE

STAFF UPDATES

We are excited to announce that Dr. Anna Yelick has joined the Institute team as our full-time Postdoctoral Researcher. Anna earned her Ph.D. in May 2018 from Florida State University. In 2016, she was awarded the Institute’s Dissertation Fellowship. Her dissertation focused on potential biases in DCF removal decisions based on family structure. Dr. Yelick will continue to examine decision-making among child welfare professionals to better serve children and families most at need.

Dr. Yelick is currently working on several Institute projects, including research on disparity within the child welfare field, using predictive analytics to improve worker efficacy among child protective investigators, and training opportunities for child welfare supervision. Read her Research Brief based on her dissertation about Decision-making and Family Structure. You can reach her at ayelick@fsu.edu.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Florida Coalition for Children Annual Conference July 23 - 25, 2018 Boca Raton Resort & Club Boca Raton, FL

Zero to Three Cross Sites August 27 - 30, 2018 The Crown Plaza, Asheville, NC

Florida Department of Children and Families Child Protection Summit September 5 - 7, 2018 JW Marriott Grande Lakes Orlando, FL

THE LONG HISTORY OF SEPARATING FAMILIES IN THE U.S. AND HOW THE TRAUMA Lingers

Below is an excerpt from an article written by Dr. Pryce and featured on The Conversation.

“This is not the first time that children have been separated. Exclusion and separation has impacted African-Americans during slavery, Native Americans during the Trail of Tears, and Japanese-Americans during internment, to name a few.

As a scholar who is actively engaged in child protection research and who examines the unnecessary removals of children from their parents, I am all too aware that the repercussions of such policies often take a lifetime to undo."

To read the full article, please click here.