



CASCW News

Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare

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Center for Advanced Studies
in Child Welfare
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A Special Edition of CASCW News

Question and Answer with
Professor Byron Egeland

Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota and

Professor Martha Farrell Erickson

Children, Youth and Family Consortium, University of Minnesota

A Commentary

If there is anything “new” on the Child Welfare horizon, it is the increase in the importance attached to the early years of a child’s life.

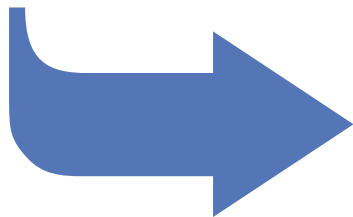
This emphasis provides a fresh direction for policy and program initiatives. Moreover, it is the antidote for the sense of despair that sometimes grips the Child Welfare scene when social service strategies fail to ameliorate the conditions of life for children in high-risk families.

For the past decade, guided by federal and state legislation, the field gave prime support to the initiative known as “family preservation.” Now, however, another wave of reform has emerged to reshape the system. Decisions are to be made in “the best interests of the child.” Under the stern demands of state statutes enacted in 1998, we must now move quickly, especially with young children, to arrive at life-shaping decisions for a child. For children 8 and under, permanency plans must be in place at the end of 6 months when a child has been placed out of home. To plan wisely within strict time limits for maltreated children is our current challenge.

Many of these efforts for young children will be unfolding under a concept known as concurrent planning. What are the clues that a child cannot remain safely with birth parents? Or once removed, cannot be reunified “in the best interests” of the child?

Does the concept of “attachment,” the emotional relationship of a child and caregiver that is the indispensable node of future growth and development, provide one of these clues?

We hope the Q and A of this edition of CASCW News with two of the nation’s experts provides an understanding of this key concept in assuring the “best interests of the child.”



In This Issue

Special Insert: Considering Attachment Issues in Permanency Decisions: Q and A with Professors Byron Egeland, Martha Farrell Erickson and Esther Wattenberg

“Protecting Children in Substance Abusing Families” Summary

1998-1999 IV-E Child Welfare Scholars.

Highlights of Minnesota’s New Child Welfare Law

CASCW News
Editor in Chief: Esther Wattenberg
Editing and Design: Lara Rubbelke

Protecting Children in Substance Abusing Families

More than 260 people attended our statewide forum, "Protecting Children in Substance Abusing Families," on September 28, 1998. Speaking to a standing-room-only audience, the presenters offered background and insights on building a bridge between the systems of substance abuse and child welfare. With an estimated 70% of child protection cases involved in alcohol and drugs, the issue is crucial. The conference highlighted concerns with children.

Katherine Wingfield, the Program Manager for the Chemical Health Initiative at the Child Welfare League of America, provided the opening session with her paper "Responding to Alcohol and Other Drug Problems in Child Welfare: Weaving together Practice and Policy". Ms. Wingfield brought national and Minnesota survey results regarding Child Welfare and Substance Abuse, and offered models currently used in various states to close the gap between these two systems.

Following Ms. Wingfield, **Erin Sullivan-Sutton**, Director of the Family and Children's Services

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A COPY OF THE CONFERENCE MATERIALS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT

<http://ssw.che.umn.edu/cascw>

OR COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM ON PAGE 3.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A COPY OF [Responding to Alcohol and Other Drug Problems in Child Welfare:](#)

[Weaving Together Practice and Policy,](#)

VISIT THE CWLA WEB SITE AT

<http://www.cwla.org>

OR CALL 202-638-2952.

Division of the Department of Human Services presented an overview of recent legislation in Child Protection. **Cindy Turnure**, Acting Director of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome department, Minnesota Department of Health provided an overview of recent legislation in the Substance Abuse system.

Martha Dore, Professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work, spoke on "What Research Tells Us: Impact and Relationship of Substance Abuse and Child Maltreatment - Risk and Resiliency Factors." Dr. Dore's paper focussed on the research findings of Substance Abusing Families.

Panel members addressing policy and exemplary programs included: **Sarah Maxwell**, Division Manager, Hennepin County Children and Family Services, **Mary Ellen Ramplin**, Chemical Dependency Manager, Chrysalis, **Charles Mishek**, Program Manager of Regions Hospital Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program, **Sarah Shannon**, Parent Education Case Manager at Washburn Child Guidance Center, **Kay Tellinghuisen**, Supervisor, Rebuilding Appropriate Programs and

Supervised Visitation, Reuben Lindh, **Laura Williams**, Director of Programs and Administration, Turning Point, **Jesseli Moen**, Program Specialist, St. Cloud Journey Home, **Dinny Prichard**, Project Re-Connect, **Gabrielle Strong**, Executive Director, Ain Dah Yung, and **Nikki Annoni**, Program Director, Mothers First, Ramsey County Human Services.

David Hollister, Professor, University of Minnesota School of Social Work wrapped the day up by leading a discussion on recommendations.

(See page 3 or visit our website for handouts available from this conference.) ■

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

<http://pages.nyu.edu/~gh5/gh-w3-f.htm> -- World Wide Web Resources for Social Workers: Recently updated links to a wide variety of sites of interest to social workers, maintained by Dr. Gary Holden, New York University Ehrenkranz School of Social Work.

<http://www.cwla.org> -- Child Welfare League of America. Order publications, read about recent happenings in Child Welfare, and link to related sites.

<http://www.futureofchildren.org> --The Future of Children. Download, view or order copies of the journal.

Alumni News of IV-E Scholars

- IV-E alumna **Rebecca Santos-Ramos** is directing the fatality review panel for the state.
- **Makeba Tredwell**, Child Welfare Scholar, has recently accepted a position with Hennepin County as a Senior Social Worker in Early Childhood.
- **Hoeun Hach**, alumnus, was highlighted in a May 12, 1998 article of the Pioneer Press. The article focussed on Hoeun's work helping Cambodians adjust to American life. If you are interested in reading this article, it is available on the web at <http://newslibrary.infi.net/>

Welcome IV-E Scholars!

For the seventh consecutive year, CASCW has provided scholarships for graduate students. This year we are pleased to welcome 18 new IV-E scholars, and 24 returning IV-E scholars. To date, more than 130 students have received the IV-E scholarship.

Just over 57% of the 1998-1999 IV-E Scholars are students of color. Women represent approximately 77% of the total number of scholars. Twenty-one of the forty-two students are in the weekend program. Three of these are distance education students, and several more travel from rural/outstate areas to attend classes at the Minneapolis site.

Highlights of Minnesota's New Child Welfare Law

The chief elements of Minnesota's 1998 revisions of statutes governing child welfare (Chapter 406, H.F. 2985) are: the preeminence of the Health and safety of children, a focus on children under 8, the establishment of new timelines, an emphasis on checks and balances in the system, a focus on expedited permanency plans, and the statewide initiation of concurrent planning.

Three main sources are the driving force behind Minnesota's 1998 revisions to statutes governing child welfare.

1. A federal law, the *Adoption and Safe Families Act* (Public Law 105-89), passed in November, 1997;

2. The final report of the Minnesota Supreme Court Foster Care and Adoption Task Force, January, 1997; and

3. A report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, State of Minnesota, entitled *Child Protective Services, A Program Evaluation Report*, January, 1998.

Selected highlights of Minnesota's new child welfare law prepared by **Meghan Kelley**, MSW and HHH Graduate Student, is now available through the CASCW website. A summary prepared by the Department of Human Services of the State of Minnesota is also available; call Gina Washington at 651-215-9516 for details.

PUBLICATION ORDER FORM/ADDRESS CORRECTION FORM

Materials from "Protecting Children in Substance Abusing Families"

"What Research Tells Us" by Dr. Martha Dore

"Highlights from a Literature Review" Anne Rieke, MSW Student

"Minnesota compliance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997" by Erin Sullivan Sutton, JD

"Voluntary Reporting of Alcohol Abuse During Pregnancy" distributed by Cindy Turnure, Ph.D.

Minnesota Trends and a Comparative Framework

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• Please check off the materials that you would like to order and send or fax this form to: CASCW, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, 425 Ford, 224 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0493 (fax: 612-626-0395).

• There is no charge to order any of the materials on this form.

Faculty Contributions

• Professor **David Hollister** and **Gloria McGee** presented “Delivering Substance Abuse and Child Welfare Content through Interactive Television” at the Charleston South Carolina Conference this past August. The presentation was geared toward the use of technology in Social Work. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the paper, please contact the CASCW main

office at 612-626-8202, or David Hollister at 612-624-1553.

• **Mike Raschick**, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Duluth, has recently published 3 papers.

• Professors **Sandra Beeman** and **Jeff Edleson** received a second year of funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to support their research on the overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering.

Congratulations to CAPS!

CAPS (Child Abuse Prevention Studies) received a \$6100 grant from MNCVA (Minnesota Center on Violence and Abuse) for their proposal CAPS-V.

CAPS-V is an interdisciplinary collaborative with professionals in the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Moorhead (CAPS ITV sites) which provides scholarships and mentoring to professionals selected to be part of CAPS curriculum.

CAPS is directed by Ann Ahlquist. She can be reached at 625-2742.



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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, 425 Ford Hall, 224 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0493 (612) 626-8202.

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