



CASCW NEWS

Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare

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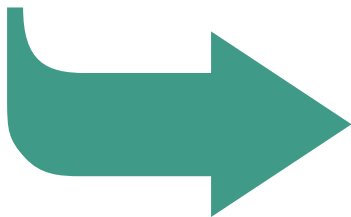
A Special Edition of CASCW News

JUVENILE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT: A PROGRAM EVALUATION

Question and Answer with

Joel Alter

of the Office of the Legislative Auditor



In This Issue

Special Insert: Juvenile Out-of-Home Placement: A Program Evaluation with Joel Alter, Office of the Legislative Auditor

"Reconciling Welfare Reform with Child Welfare" Summary

CASCW Faculty Publications

Promoting Resilience in Disadvantaged Youth

Attachments Past & Present Announcement

CASCW News
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Almost two decades ago, in 1980, Child Welfare reformers embraced P.L.96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act as the most important reform legislation in the history of Child Welfare. Reasonable efforts to promote placement prevention and permanency planning became the framework for practice and policy.

It did not take long for reformers to notice that the millennium for children in high-risk families had not yet arrived. Record numbers of children were still entering out-of-home care. Minimizing disruptions and shortening the time spent in care still remained as serious challenges. Federal reform efforts were initiated, once again, in attempts to shake up the system. In 1997, the Adoption and Safe Families Act (P.L. 105-89) called for renewed attention to permanency with swift case resolution.

Moreover policy emphasis shifted to the safety of the child as the paramount interest of the state was to be the new initiative. Included in this legislation is the requirement to develop outcome measures to assess the performance of states in operating their Child Welfare programs.

The Legislative Auditors report on juvenile out-of-home placements is an account of one sector of the complex Child Welfare system. The Q and A with Joel Alter (see insert), a program manager for the study provides us with a reminder that the best intentions of reform efforts are caught in the intricate web of county decision-making, fiscal constraints and judicial procedures. Reform is not an easy matter.

Faculty Publications

Assistant Professor **Sandra Beeman** and Ph.D. students **Hyungmo Kim** and **Susan Bullerdick** had their manuscript "Factors affecting placement of children in kinship and nonkinship foster care" accepted for publication in Children and Youth Services Review.

Sandra Beeman and **Jeff Edleson** (co-written by A. Hagemester) recently published "Child Protection and Battered Women's Services: From Conflict to Collaboration" in Child Maltreatment.

Sandra Beeman and **Jeff Edleson's** article "Collaborating on Family Safety: Challenges for Children's and Women's Advocates" was accepted for publication in Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, & Trauma.

Professor Jane Gilgun's chapter entitled "CASPARS: Clinical Assessment Instruments That Measure Strengths and Risks in Children and Families" was accepted for publication in Working with Young People Who Sexually Abuse: New Pieces of the Jigsaw, edited by Martin C. Calder and published in Dorset, England by Russell House.

Professor Jane Gilgun's "A Comprehensive Theory of Family Violence" was published in February on the website of the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse located at <http://mincava.umn.edu/gilgun/brainstrm.htm>.

Farewell to Ann Ahlquist, CAPS Director

Ann Ahlquist will be retiring as Director of the Child Abuse Prevention Studies (CAPS) program effective March 28, 1999. She will continue to teach for the School of Social Work and for the CAPS program, as well as present state and national training on child welfare issues. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

The strong CAPS program will continue within the School of Social Work, University of Minnesota under the new semester system.

Promoting Resilience in Disadvantaged Youth

Paul Smokowski, MSW, Ph.D., Post-Doctoral Fellow, Institute on Child Development, and an associate member of CASCW, published an article "Prevention and Intervention Strategies for Promoting Resilience in Disadvantaged Children" in the September 1998 issue of Social Service Review.

Among the concepts identified in his literature review, Smokowski highlights strategies for increasing resilience in early childhood of disadvantaged children. Four major protective factors used by early intervention programs to promote childhood resilience are noted: a) increased cognitive advantage due to heightened language abilities and school readiness, b) heightened family support, c) enhanced social skills and positive social support networks, and d) improved self-concept and motivation.

The full paper is available in the September 1998 issue of Social Service Review.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

<http://www.nyu.edu/socialwork.wwwrsw> -- Revised World Wide Web Resources for Social Workers: Searchable database of Social Work related links. Over 5800 links!

<http://www.calib.com/nccanch/index.htm> -- National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information. Searchable database, publications, calendar of events, and more. A Service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services

<http://www.childwelfare.com/kids/news.htm> -- Child Welfare Review - an internet journal on Child Welfare.

Reconciling Welfare Reform With Child Welfare

The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare sponsored the workshop "Reconciling Welfare Reform With Child Welfare" on February 26, 1999. The forum focused on the cross-currents between welfare reform, known in Minnesota as MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Plan), and child protection, foster care and adoption.

Mark Courtney, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Affiliate of the Institute for Research on Poverty, School of Social Work, University of Wisconsin - Madison, provided the keynote titled "Challenges and Opportunities Posed by the Reform Era". Within

the context of a national perspective, Dr. Courtney outlined the elements of the federal welfare reform legislation and the most important child welfare reforms currently being implemented. Dr. Courtney further discussed the benefits of collaboration between child welfare and workfare authorities in the design of a new system. Dr. Courtney concluded by providing a map of the necessary direction that welfare and child welfare should take.

We would like to thank **Charles Johnson**, Co-Director, Family and Children Division, Minnesota Family Investment Plan,

Minnesota Department of Human Services, **Sarah Maxwell**, Division Manager, Hennepin County Children and Family Services, and **Erin Sullivan Sutton**, Director, Family and Children's Services Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services, **Richard Coleman**, Midway Service Center, Ramsey County Community Services, **Lyle Iron Moccasin**, Resource Support Services Advocate, American Indian Community Partnership, **Paula Williams Sanders**, Social Work Unit Supervisor, West Broadway Village Social Services, Hennepin County Children

& Family Services, and **Anne Rieke**, MSW Student, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota for their contributions to the panel discussions.

Esther Wattenberg, Director, CASCW, concluded the event by leading a discussion on recommendations.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the paper "Challenges and Opportunities Posed by the Welfare Reform Era" by Mark E. Courtney, MSW, Ph.D., please visit our website at <http://sww.chc.umn.edu/cascw/>, or mail the completed form available below.

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Please send me:

"Challenges and Opportunities Posed by the Welfare Reform Era" by Dr. Mark E. Courtney.

CASCW Practice Notes - Protecting Children in the Case of an Emotionally Disturbed Parent - Winter 1999

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Attachments Past and Present

Professor Martha Farrell Erickson,

University of Minnesota, will be presenting "Attachments Past and Present: Implications for Attachment Theory and Research for Protecting Children and Preserving Families" at a workshop sponsored by the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare on April 12, 1999 at the Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H.

Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota.

This half-day workshop will highlight perspectives on parent-infant attachment and its importance to individual and family development, focusing on how different patterns of attachment develop between infant and parent, how those patterns help shape development and relationships across the lifespan, and the factors

that enable parents to move beyond their own troublesome childhood histories and toward more secure attachments with their children. Dr. Erickson draws on over 20 years of longitudinal research for her presentation.

Registration is required to attend this event. If you are interested in attending, call 612-626-8202 for more information

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CASCW

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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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