



*The Leadership Symposia
on Evidence-Based Practice
in the Human Services*

**Moving
Research and Evidence
into Child Welfare
Organizations**

January 30, 2009

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

***Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
San Diego, California***

Presented by

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC)

The Child & Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC)

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

9:00–9:45 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:00 a.m.

Welcome

- Greg Rose, *Deputy Director, Children and Family Services, CDSS*
- Charles Wilson, *Executive Director, Chadwick Center for Children & Families*

9:15 a.m.

Purpose of Symposium and Update on Research Agenda

- Barrett Johnson, *Director, Child Welfare In-Service Training Project, California Social Work Education Center*
- Stuart Oppenheim, *Executive Director, Child and Family Policy Institute of California*

9:45–10:30 a.m.

Opening Keynote Address: Preparing Organizations for EBP

Dr. Benjamin Saunders, *Professor and Director of the Family and Child Program at the National Crime Victims Center at the Medical University of South Carolina*

10:30–10:45 a.m.

Table Talk: Action Steps to Prepare Organizations for Evidence-Based Practice

10:45–11:00 a.m.

Break & Transition to Breakout Sessions

11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Breakout Sessions—Research Presentations

Ascot Room

CPS Recidivism Associated with a Home Visiting Program: A Quasi Experimental Analysis

Participants in the Birth and Beyond Paraprofessional Prenatal through Preschool Home Visiting Program were compared with similar families who received routine CPS services in this quasi experimental study on the occurrence and time to onset of CPS recidivism during a one year follow up period. Results included lower CPS recidivism rates and a delayed onset of CPS recidivism, and demographic and assessment predictors of CPS recidivism for program participants were identified through logistic regression modeling.

- Dr. Edward C. Byrnes, *Associate Professor, Eastern Washington University, School of Social Work*
- Michael Lawson, *M.S., University of California, Davis, School of Education*

Brittany Room

Foster Care Reentry and Placement Stability Outcomes: Understanding California's Performance and Practices to Improve Outcomes

This presentation will 1) review counties' performance over time on two indicator measures in the federal Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) process: foster care reentry and placement stability; 2) present information on practices and policies that counties have implemented to improve performance on these outcomes; and 3) explore the association of these efforts with reentry and stability outcomes.

- Amy D'Andrade, *Ph.D., M.S.W., Assistant Professor, San Jose State University, School of Social Work*
- Kathy Lemon-Osterling, *Ph.D., M.S.W., Assistant Professor, San Jose State University, School of Social Work*

Clarendon Room

Solution-Based Casework: An Evidence-Supported Model for Child Welfare Practice

Solution-Based Casework is a child welfare practice model based on theoretical foundations. The presenters will report the results of five studies that evaluated the Solution-Based Casework (SBC) model. Presenters will inform attendees about the lessons learned regarding the development and implementation of the SBC model. They will give suggestions to policy-makers and administrators as they attempt to develop or implement evidence-based practices in child welfare.

- Dana Christensen, *Ph.D., Professor, University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work*
- Becky Antle, *Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work*

Eaton Room

**It Works! Findings from the National Evaluation of Parents Anonymous®
Mutual Support Groups**

A longitudinal national outcome evaluation of Parents Anonymous® groups found statistically significant reductions in risk factors and increases in protective factors for parents participating in the groups. The study was funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

- Margaret Polinsky, *Ph.D., M.S.W., Director of Research and Evaluation, Parents Anonymous® Inc.*

12:30–1:30 p.m.

Lunch

12:45 p.m.

Plenary: NSCAW I and II: Updates and New Field Work for a Child Welfare Landmark Study

Dr. John Landsverk, *Director of the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC), Children's Hospital, San Diego*

1:45–3:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions—Research Presentations

Ascot Room

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Clarendon Room

How Does Cross-System Collaboration Between the Child Welfare and Mental Health Systems Influence Children's Mental Health Service Use and Service Effectiveness? Findings from a Two-Phase, Mixed Methods Study

The purpose of this presentation is to describe the potential influence of cross-system collaboration between the public child welfare and mental health systems on the utilization of mental health services among children in the child welfare system, and the effectiveness of these services. Findings from a two-phase study are presented, including qualitative findings from interviews and focus groups with child welfare and mental health professionals that highlight factors that help or hinder collaborative practice, quantitative findings from a merged child welfare/mental health administrative dataset that describe mental health service utilization, and the effects of these services on family reunification.

- Kathy Lemon-Osterling, *Ph.D., M.S.W., Assistant Professor, San Jose State University, School of Social Work*

Eaton Room

The Child Welfare Practicum: Innovation in Education and Evidence-Based Practice for Emancipating Foster Youth

This presentation focuses on a collaborative University-County department program—an alternative model to the traditional child welfare practicum—that provides unique early emancipation preparation services to a targeted child welfare sub-population of foster youth. Short-term and longitudinal evidence-based outcomes are discussed.

- Lianne Urada, *LCSW, Ph.D. Candidate, Trainer/Consultant, UCLA Center on Child Welfare*
- Ifreda Iglehard, *Ph.D., Associate Professor, UCLA Department of Social Welfare*
- Michelle Talley, *M.S.W., LCSW, Field Education Faculty, UCLA Center on Child Welfare, UCLA Department of Social Welfare*

3:15–4:00 p.m.

3:15 p.m.

Table Talk: EBP Next Steps

3:30 p.m.

Table Talk Report Out

3:45–4:00 p.m.

EBP Symposium Next Steps

- Barrett Johnson, *Director, Child Welfare In-Service Training Project, CalSWEC*
- Stuart Oppenheim, *Executive Director, CFPIC*

Keynote Speakers

Benjamin E. Saunders, *Ph.D.*

Dr. Benjamin Saunders is a professor and director of the Family and Child Program of the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. He received his Ph.D. in clinical social work from the Florida State University in 1982, an M.S. in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Tech in 1979, and a B.A. in religious studies from the University of South Florida in 1977. Dr. Saunders is a Licensed Independent Social Worker, a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers, and a Diplomate in Clinical Social Work. He also is a clinical member of both the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

Dr. Saunders has published numerous scientific papers and made many scientific and training presentations concerning child traumatic stress, child abuse, sexual abuse, sexual offenders, and family relationships. His research, training, and clinical interests include the initial and long-term impact of violence and abuse on children and adolescents; the epidemiology of trauma, violence, and abuse; treatment approaches for abused children and their families; and effective methods for disseminating evidence-based practices. His work has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute of Justice, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the U. S. Department of the Navy.

In addition to his research and teaching activities, Dr. Saunders maintains a clinical and consulting practice, and he often is called as an expert witness in legal cases.

John Landsverk, *Ph.D.*

John Landsverk has a doctorate in sociology; directs the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC) at Children's Hospital in San Diego; is Senior Scholar at the Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis; and Senior Research Professor at the School of Social Work, University of Southern California.

Dr. Landsverk has received numerous project and center grants from the NIMH and other federal agencies to conduct research on the mental health care for children and adolescents involved with child welfare. These include a current NIMH-funded advanced center focusing on the development of innovative research methods to conduct implementation research related to public child welfare and mental health service systems, and a recently completed NIMH-funded Child and Adolescent Interdisciplinary Research Network—a network of 25 researchers and service system managers from the disciplines of clinical and developmental psychology,

anthropology, sociology, social work, health care economics, and pediatrics with a principal focus to improve mental health services for children involved with child welfare systems through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.

Dr. Landsverk has published widely on findings from national child welfare study, National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being, with support from his just-completed NIMH-funded study *Caring for Children in Child Welfare*. These publications include multiple chapters in two books based on NSCAW, *Child Protection: Using Research to Improve Policy and Practice*, and a forthcoming book on NSCAW to be published by Oxford University Press, of which he was a co-editor. In addition, he is a co-author for *Beyond Common Sense: Children Welfare, Child Well-Being, and the Evidence for Policy Reform* (2005).

Dr. Landsverk chairs the Braam Oversight Panel that is providing technical assistance and monitoring oversight for a mediated settlement to a class action litigation involving the child welfare and mental health systems in the Washington state.

Acknowledgments

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), the nation's largest coalition of social work educators and practitioners, facilitates the integration of education and practice to assure effective, culturally competent service delivery and leadership to the people of California.

The Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC) is a non-profit organization with a mission to advance the development of sound public policy and promote program excellence for safe and stable families living in supportive communities, through research, advocacy, training, consultation, and technical assistance.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is responsible for the oversight and administration of programs serving California's most vulnerable residents.

In addition to CalSWEC, CFPIC, and CDSS, the following organizations assisted in the planning of this symposium, as part of the Statewide Human Services Research Network:

- Academy for Professional Excellence, San Diego State University
 - Southern Area Consortium of Human Services (SACHS)
 - Public Child Welfare Training Academy (PCWTA)
- Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC)
 - Bay Area Academy
- California Department of Social Services
- California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC)
- Center for Human Services, UC Davis Extension
 - Northern California Training Academy
- Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership
- Inter-University Consortium
 - Child and Family Research Consortium
- Social Welfare Evaluation, Research and Training Center (SWERT), CSU, Fresno
 - Central California Area Social Services Consortium (CASSC)
 - Central California Training Academy