

THE STATEWIDE HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH AND TRAINING NETWORK (RTN)

Mission of the Network

To advance the development of sound public policy and promote program excellence for safe and stable families living in supportive communities through coordination of research, education, training, consultation and technical assistance.

Goals to Support the Mission

- ▶ Ensure that research is conducted, disseminated widely and integrated into practice,
- ▶ Identify practice-oriented research priorities at the county, regional, and statewide levels to assure that research is relevant to practice,
- ▶ Coordinate prioritization of research topics in order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of research,
- ▶ Enhance the development of working relationships between university faculty and agency administrators.

Objectives to Achieve the Goals

- ▶ Build capacity for practice-oriented research at the county and university levels,
- ▶ Increase the relevance and potential application of research to improve practice,
- ▶ Develop common understanding and language about evidence-based, promising and best practice,
- ▶ Ensure practice-oriented research is written with administrators and practitioners in mind: clear, brief and specifically including implications for practice and policy as appropriate,
- ▶ Increase dissemination of practice-oriented research,
- ▶ More fully infuse social work education and training with relevant research,
- ▶ Support agency administrators in implementing evidence based practice,
- ▶ Create an environment that promotes practice-oriented research and encourages funding for these activities.

Activities to Carry out Objectives

- ▶ Engage university faculty and agency administrators to establish, review and/or modify priorities for research topics on an annual basis,
- ▶ Identify research being conducted by our partner organizations (CalSWEC, RTAs, regional consortia,) and disseminate this information,
- ▶ Disseminate research findings statewide through a collaboration among our partner organizations (CalSWEC, CFPIC, the California Child Welfare Clearinghouse on Evidence Based Practice, RTAs and Regional Consortia),
- ▶ Present research in an annual forum,
- ▶ Support county implementation of evidence-based best practices with technical assistance provided by CFPIC and training by CalSWEC and the RTAs,
- ▶ Work with the Co-Investment Partnership to seek financial support for practice-oriented research and evaluation,

- ▶ Encourage university faculty to direct their resources towards practice-oriented research that is identified in an agreed-upon research agenda.

Target Audiences

- ▶ Agency directors and university chairs
- ▶ State and county human services administrators
- ▶ Field faculty
- ▶ Research faculty
- ▶ IV-E project coordinators
- ▶ University lecturers

Network Participants

Statewide

California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), UC Berkeley

- ▶ Curriculum Committee
- ▶ Research and Development Committee

Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC)

California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC)

California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership

Regional

Northern California

Center for Human Services, UC Davis Extension

- ▶ Northern California Directors
- ▶ Northern California Training Academy

Bay Area

Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC)

- ▶ Bay Area Academy (San Francisco State University)

Central Region

Social Welfare Evaluation, Research and Training Center (SWERT), CSU Fresno

- ▶ Central California Area Social Services Consortium (CASSC)
- ▶ Central California Training Academy

Southern Region

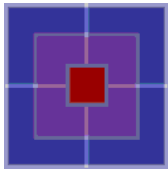
Academy for Professional Excellence, San Diego State University

- ▶ Southern Area Consortium of Human Services (SACHS)
- ▶ Public Child Welfare Training Academy (PCWTA)

Los Angeles

Inter-University Consortium

- ▶ Child and Family Research Consortium



CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

Mission

The Child and Family Policy Institute of California is a private non-profit organization, incorporated as a 501 c 3 entity in 2004 to advance the development of sound public policy and promote program excellence in county Human Services Agencies through research, education, training and technical assistance.

Strategies

- Facilitating research to influence policy
- Identifying and describing best practices in order to take them to scale
- Creating communication and training opportunities
- Providing assessment and strategic change services to counties
- Establishing linkages with allied interests/disciplines
- Convening stakeholders
- Initiating and sustaining dialogues with allied interests/disciplines
- Training leaders in critical content areas
- Obtaining resources through social enterprise

Linkages

- CIMH
- CMHDA
- CalSWEC
- US DHHS Region IX
- UC Berkeley Performance Indicators Project
- Research faculty at California universities
- Regional Training Academies
- CADPAAC
- Philanthropy

Values

- Collaboration
- Cultural competency
- Inclusion
- Fairness and Equity
- Networking
- Partnerships
- Evidence based approach
- Focus on whole person—individual, family, community
- Outcomes orientation
- Integrated approach“Smart” Funding
- Safe and stable families living in supportive communities



The California Social Work Education Center, based at the University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare, is the nation's largest state coalition of social work educators and practitioners.

Created in 1990, CalSWEC is a consortium of the state's [17 accredited social work graduate schools](#), the 58 county departments of social services and mental health, the California Department of Social Services, and the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

CalSWEC coordinates the following:

- Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Project, which offers financial support to graduate social work students who are preparing for careers directed toward child welfare practice in publicly supported social services;
- Regional Training Academy Coordination Project, a statewide collaborative that provides continuing professional education of public child welfare staff; and
- Evaluation and research for both of the above programs. Additionally, CalSWEC funds projects exploring promising practices that advance the development of competencies in child welfare services and the retention of public child welfare workers.



Bay Area Social Services Consortium

The Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) operates as an agency-university- foundation partnership that promotes social service research, training, and policy development. Founded in 1987 in response to interests in public social services shared by county social service agency directors, university deans and directors of social work programs, and local foundations in the San Francisco Bay Area, BASSC has developed the following core purposes and programs:

Core Purposes

- Fostering regional communications and understanding about the changing nature of social services in the public and nonprofit sectors
- Serving as a catalyst for new ideas that have legislative, administrative, public education, and training implications
- Providing a structure for innovative regional programs related to research, training and policy development

Core Programs

- Bi-monthly meetings and an annual retreat to share ideas, assess legislation, and promote regional collaboration
- A multi-county program of policy and program analysis on topics selected annually by the BASSC members
- A multi-county training program related to Executive Development for middle and senior managers and a Bay Area Academy serving the training needs of line and supervisory staff in child welfare and related fields
- A multi-county policy development program that develops and publishes policy reports and case studies on promising practices for agency staff.

The leadership that guides and sustains BASSC emerges from the active participation of 11 county social service directors, five university deans and directors of social work programs, two foundation representatives, emeritus directors, and the BASSC Staff Director along with BASSC staff located at the School of Social Welfare and University Extension, University of California at Berkeley.

BASSC Research Response Team

Located at the Center for Social Services Research at the University of California School of Social Welfare, the BASSC Research Response Team (RRT) was organized in 1995 to respond rapidly to the emerging needs of county social service agencies for information related to their changing environments. In addition to exploratory studies, the RRT conducts structured reviews of the research literature. For copies of BASSC reports, please go to www.BASSC.net.



Academy Background

San Francisco State University's Bay Area Academy is one of the five regional academies in California providing training and staff development services for county public child welfare agencies. The Bay Area Academy serves the twelve counties of the Bay Area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma counties. Conducted at various locations within these twelve counties as well as the Academy's main site in Oakland, the Academy's professional development program consists of one day or multiple day training classes and conferences, as well as county Capacity Building and Support.

History

Created in 1997 by the Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC), the Academy was first housed in the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) at UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. In 1999, the Academy moved to the School of Social Work at San Francisco State University. The Academy is funded through contracts and grants from the Bay Area Counties and the federal government for various programs, initiatives and research.

Purpose

The Academy's expressed purpose is to improve the quality and outcome of services to children and families in the child welfare systems of the twelve Bay Area counties through training and system support. Guided by the federal outcomes of safety, permanence and well being, training and organizational support offered by the Academy has far reaching implications for the successful delivery of services to communities, families and children.

Administration and Advisory Support

School of Social Work, San Francisco State University: The Bay Area Academy is one of two Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Programs administered by the School of Social Work at San Francisco State University. The School and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) provide administrative oversight of the Academy. Advisory support is provided by the following:

The Bay Area Social Services Consortium (BASSC) was begun in 1987 to advance public social services by promoting training, research and policy development through an agency-university partnership. BASSC created the Bay Area Academy in 1997 to establish a regional multi-county training resource for Bay Area social and human services. BASSC is composed of the directors of the Bay Area county social services agencies, the deans or directors of the Schools/Colleges of Social Work, and two Bay Area foundations.

TAB (Training Advisory Board) was established in 1997 by BASSC and is coordinated by the Bay Area Academy. The charge of TAB is to advise the Academy staff on planning and implementing the annual regional training plan. This board is comprised of two representatives from each county (the child welfare services administrator and staff development director), and invited CalSWEC representatives.



The Central California Area Social Service Consortium (CCASSC)
University-Community Partnerships

The Central California Area Social Service Consortium (CCASSC) is regional university-community partnership between three California State University (CSU) campuses and eleven county social service agencies in the Central California region. California State University, Fresno serves as the lead coordinating and fiscal agency for CCASSC in conjunction with leadership provided by county social service directors. Member CSU campuses and counties are as follows:

CSU Campuses

California State University, Fresno
California State University, Stanislaus
California State University, Bakersfield

Regional Counties

Fresno County	Madera County	San Joaquin County	Stanislaus County
Kern County	Merced County	San Luis Obispo	Tulare County
Kings County	Mariposa County	Santa Barbara County	

The Central California region possesses a host of uniquely different economic and social challenges that are unlike many other areas of California. Many of the region's social and human issues are interconnected and similar due to comparable economic conditions and similar social demographics, which have largely ignored county political boundaries. As such, assessing the regional vitality and quality of life requires a regional perspective and understanding to address. Examples include understanding how the region's high poverty and unemployment rates impacts the quality of life across a number of social and personal domains. CCASSC provides a much-needed regional forum for university representatives and public social service directors to discuss complex and multi-faceted social issues faced by many regional communities. CCASSC mission is to develop strategies to address pressing regional human service needs by working with regional and state policymakers and institutions to develop solutions. University partners support the mission of CCASSC by researching; analyzing and developing data and information to better inform membership. Ultimately, this regional university-community partnership aims to improve the quality of life for all residents in the Central California region.



The Center for Human Services at UC Davis Extension exemplifies the University of California's mission of public service and engagement. The Center serves public and private organizations that address societal issues of poverty, hunger, access to health care, child abuse, substance abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, and mental health. This work involves organizations that serve vulnerable populations at the local, regional and statewide levels, including county departments (public health, child welfare, public assistance, mental health, child support, adult services, and others), state agencies (social services, education, and others), law enforcement, regional centers for the developmentally disabled, and community-based organizations.

The Center for Human Services partners with campus departments such as human and community development, psychology, and pediatrics as well as the School of Law and School of Medicine. With the UC Davis Department of Psychology, The Center for Human Services is launching the Center for Public Policy Research to provide research services on social policy issues to state agencies and legislators. Faculty of the Department of Human and Community Development helped create the Center for Excellence in Child Development. In the mid-1990s The Center for Human Services joined the Department of Pediatrics in developing the California Medical Training Center to advance forensic and healthcare responses to family violence.

Since its founding in 1979 The Center for Human Services has grown from a small program to train child welfare staff in northern counties to an organization that trains and supports human services staff and partners in all 58 California counties. During this time The Center has been involved in major changes in public human services policy. In the 1990s Center staff and instructors facilitated the translation of welfare reform policy to practice with the development of new competencies and professional development programs for public assistance staff nationwide. Currently The Center for Human Services plays key roles in statewide and regional child welfare services reform through its Resource Center for Family Focused Practice and Northern California Training Academy.

The Center for Human Services is recognized as a national leader in the development of human services. This reputation has led to work in 12 other states over the past decade as well as emerging opportunities with international projects. In Russia, The Center leads the UC Davis-Samara State University Agreement of Cooperation, which includes professional exchanges and consultation on children's services. In El Salvador, Center educators are managing development of new models of care for young children in orphanages.

The Center for Human Services and UC Davis are engaged in the development of human services to increase community capacity to serve the needs of individuals and families across the lifespan.

6/21/05



MISSION

The Southern Area Consortium of Human Services (SACHS), a county/university partnership, is a forum for County Directors to explore and exchange ideas and information on issues facing public human services to develop strategies for addressing these issues. SACHS engages in strategic planning, training, policy development, advocacy, and research to improve the quality, accountability and responsiveness of human services in the Southern California region.

MEMBERSHIP

County of Imperial - Department of Social Services
County of Los Angeles - Department of Children and Family Services
County of Los Angeles - Department of Public Social Services
County of Orange - Social Services Agency
County of Riverside - Department of Public Social Services
County of San Bernardino - Human Services System
County of San Diego - Health and Human Services Agency
County of Santa Barbara - Social Services Department
County of Ventura - Human Services Agency
California State University San Bernardino - Department of Social Work
San Diego State University - School of School Work

HISTORY

Throughout the 1990's the county human service directors of the southern California region met quarterly on an informal basis in Orange County, convened by the Orange County agency director. In 2001, the group formalized into the Southern Area Consortium of Human Services (SACHS), adding universities as partners. One of the more recent SAHCS initiatives is Leaders in ACTION (LIA), an executive development training program for upper level managers in southern California county human service agencies. LIA was established in February 2004 and has met an interest in developing an executive talent pipeline expressed early on by the SACHS Directors.



Southern Area Consortium of Human Services
A project of the Academy for Professional Excellence
at San Diego State University - School of Social Work
6505 Alvarado Road, Suite 107
San Diego, CA 92120
<http://pcwta.sdsu.edu/sachs.html>





Children and Families Research Consortium

The Children and Families Research Consortium (CFRC) is a partnership developed by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services in collaboration with the Inter-University Consortium (IUC). The IUC is comprised of the five graduate social work programs in Los Angeles, i.e., California State University Long Beach, California State University Los Angeles, California State University Northridge, the University of California Los Angeles and the University of Southern California. This new Research Consortium was designed to build on the IUC's focus on training by enhancing DCFS capacity to analyze and use data to support planning and decision-making, developing research priorities and a long term research agenda, and facilitating partnerships with universities and other research organizations to expand knowledge about public child welfare.

The long-term goals of the CFRC are:

1. Provide technical assistance around analysis of data collected by DCFS to meet Federal, State and local performance and accountability requirements, facilitating continuous quality improvement of practice and management strategies including needs assessment, planning, service tracking and program evaluation
2. Structure systematic review of program effectiveness by establishing cross system indicators, coordinating information resources for needs assessments, planning, service tracking, and program evaluation, and identifying and coordinating evaluation and research about child welfare issues in Los Angeles County.
3. Develop and facilitate collaborative research efforts with local, state, and national stakeholders to advance scientific knowledge and support reform in public child welfare, and

align DCFS outcome priorities in child safety, permanency, and child and family well-being.

4. Promote the development of best practices by preparing systematic research reviews, and evaluating new initiatives such as the innovative child welfare Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project. The CFRC will also assist DCFS in coordinating other research and evaluation activities that DCFS funds or approves.
5. Recruit outstanding scholars, practitioners, managers, and students to positions of academic and professional leadership in child welfare administration, education and research in Los Angeles, and attract funding for collaborative research. The CFRC will share findings with the research community and the larger public through journal and book publications, public presentations, and talks at research and professional conference.

Accomplishments by the CFRC during its first twelve months of operation (December 2005 through November 2006) include:

1. The office of the Research Director, Jacquelyn McCroskey, DSW, was established.
2. The CFRC Advisory Board, with diverse racial, cultural, gender, and geographic representation, and co-chaired by the DCFS and CFRC Directors, was established.
3. The CFRC established a coordinated system to identify research priorities by: (a) surveying and reporting university faculty research interests (“Faculty Research Interests Matrix”); (b) established the CFRC Small Grant Award Program with research topics approved by a joint DCFS and university committee (“CFRC Small Grant Award Program”; (c) Compiled and reported a list of child welfare research coordinated through DCFS (“Initial Listing of Child Welfare Research in L.A. Coordinated Through DCFS”).
4. The CFRC initiated development of a data analysis plan responsive to current Federal, state, and local reporting requiring using Points of Engagement to identify strengths and weakness of the data analysis plan (“Point of Engagement: Qualitative Study Findings and Recommendations for Continuous Process Evaluation”). The findings suggest:
 - A set of key measures for process evaluation, each element of which is critical for understanding how the DCFS goals of safety, permanence, and

reduction of foster care are achieved in each regional office under the IV-E Waiver;

- That analyses should be conducted with regional offices and SPAs as key frames of reference, rather than relying solely on Countywide data summaries;
- Next steps including the development of specific measurement tools, data collection methods, and analysis plans in partnership with DCFS and community partners.

5. The CFRC established a process for County consultation on the development of specific projects, including Points of Engagement, Emancipation, Wraparound, and the Title IV-E Waiver.

6. The CFRC completed an information base of evidence about best practices for public child welfare for posting on the CFRC website: <http://cfrc.spa.ucla.edu/publications.html>

7. The CFRC engaged DCFS staff and Advisory Board in identification of potential high-priority research questions (“Existing Information on Suggested Research Topics”).

8. The CFRC worked with the DCFS Director to develop an evaluation framework for Prevention, and with other staff on key questions in Wraparound, Family Preservation and Support, and the IV-E Waiver. The Research Advisory Board agreed that the document, “Family to Family Outcomes That Support the Key Goals of DCFS, the Waiver, and AB 636”, would frame long term research goals

For further information on the CFRC, please refer to the website: <http://cfrc.spa.ucla.edu>, or contact:

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey, Research Director
The John Milner Professor of Child Welfare
University of Southern California
Montgomery Ross Fisher Building
Los Angeles, Ca 90089-0411
(213) 740-2004

or

Bill Donnelly, Director
Inter-University Consortium
Department of Social Welfare
3250 Public Policy Building
Box 951656
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1656
(310) 825-2811