

UNIVERSITY-BASED CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY CONSORTIUM

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In This Issue

[From Research to Policy](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Resources](#)

Quick Links

[Consortium Website](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Member List](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Resources](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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From Research to Policy

Consortium member Karen Cadigan makes the transition from the University of Minnesota to the Minnesota Office of Early Learning

When the 2010 Minnesota State Legislature mandated the creation of a Task Force to make recommendations on the creation of a State Office of Early Learning, Karen Cadigan helped facilitate the discussion and create the final report. The Task Force ultimately recommended that Minnesota create an Office of Early Learning, headed by a cabinet-level director. As the position of the Early Learning Director is described in the Task Force's recommendation, the role required someone with extensive knowledge of Minnesota's existing early learning programs, and with the leadership and authority to translate that knowledge and experience into policy that would benefit Minnesota's early learners.

In January of 2011, Dr. Cadigan presented the Early Learning Task Force's recommendations to the State Legislature. That following August, she became the State's first Director of Early Learning.

Dr. Cadigan was a natural choice to lead Minnesota's first office dedicated to improving the education and care of young children. Prior to assuming her current role, she was a Research Fellow at the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED), and the Policy Director at the University of Minnesota's [Children, Youth and Family Consortium \(CYFC\)](#). In these roles, Dr. Cadigan led the [Family Impact Seminars](#), a model used in 22 states to connect research to public policymaking.

Karen also initiated the creation of [Wonder Years](#), an 1,800 square foot museum exhibit and programming all about the science of early childhood development. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Wonder Years is a collaboration between the University of Minnesota (CYFC, CEED and the Institute of Child Development), the Science Museum of Minnesota and Public Agenda.

Though her position has changed, Dr. Cadigan

remains on the Consortium Steering Committee, offering a critical policymaker voice, and has offered invaluable insight about the Consortium's emerging Evidence-Based Early Childhood Policy and Practice Initiative.

To learn more about the Minnesota Office of Early Learning, please visit [its website](#).

Announcements

Membership Update

Individual Consortium memberships are available for those who are at a university but not affiliated with a [member institution](#). The annual individual membership fee is \$100. If the cost of individual membership is prohibitive, alternate arrangements may be made. For more information, or if you have any questions regarding membership, please contact [Shannon Smith](#).

The Consortium may list the names and institutional affiliations of individual members on the Consortium website. Please contact [Shannon Smith](#) to request that we do not post your information.

Calendar

Upcoming monthly calls:

Friday, May 18: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (EDT)

- Career Panel: Life Post-doctoral

Monday, June 18: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (EDT)

- Speaker to be announced

There will be no Consortium calls during July or August. Monthly calls will resume on Friday, September 21st.

Call details will be sent to the Consortium listserve in the weeks preceding the call. To receive more information about the monthly calls, please contact [Shannon Smith](#).

Council on Contemporary Families Conference *Cosponsored by the Consortium*

This year's conference, entitled "Crossing Boundaries: Public and Private Roles in Assuring Child Well-Being," will be held in Chicago, **April 27-28th**. Several Consortium entities are co-hosts, and many Consortium member representatives are on the conference program. For more information on the conference, visit the [conference website](#).

For more upcoming events, visit the [Consortium's calendar](#). If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please contact [Emily Smith](#).

Resources

Grants & Fellowships

Child Welfare - Education System Collaboration to Increase Educational Stability

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), and the Children's Bureau (CB) announce the availability of 24-month infrastructure building grants to support collaborative initiatives between state, local, or tribal child welfare agencies and education systems to improve educational stability and permanency outcomes for middle- to high-school aged children in the child welfare system. Through this funding opportunity communities can develop infrastructure to address barriers to permanency for youth, as well as implement multi-disciplinary interventions to improve the socio-emotional and behavioral well-being of youth in care. See the official announcement on the [ACF website](#). *Applications must be submitted by May 29, 2012.*

School Nutrition and Physical Activity Policies, Obesogenic Behaviors and Weight Outcomes

This FOA encourages applications that propose to: (1) foster multidisciplinary research that will evaluate how policies (federal, state and school district levels) can influence school physical activity and nutrition environments, youths' obesogenic behaviors (e.g., nutrition and physical activity behaviors), and weight outcomes; (2) understand how schools are implementing these policies and examine multi-level influences on adoption and implementation at various levels

(e.g., federal, state, school district, and school); and (3) understand the synergistic or counteractive effect of school nutrition and physical activity policies on the home and community environment and body weight. See the official announcement from the NIH [here](#).

The next submission deadline is June 5, 2012.

Research on Children in Military Families: The Impact of Parental Military Deployment and Reintegration on Child and Family Functioning

The purpose of this FOA is to encourage interdisciplinary studies on the impact of parental military deployment, combat-related stress, and reintegration with the family on child social and affective development outcomes as well as on family functioning. Longitudinal prospective studies with diverse samples would address important gaps in the literature and are highly encouraged. Descriptive studies addressing the particular concerns of early childhood, middle childhood and adolescence are also encouraged.

See the official announcement from the NIH [here](#).

The next submission deadline is June 5, 2012.

Early Care and Education Research Scholars: Head Start Graduate Student Research Grant

The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) plans to provide funds for Graduate Student Research Grants to support dissertation research by advanced graduate students who are working in partnership with Head Start programs and with faculty mentors. Competitive applicants will 1) demonstrate a collaborative partnership with their program partners and 2) pursue research questions that directly inform local, state or federal policy relevant to multiple early care and education contexts. Applicants should consider pursuing data collection across contexts, including child care, pre-k, home-visiting programs, Head Start, and/or others. For more information, visit the [full announcement posting](#). *The letter of intent for this grant is due by May 2, 2012.*

Call for Submissions

Early Childhood Research Quarterly - Special Issue

Early Childhood Research Quarterly is planning to publish a special issue dedicated to Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS). This special issue seeks to add to the available research by fostering a deliberate and systematic examination of the strengths and weaknesses, and advantages and limitations of QRIS as a vehicle for improving children's early education experiences.

Manuscripts of a maximum of 40 pages must be written in APA 6th pre-publication style and submitted through the

regular [ECRO online submission process](#). Submissions must mention in the cover letter and in the comments field on the site that the submission is specifically for the special issue on QRIS.

The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2012.

Maximizing Community Contributions, Benefits & Outcomes in Clinical & Translational Research

Progress in Community Health Partnerships, CES4Health.info, and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University are collaborating to release this Call for Papers and Products. Submission of both papers and products that explore understanding the accomplishments, best practices, and challenges that community partners have experienced in their engagements with Clinical and Transitional Science Awardees (CTSAs) and other research institutions are encouraged. For more information, see the full [announcement](#).

The deadline for submissions is August 6, 2012.

Upcoming Newsletters

We are always looking for Consortium news, resource information, and other relevant material to highlight in the newsletter. Please send suggestions to [Emily Smith](#).

The Consortium is a national, interdisciplinary member organization of university-based child and family policy research centers, institutes, and programs.



This is a periodic newsletter of the Consortium.

We welcome your feedback and submissions for inclusion in future issues.

