

# UNIVERSITY-BASED CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY CONSORTIUM

Volume III, Issue III

April 2014

## In This Issue

[Linking Research with Policy](#)

[Consortium Transition](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Thanks to Jenni Owen](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Members in the News](#)

[Opportunities](#)

## Quick Links

[Consortium Website](#)

[Consortium Call  
Presentations](#)

[List of Consortium  
Members](#)

[Join the Consortium  
List Serve!](#)

## Linking Research with Policy:

**Melissa N. Richards, Doctoral Student,  
Psychology, Georgetown University**

*In this issue of Linking Research to Policy, I explored an example of a successful collaboration process that is often facilitated by the University-Based Child and Family Policy Consortium. I spoke with **Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka** at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and **Dr. Stephanie M. Curenton** at Rutgers University, who co-authored two books after meeting during a Consortium conference call. Both scholars have a specific interest in performing policy relevant research and have advice for how to effectively communicate research findings to policymakers.*

Considering Stephanie and Iheoma's interests, it is no surprise that they wanted to collaborate. Iheoma conducts research that aims to improve school readiness for minority and low-income children, specifically African Americans. She also works on projects that focus on ensuring that programs like Head Start are high quality and inclusive for children who attend. Stephanie examines early childhood language and literacy development for minority and low-income families and how adult-child interactions may affect language development. She also does longitudinal evaluative research on early childhood

development programs. Stephanie and Iheoma met during a Consortium conference call and realized that they had similar interests. Stephanie reached out to Iheoma and they started collaborating. Over the years, Iheoma and Stephanie have not only become colleagues, but have also formed a very close friendship.



Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka

Eventually, Stephanie and Iheoma decided to write two books together. The first was a text, *Cultural Competence in Early Childhood Education*, aimed at early childhood professionals that focuses on multicultural education and cultural competence during student-teacher interaction. In their forthcoming second book, Iheoma and Stephanie write about how to increase school and practitioner engagement with diverse families in multicultural settings.

Given that Stephanie and Iheoma conduct applied research, they have had numerous opportunities to apply their research to practice. Both scholars are committed to making sure that their work is not left within the bounds of a laboratory. On the contrary, Iheoma and Stephanie both try to disseminate relevant information to reach target audiences. For example, their books are highly accessible to practitioners and reach many early childhood professionals each year.

In terms of linking research to policy, Drs. Iruka and Curenton have important insight for how to do so effectively. They concur that policymakers and researchers "need to walk hand in hand". Both agreed that forming ongoing relationships with policymakers is extremely important. If policymakers and scientists work together more often, Iheoma and Stephanie are hopeful that researchers may be able to not only provide the advice that policymakers are looking for, but also ask the proper research questions from the beginning when designing their projects.

Given the importance of relationships in this linking of research to policy, I asked their advice for how younger researchers should begin to form these relationships. Stephanie mentioned that it is very rare for an individual to make connections with a single policymaker. She suggested young people should get involved with an institution with connections to

policymakers in order to begin to build these relationships. Theoma emphasized that it is important to recognize that policymakers get elected and will not be in office forever. As such, she suggests young people should connect with "advocacy groups, who will remain beyond a political term."

Stephanie also believes social media and writing op-eds are powerful tools for connecting with policymakers. She believes that this will become increasingly important in disseminating research findings to policymakers in a way that is accessible



Dr. Stephanie M.  
Curenton

and easy to understand. Stephanie mentioned that one of the most worthwhile experiences she has had was the participation in a training workshop that taught researchers how to disseminate their work via newspapers. She mentioned that often policymakers keep up to date on current events media, and it is a great opportunity to inform policymakers of one's work.

Overall, Stephanie and Theoma exemplify the Consortium's success with bringing members together for collaboration that leads to insightful, policy-relevant work. We expect more of these collaborative relationships in the future to further expand the base of policy-relevant research concerning children and their families.

## Monthly Consortium Calls

Join featured presenters, Consortium members, and others for the Consortium's monthly conference call! Presenter information and call-in instructions are sent to the Consortium list serve in advance of each call. Individuals who are not Consortium members are welcome to join the calls.

*Friday, April 25*

**UNICEF's Evidence-based Global Advocacy for Early Childhood Development: Giving all Children the Best Start in Life**

Presenters: **Pia Rebello Britto**, Senior Advisor

for the Early Childhood Development Unit for UNICEF

*and*

**Strategies for Upscaling Early Childhood Development: Lessons from Mozambique**

Presenter: **Sara Poehlman**, Senior Director of Early Childhood Development for Save the Children

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for the call.

*Friday, May 9*

**Building and Using Evidence: The role of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and Possibilities for Partnerships with Academics**

Presenter: **Andy Feldman**, Special Advisor for Intergovernmental Performance Management on the Evidence and Innovation Team at the Office of Management and Budget

*Friday, May 16*

**Translating Child Health Research to Policy**

Presenter: **Dr. Lisa Simpson**, President and CEO of AcademyHealth, Institute of Medicine member.

*Friday, May 23*

**Student Call with Joan Lombardi and Catalina Torrente**

This call is designed specifically for students interested in learning more about careers in international child policy. Participants will have the opportunity to talk with Dr. Lombardi and Dr. Torrente, postdoctoral associate at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, about their experiences and to discuss potential career paths.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for the call.

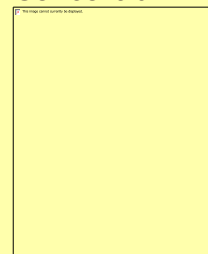
## Updates on the Consortium's Collaboration with SRCD

Melissa N. Richards

The Consortium recently announced a collaboration with the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). After six years of service, Jenni Owen will step down as director of the Consortium and SRCD will be assisting the Consortium in coordinating its activities. The Consortium steering committee will continue to play a critical role in guiding and leading the Consortium's endeavors. In preparation for this transition, I interviewed Jenni Owen and Dr. Barbara Fiese, chair of the Consortium steering committee, about their expectations for the new partnership. In addition, Dr. Marty Zaslow and Sarah Mancoll of SRCD shared some thoughts about the transition.

All those interviewed for this piece emphasized that they expect the new partnership to benefit both the Consortium and SRCD. As Barbara Fiese put it, "We plan to continue the work we are already doing and we do not intend to change the foundational goals of the Consortium". Marty and Sarah echoed this sentiment and said that in considering such a collaboration with Consortium leadership, they wanted to be extremely careful to not disrupt the Consortium's unique goals and initiatives. All interviewees agreed that although some of the management infrastructure of the Consortium will change in order to ensure long-term sustainability, the mission and work of the Consortium will not.

Despite this commitment to continuity, all parties involved want to identify new ways to pursue core Consortium values. Jenni emphasized the importance of the chief foundational tenet of the Consortium - that scholars and others from the member institutions can accomplish more collectively than they can do on their own. With this



in mind, all interviewees described the collaboration as a 'win-win', where SRCD members will have the opportunity to join the Consortium and participate in its work, further expanding the member knowledge base and contributions,



especially around state, local, and federal policy issues. In turn, the Consortium will benefit from the involvement of additional SRCD members and their multi-faceted expertise. As Barbara Fiese put it, "The Washington office at SRCD does a fantastic job when specializing in federal policy issues and keeps members abreast of national and international topics. At the same time, the Consortium has a good feel for state and local issues." By collaborating on these key topic areas of expertise, both organizations hope to augment their projects and raise the visibility of their current work. All involved are hopeful that this will aid in fostering even more collaborations among Consortium and SRCD members.

During this transitional period, Jenni Owen truly deserves honor and recognition for her countless hours of devotion to the Consortium. Jenni has been an invaluable resource and has made a significant mark in helping to build the organization, with membership numbers increasing steadily throughout her tenure. When asked what she was most proud of during her time leading the Consortium, she cited that she enjoyed facilitating partnerships among members and is most delighted with the "organically emerging collaborations" that stemmed from Consortium facilitation. She gave the example of scholars who met through a Consortium conference call, which led to their writing a book together (see related article above.) During her interview, Jenni acknowledged the many volunteers who have supported the Consortium's work throughout the years. Among them are the Consortium founders, many of whom are still involved with the Consortium. The volunteers also include interns who have helped

with survey design, conference meet-ups and special presentations; the annual commitment of a staff person from Chapin Hall to assist with "all things Consortium," and the recent launch of a conference call series spear-headed by internationally renowned early childhood expert, Joan Lombardi.

All of those interviewed for this piece - Barbara, Marty, and Sarah - expressed sentiments that Jenni deserves huge recognition for her contributions to the Consortium and making it what it is today. All are excited about the upcoming transition and believe that it numerous opportunities for members of both SRCD and the Consortium now and in the future.

## **Announcements**

### **William T. Grant Project Update**

With funding from the William T. Grant Foundation, researchers, policymakers and practitioners from Illinois, Minnesota, and North Carolina have come together to create a researcher-policymaker-practitioner learning community. The **Child Welfare and Education Learning Community** convened in Chicago in September and will re-convene in North Carolina in May at the Crossnore School to continue discussions of cross-state collaboration on issues of child welfare and education. View the one page summary of the Chicago meeting [here](#).

### **Consortium Membership**

Join the Consortium! Consortium membership is available on institutional and individual levels. Membership includes, but is not limited to, university-based centers and programs that represent the social, behavioral, and health sciences fields, including anthropology, economics, human development, nursing, pediatrics, political science, psychology, public health, and sociology. All persons affiliated with a member institution (i.e., faculty, staff, and students) are considered

Consortium members. All members are welcome to engage in Consortium calls and events and to [join](#) the Consortium list serve. For membership information, click [here](#).

For more information regarding membership, please contact [Paige Peltzer](#).

## Thanks to Jenni Owen



Jenni Owen enthusiastically served as Consortium Director the past 6 years. Under her leadership, the Consortium has grown and made great strides in its mission to encourage research, career development, and engagement among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners within the realm of child and family policy. We are forever grateful for all the work (behind the scenes and as a public representative) that Jenni has contributed to the Consortium over the years.

## Calendar

### Upcoming Events

#### **Fragile Families Summer Data Workshop 2014**

The Columbia Population Research Center is now accepting applications for the **Fragile Families Summer Data Workshop** to be held June 11- 13, 2014 at the Columbia School of Social Work in New



York City. The workshop is designed to familiarize participants with the data available in the *Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study*, a national study following a birth cohort of (mostly) unmarried parents and their children, providing information about the capabilities, circumstances, and relationships of unwed parents, the wellbeing of their children, and the role of public policy in family and child wellbeing.

**The National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect** will sponsor its 21st Summer Research Institute (SRI) for child maltreatment researchers on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, New York on June 9-13, 2014.

The Institute will be an intensive experience in secondary data analysis that combines colloquia with hands-on computing time. Participants are selected on a competitive basis from a variety of disciplines including psychology, social work, and medicine. The primary goal of the Institute is to facilitate secondary analysis projects from which researchers can publish their findings. In addition, the Institute will provide child maltreatment researchers an invaluable opportunity for networking and collaboration.

**The Life Course Research Network (LCRN)** is pleased to introduce its new webinar series on Using Existing Data to Examine Life Course Health Development. This series is designed to support researchers in utilizing existing data to examine how health develops over the life course, and to assist local and state MCH practitioners in utilizing existing data to examine the health status and needs of - and/or monitor progress in improving outcomes among - their target populations.

### **Conference Calendar**

**Child Abuse and Family Violence SUMMIT**  
April 22-25, 2014 Portland, OR

**Council on Contemporary Families**

April 25-26, 2014 Coral Gables, FL

**Community-Campus Partnerships for Health**

April 30-May 3, 2014 Chicago, IL

**Population Association of America**

May 1-3, 2014 Boston, MA

**Conference on Child Protection and Well-Being**

May 5-6, 2014 University Park, PA

**Society for Prevention Research**

May 27-30, 2014 Washington, DC

**American Psychological Association**

August 7-10, 2014 Washington, DC

**American Sociological Association**

August 16-19, 2014 San Francisco, CA

*If you would like to add an event to the calendar, host a Consortium member meet up, or plan on attending a conference, please contact Paige Peltzer.*

## **Members in the News**

### **November 2013**

**Sheila Smith**, director of the **National Center for Children in Poverty** was quoted in the report, "Large Numbers of Children Underserved by Federal and State Early Care and Education Programs," available at [nccp.org](http://nccp.org).

When searching for a partner, people largely stick to their own race. An article on [BusinessInsider](http://BusinessInsider) discusses findings from a study by **Ken-Hou Lin** of **The University of Texas** and **Jennifer Lundquist** of **U. Mass Amherst** that significant racial preferences exist regardless of education status.

A new study co-authored by **Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy** assistant professor **Claudia Haase** has found that, when it comes to keeping the peace, it's more important for husbands to calm down after a heated argument. Haase is quoted in an *SESP* article.

### **December 2013**

Are too many kids taking antipsychotic drugs? **Helen Egger**, Chief of **Child and Family Mental Health and Developmental Neuroscience** at **Duke University Medical Center**, commented in the *ConsumerReports* article on antipsychotic drug use in children.

In an interview with **Manuelito Biag**, research associate at the **John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities**, *the Stanford Graduate School of Education* finds out more about the author of the paper "Perceived School Safety: Visual Narratives from the Middle Grades." This paper utilized disposable camera pictures to examine how low-income youth in a high-minority, urban middle school characterize school safety.

### **January 2014**

**Andrew Means**, **University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Studies** alumnus, was listed on *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*'s "People to Watch in 2014" for his start-up company devoted to analyzing data about nonprofits, donors, and social programs.

*The New York Times* discusses a study by **Duke Center for Child and Family Policy's Ken Dodge**, the **University of Chicago's Jens Ludwig**, and others, defending the notion that failing high school students can still find great benefit in intensive small-group tutoring and counseling.

A grant sponsored by the *Society for Research on Adolescence* (SRA) was awarded to **Sara Douglass**, a graduate student in the **Applied Developmental Psychology Program** at **Fordham University**, for her proposed research on racial/ethnic teasing behaviors in adolescence.

According to **Michael Kofler**, director of the **University of Virginia Curry School of Education's Children's Learning Clinic**, popular computer-based training programs for ADHD students do not deliver on their intent. "[These treatments] don't improve ADHD symptoms or behavior, they don't improve academic achievement, and in many cases do not improve the cognitive functions they claim to target," said Kofler in a *Curry School of Education press release*.

An article by the *Stanford Graduate School of Education* announced that Stanford's **John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities** is helping eight of California's largest school districts to adopt new measures of success-going beyond standardized test scores-to improve student learning and close achievement gaps.

## Opportunities

**Please note the announcements below come directly from the entities' postings.**

### **Associate Director of Research and Knowledge Development**

The AfriChild Centre of Excellence for the Study of the African Child (AfriChild Centre) in Uganda is looking to hire an Associate Director of Research and Knowledge Development.

Established in 2013, the AfriChild Centre works to improve child wellbeing practice and inform policy

through a systematic process of scientific research, analysis, and knowledge development. AfriChild is uniquely positioned to address significant programmatic, conceptual, methodological, cultural, and logistical gaps in the translation of research to practice and policy in the child protection and care community.

For more details, please see the attached job description. Qualified candidates are invited to send their cover letter and resume to [hr@uganda.childfund.org](mailto:hr@uganda.childfund.org) by close of business on May 1st, 2014.

### **Postdoctoral Fellow Position in HPA axis and Sleep Research**

Applications are being accepted for a post-doctoral fellowship in the Stress, Sleep and Development laboratory of Dr. Emma Adam at Northwestern University. Adam's research focuses on social/environmental factors influencing stress hormones and sleep quality in adolescents and young adults, and the implications of stress and sleep for emotional and physical health and academic outcomes, with a strong interest in explaining racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities.

Candidates should be trained in developmental, clinical or health psychology or related disciplines and have a strong record of scholarly productivity. Candidates with existing experience in HPA axis, genetic or sleep research (actigraphy) are preferred. PhD must be completed by the time of appointment. Stipend will be at NIH levels. Appointment is for 1 year, with possibility of extension. Application review is rolling, starting March 3rd, 2014. Position start date is September 1, 2014. Submit curriculum vita, statement of research interests, graduate transcripts, three letters of reference, and a sample of published or unpublished work to: [adampostdoc@gmail.com](mailto:adampostdoc@gmail.com).

### **Postdoctoral Fellow Position**

The Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship beginning spring/summer 2014. The Institute for Policy Research is an interdisciplinary research consortium aimed at stimulating and supporting excellent social science research on significant public policy issues and to disseminating these findings widely.

The postdoctoral fellow will have the opportunity to join Dr. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale's research lab. The postdoctoral fellow will actively contribute to research projects investigating on-the-ground two-generation initiatives at the local, national, and international level through an experimental design and close partnership with a community-based provider. The position offers opportunities for advancing expertise in developmental science, measurement, and mixed-methods analysis.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, representative publications and papers, and names of three references to Allison Frost at [afrost2012@gmail.com](mailto:afrost2012@gmail.com). Individuals from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

### **Research Coordinator/ Grants Manager**

Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research is looking for a Research Coordinator & Grants Manager who will be responsible for (1) grants management; (2) budget; (3) research support; and (4) administrative and lab support. Grants management will involve overseeing the flow of grant requirements and reports, managing a schedule of grant commitments and requirements, report writing, and coordinating with funders. Budgeting will require managing budgets across several awards, totaling over \$5 million targeted toward two-generation initiatives. This will include budget tracking, analysis, and projections. Research

support will involve reviewing literature and developing bibliographies, managing the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process, and coordinating with off-site data collectors. Finally, administrative and lab support will include supervising undergraduate research assistants, scheduling meetings and site visits, and coordinating with research and program partners.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae or resume, and the names of three references to Dr. Teresa Eckrich Sommer ([tesommer@northwestern.edu](mailto:tesommer@northwestern.edu)) and Dr. Terri Sabol ([terri.sabol@northwestern.edu](mailto:terri.sabol@northwestern.edu)).

### **Assistant Professor in International Family and Community Studies**

Clemson University seeks candidates for a tenure-track assistant professor in a Department of Youth, Family, and Community Studies that is being established within the College of Health, Education, and Human Development. This position will teach in an established Ph.D. program in International Family and Community Studies. Successful candidates will be expected to maintain an active program of scholarship, including seeking external research funding and publications. This position is available starting in the Fall semester, 2014.

Please click [here](#) to apply for this job opening.

### **Postdoctoral Fellowship Position**

The Carolina Consortium on Human Development at the Center for Developmental Science invites applications for NICHD (NRSA) postdoctoral traineeships. Multiple positions will be available for one year appointments, with renewal for a second year contingent on satisfactory performance and available funding.

The online application is available at [here](#). Applicants can contact Jennifer Coffman for further

information concerning the application process:  
(919) 843-2401, [coffman@unc.edu](mailto:coffman@unc.edu).

## Upcoming Newsletters

We are always accepting Consortium news, resource information, and other relevant material to highlight in the newsletter.

*Please send suggestions to Paige Peltzer.*

*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.*



[Forward email](#)



*Try it FREE today.*

This email was sent to [ppeltzer@chapinhall.org](mailto:ppeltzer@chapinhall.org) by [ppeltzer@chapinhall.org](mailto:ppeltzer@chapinhall.org) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
University-Based Child and Family Policy Consortium | Box 90545 | Durham | NC | 27708-0545