



Newsletter

Spring 2005



FIELD CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S POLICY, PRACTICE & RESEARCH

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FIELD CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the Schools of Social Work, Law, and Medicine and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research brings together the resources of the University of Pennsylvania to enhance and assure the well-being of abused and neglected children and those at risk of maltreatment. By moving beyond traditional approaches, the Field Center utilizes an interdisciplinary model to integrate clinical care, research and education, inform local and national policy, and prepare the nation's future leaders, for the benefit of children and their families.

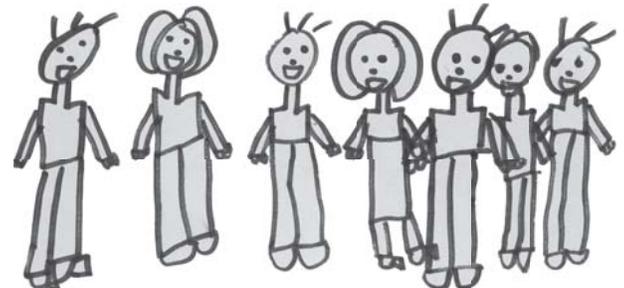


TABLE OF CONTENTS

One Child, Many Hands:	
A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare.....	2
Advisory Board Update.....	2
Family and Professional Perceptions of Hospital Care in Cases of Childhood Injury.....	2
Educating Our Future Leaders: Where Are They Now?.....	4
Winter Breakfast Meeting Trains Clinicians on Testimony... 	5
Field Center Donors.....	5
Field Center Project Updates	
The Family Court Dependency Waiting Room Project....	6
Child Protective Services Training and Program Development Project.....	6
Focus on the Field Center	
Advisory Board Member Highlight: Maida Malone.....	7
Co-Director Highlight: Richard Gelles, Ph.D.....	7
Student Highlight: Emily Brueckner.....	7
Student Highlight: Rachel Kahn.....	7
Calendar of Events.....	8



ONE CHILD, MANY HANDS: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare

The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research is in the final stages of planning its first national conference, *One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare*, to be held on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania at the Wharton School on Thursday June 2 and Friday June 3. The conference has been warmly received by the public and registrations are coming in from multiple disciplines and settings around the country.

The conference's opening Keynote Speaker will be Dave Pelzer, Pulitzer Prize nominee and best-selling author of *A Child Called "It"* who will speak of his personal journey through the child welfare system and deliver an inspirational message to conference attendees. The first day's luncheon will feature a presentation by noted child abuse expert and accomplished jazz musician, Dr. Eli Newberger, who will reflect on his parallel passions and the impact this interplay has had on his work in a unique session inspiring the audience with both his words and his music. A reception will be held at the end of the first day of the conference for all attendees on the eighth floor of Wharton's Huntsman Hall.

The second day will open with a Plenary Session on *Reforming the Child Welfare System: A Multidisciplinary Analysis* featuring a notable panel of national experts, including Marcia Robinson Lowry, Founder of Children's Rights, child abuse expert Dr. Howard Dubowitz, John Mattingly, Commissioner of New York City's child welfare system, Barbara Bennett Woodhouse, Director of University of Florida's Center on Children and the Law, Child Advocate Shelly Yanoff, and Family Court Judge Flora Barth Wolf. The conference will close with a Keynote Address by the Honorable Leonard Edwards, Supervising Judge of the Santa Clara (California) County Superior Court and recipient of the 2004 William Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, who is noted for progressive innovations in family and juvenile court.

Breakout sessions cover such topics as *The Impact of Maltreatment on Children's Development and Well-being*, *Addressing Racial Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System*, *Child Trafficking*, *Innovative Approaches to Finding Permanence for Children*, *Child Maltreatment and Culture: Working with Diverse Families*, *Medical and Mental Health Care of Sexually Abused Children*, *Childhood Trauma: Context, Assessment and Intervention*, *Community Partnerships in Child Protection*, consumer panels, and *Research in Adoption and Foster Care Dynamics since ASFA*. Presenters include national and local leaders in social work, medicine, law, psychiatry, education, psychology, nursing and child advocacy.

Continuing Education Units will be available in the multiple disciplines of Social Work, Psychology, Nursing and Counseling.

Some sponsorship opportunities do remain. Sponsorship queries may be directed to Nadina Deigh at (215) 898-5518 or deighn@ssw.upenn.edu. All other questions about the conference can be answered by Mindy Berman at (215) 573-4769 or confer@ssw.upenn.edu.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE
www.ssw.upenn.edu/cwconference

The Field Center Advisory Board is pleased to announce the following officers:

Advisory Board Chair:
Maida Milone

Chair, Strategic Planning Committee:
Joe Field

Chair, Development and Communications Committee:
Craig Snider

The Field Center would like to congratulate its new Executive Committee and thank the entire Advisory Board for its continued commitment.

Family and Professional Perceptions of Hospital Care in Cases of Childhood Injury

by Elif Ince and Cindy W. Christian, MD

Child abuse and neglect are major problems for children, families, and the providers who care for them. The latest national statistics estimate that more than 890,000 children are reported to be victims of child maltreatment annually, making it a significant cause of death and disability among children in the United States.¹ Healthcare providers have a professional, legal, and moral responsibility to report suspected child maltreatment. Despite this fact, child maltreatment cases continue to be underreported and poorly managed by healthcare providers. This is due to many factors, among which is a discomfort with the problem, uncertainty regarding how best to help the child and family, and even how to discuss the possibility of maltreatment with parents. Over the years, it has become clear that many physicians, nurses and social workers are uncertain about their role in protecting children and how best to communicate with families. In return, families whose children are admitted to the hospital because of inflicted injuries often feel as though they are treated dif-

ferently than other parents. In order to improve staff communication with families around child abuse issues, we are presently conducting research related to staff and family perceptions of hospital care in cases of childhood injury. This project is part of the scholarly pursuit program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Each senior medical student at Penn must spend three months of intense study, clinical or laboratory research during their senior year in order to graduate. Elif Ince is our senior student who has led and carried out most of this project. Elif will be graduating from Penn this spring and will start her residency in pediatrics at CHOP this June.

Although some work has been done in the area of professional education in child maltreatment, the majority of studies have focused on the quality and quantity of resident and fellow education. These studies indicate that many physicians perceive their training in child maltreatment to be unsatisfactory in either quantity or focus. In 1988,

Woolf *et al.* surveyed pediatric, surgery, and family medicine residents at six separate institutions regarding their training in child abuse. Their results indicated room for improvement in the knowledge base of residents in the epidemiology, differential diagnosis, diagnostic, and legal aspects of child abuse.² Biehler *et al.* found similar deficiencies in the training of pediatric emergency fellows.³ Approximately half of the surveyed fellows reported their training in child abuse to be less than adequate. When these same fellows were asked if their respective emergency departments routinely evaluate patients with suspected sexual or physical abuse, one hundred percent responded in the affirmative. These findings demonstrate that while clinical experiences in child maltreatment are readily available to pediatric residents, they do not afford the confidence and clinical skills required to appropriately manage child maltreatment cases.

Training of healthcare providers in the diagnosis and management of child maltreatment can help circumvent some of the challenges associated with these cases. Several studies have established that formal instruction in child maltreatment can improve competency. Tilden *et al.* determined that clinicians who received educational content on child, spouse, or elder abuse in their professional training programs were more willing to consider abuse in their patients.⁴ In addition, Woolf in his aforementioned work revealed that residents who reported more exposure to formal child abuse training performed better on a questionnaire designed to assess knowledge relevant to the diagnosis and management of child abuse.² These studies and others illustrate the necessity of specialized training of residents in child maltreatment.

An essential component of this training should be the promotion of appropriate attitudes and perceptions regarding the role of healthcare providers in the protection of children from maltreatment. The social evaluation of the abusive family is an integral part of the management of cases of suspected child maltreatment. In conducting these evaluations, healthcare providers must understand the role that their personal attitudes play in facilitating intervention.⁵ Studies in the nursing literature have found that negative attitudes towards abusers interfere with patient care.^{6,7} While anger and shock may be common responses to child maltreatment, if unchecked, these responses can be destructive both to the child and the family. Healthcare providers must come to terms with their own attitudes towards abuse and abusers, or risk isolating and alienating the abusing parent.

The tense circumstances under which child maltreatment evaluations take place can also evoke strong emotions among family members. Anecdotal experience suggests that families whose children are hospitalized with injuries and illnesses suspected to be related to child maltreatment often feel as though they are mistreated by healthcare providers. Parents may feel as though hospital staff do not share information with them, do not treat them with respect, and their children do not receive the same care as other patients. There are likely to be multiple factors that explain these feelings. Yet, to date, there has been little to no research that has studied family perceptions of hospital care in cases of suspected child maltreatment.

Given the prevalence of child maltreatment and the consequences associated with the improper diagnosis and management of these

cases, one cannot ignore the need for further research in this field. In designing our study, we aim to examine the feelings and attitudes of both families and healthcare providers in situations where children have been hospitalized with injuries suspected to be related to child maltreatment. We are conducting interviews with health care providers (physicians in training, attending physicians, nurses) regarding their comfort in discussing issues of maltreatment with the families they care for. In addition, we are interviewing parents of children who are admitted to the hospital with injury (both unintentional and those suspicious for abuse) to better understand how family communication is affected during hospitalization by the concern of child abuse. The insight gained from this study will facilitate improved professional training in child abuse and neglect. It will also promote the building of collaborative relationships between healthcare providers and abusive families with the goal of achieving better short and long-term outcomes for children, and provide an initial professional and supportive atmosphere for all families, regardless of their child's diagnosis.

¹ National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information. Child Maltreatment 2002: Summary of Key Findings. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2004.

² Woolf A, Taylor L, Melnicoe L, et al. What residents know about child abuse. *Am J Dis Child.* 1988; 142:668-72.

³ Biehler JL, Apolo J, and Burton L. Views of pediatric emergency fellows and fellowship directors concerning training experiences in child abuse and neglect. *Pediatr Emerg Care.* 1996; 12:365-9.

⁴ Tilden VP, Schmidt TA, Limandri BJ, et al. Factors that influence clinicians' assessment and management of family violence. *Am J Public Health.* 1994; 84:628-33.

⁵ Stanton MP, Seidl A, Pillitteri A, et al. Nurses' attitudes toward emotional, sexual, and physical abusers of children with disabilities. *Rehabilitation Nursing.* 1994; 19:214-18.

⁶ Stanley S. Child sexual abuse: recognition and nursing intervention. *Orthopaedic Nursing.* 1989; 8:33-40.

⁷ McKittrick CA. Child abuse: recognition and reporting by health professionals. *Nursing Clinics of North America.* 1981; 16:103-115.





EDUCATING OUR FUTURE LEADERS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Integral to the mission of The Field Center is the education of the nation's future leaders. There has been a growing trend from the initial evolution of the Field Center (formerly the Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research, or CCPPR) for students to develop an understanding and appreciation for the value of interdisciplinary work through their exposure to the expertise of the Field Center team. Many students have mirrored the image of the Field Center in their own path through combining degrees in social work, psychology and law. Five former Field Center/CCPPR students share how their interdisciplinary training has influenced their work.

Sacha Coupet, currently an Assistant Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, teaching in the areas of Child Welfare, Family Law, and Social Science in the Law, and the Director of Research of the Civitas ChildLaw Center, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. Ms. Coupet started law school in 1997 upon completion of her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and under the guidance of Barbara Woodhouse, former law professor at Penn, began attending meetings with the interdisciplinary team in 1999, which later came to be known as the Center for Children's Policy, Practice, and Research (CCPPR). Ms. Coupet continued her involvement with CCPPR until her graduation in 2000. Ms. Coupet describes her time at CCPPR as "a wonderful opportunity to wear both my psychologist's and my lawyer's hat all at once... it was the one opportunity I had to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue with folks in related disciplines whose input helped me to understand child abuse and neglect in a more comprehensive way."

Rachel Joseph is currently completing her second year towards a joint degree in Law and Social Work at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The summer after her sophomore year in college at the University of Pennsylvania, Ms. Joseph became the first intern at CCPPR, later to be renamed the Field Center. Throughout her remaining two years at Penn, Ms. Joseph continued to work with CCPPR in different capacities. Upon graduating from Penn, Ms. Joseph became the full-time coordinator of CCPPR for one year. Ms. Joseph attributes her choice of pursuing an MSW and JD to the guidance she received from Field Center staff and mentors. "Since my sophomore year in college, I've been dedicated to affecting the welfare of children in this country and it is all due to my work at CCPPR."

Erica Schair is currently working as an Equal Justice Works Fellow/Staff Attorney for the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center in Denver, Colorado. Ms. Schair participated in the Penn Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic in the Spring of 2003 as a law student, and one of her cases was staffed with the experts from the Field Center. Ms. Schair feels that her time working with the Field Center influenced her professional path "in the most important of ways... I am currently working as a child advocate/GAL in Denver because of my experience in the clinic." In reflecting on the Field Center and the Child Advocacy Clinic, Ms. Schair stated that "in my opinion, the multi-disciplinary teams at the Field Center and the Child Advocacy Clinic are the best way to engage the three major professions that seek to help families... it allows us to serve families more effectively."

Ayanna Smith is currently working as the Executive Assistant to the Director of the District of Columbia's Child and Family Services Agency, where she serves as the right hand to the Director. Ms. Smith did her second year field placement at the Field Center while getting her MSW at Penn. Upon completing her MSW in 2002, Ms. Smith worked as the Coordinator of the Field Center through July of 2002. In her time with the Field Center, Ms. Smith was exposed to the interdisciplinary nature of child advocacy, and "in my current role... I pull from the skills I obtained through my internship, which guides my practice as I advocate daily for children and families and act as an agent for social change." Ms. Smith states further that "the interdisciplinary approach to the Center is a reflection of how things actually work in the 'real world' and how change is accomplished."

Alyssa Burrell Cowan is the Assistant Attorney General in the Children Protection Section of the District of Columbia's Office of the Attorney General. Ms. Cowan became involved with the Field Center as a second year MSW student at Penn. Upon graduation in 2000, Ms. Cowan stayed at the Field Center as the Coordinator through August of 2001. Ms. Cowan was involved in research, clinical work, coordination of other members, information dissemination, supervising interns, and development fundraising while working with the Field Center. When Ms. Cowan left the Field Center she had a strong desire to make herself "interdisciplinary" and this led her to attend law school at Temple Law in August of 2001. Ms. Cowan described her experiences at the Field Center as providing her with "a great opportunity to learn about the work of other professions and how I could learn new skills that combined with the social work skills I learned at Penn would make an even greater impact on the lives of children."

These are only five of many outstanding students who have passed through the academic annals of the University of Pennsylvania and have made significant contributions while participating in the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research.

Field Center Co-Director Cindy Christian, MD, finds that "the talent of students at The University of Pennsylvania is inspiring, and makes teaching and working at Penn an enriching experience for the faculty. I have had the pleasure of teaching students in many of the schools at the university- mostly those from the medical school, but from the schools of social work, law, dentistry, veterinary medicine and nursing as well. Interdisciplinary teaching at Penn is achievable in part because the university campus is located exclusively in West Philadelphia, which is somewhat unique among large universities. Being in close proximity to one another eliminates a physical barrier that would exist if the schools were scattered over the Philadelphia landscape.

"Over the years, I have been impressed with the ability, dedication and enthusiasm of our students. Each semester for the past three years, I have co-directed a class with Co-Director Alan Lerner on child welfare for law, social work and medical students. As part of this clinical course, the law students are appointed as child advocates for children in the Philadelphia dependency court. During the semester, the law students work with the social work and medical students to provide exemplary representation for their clients. Working together,

the students (and faculty) learn that child welfare cannot be achieved by working in isolation, and that each of our expertise and talents are needed to provide the best solutions and care to this public health problem. I have often said that as a physician, I do not have the knowledge, skills or power to protect maltreated children by myself. My work is only possible by working with other professionals. My involvement as a teacher (and student!) with my colleagues in other disciplines at the Field Center has only made me a better child advocate and physician. This is an important lesson we teach our students, and one that is modeled by the work done at the Field Center."

Co-Director Carol Wilson Spigner, DSW, agrees. "Given the short length of time the Field Center has been in existence, our students have demonstrated their potential for impacting policy and practice in a variety of ways. The individuals featured have continued to work in an interdisciplinary manner by advancing their educations and educating others. They have recognized that work addressing the complex problems of children and families require the ability to use knowledge from multiple perspective. Field Center students have and will continue to move into key positions in which they can shape the institutions that are designed to help families.

"As an educator/scholar committed to change of child welfare systems, it is exciting to see the growth of the Center alumni and to know that they will continue to impact policy and practice and work to bring about institutional change for children in this country."

The Field Center is honored to have graduated such talented and committed alumni, each making their own impact as an agent of social change. This year's students are no exception. MSW intern Rachel Kahn is the recipient of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work Dr. Ruth E. Smalley Award in International Social Welfare and will be attending Temple Law School next year. Emily Brueckner, MSW intern, is the recipient of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work Rosa Wessel Award. Drexel MPH intern Morgan Model completed her field placement and masters thesis through the Field Center; her research was chosen by Drexel University for submission to the 2005 national APHA conference. Morgan will be entering Temple Law School in the fall. Doctoral candidate Robin Mekonnen recently completed her coursework toward her PhD in Social Welfare. We congratulate these students on their achievements and know that they too will put their interdisciplinary training to good use.

WINTER BREAKFAST MEETING TRAINS CLINICIANS ON TESTIMONY

Wednesday, February 23, 2005 the Field Center held its Breakfast Meeting on *Clinicians in the Courtroom: What Every Clinician Needs to Know About Testifying in Court*. Panelists included Field Center Co-Director, Practice Professor, and Director of the Child Advocacy Clinic for the University



of Pennsylvania School of Law, Alan M. Lerner, Esq.; Field Center Co-Director and Chair of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Cindy W. Christian, MD; Associate General Counsel for the School District of Philadelphia, Mimi Rose, Esq.; and Adjunct Clinical Supervisor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Diane Smith-Hoban, MSW. Panelists discussed the role of the various legal entities in the courtroom, the role of the clinician in the courtroom, the legal duty of the clinician in the courtroom, and the manner in which to prepare for a court appearance through a series of explanations, video clips, examples, and role-playing exercises.

Over 100 participants attended the workshop from a variety of Philadelphia social service agencies, public interest, city, and state law offices, and health service providers. In the evaluations of the workshop, participants noted that the content had a great deal of relevance to their work, the presentation did a great job of enhancing their knowledge base in the content area, and they appreciated

the breadth of expertise and the use of humor by the four presenters. The Field Center was very pleased with the success and feedback for this Breakfast Meeting. The next Breakfast Meeting will be held in the fall of 2005; details will be announced at a later date.



The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research would like to thank the following donors for their generosity in making a contribution over the course of the year.

**Dr. Erwin A. Carner
Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Elkin
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Field
Ms. Nancy Glickenhous
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hornick II
Mrs. Lynn Sandler Hubschman
Ms. Maida Milone
Mrs. Michelle England Walker
Ms. Anne Marcus Weiss**

Donations to the Field Center enable us to continue our critical work. Please contact Nadina Deigh at (215) 898-5518 or deighn@ssw.upenn.edu for further information about contributing to the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research.



PROJECT UPDATES

THE FAMILY COURT DEPENDENCY WAITING ROOM PROJECT

The Family Court Dependency Waiting Room project is almost complete. An additional thirty families were interviewed to determine the social and environmental needs of the waiting room. In addition, fifteen court-related personnel were surveyed for their perspective of the environmental and social needs of the waiting room. Below is a brief summary of the results from both of these interviews. In addition, there are preliminary recommendations that will be submitted to the Philadelphia Family Court Administrative Judge, Myrna P. Field.

Preliminary Results from Court Related Personnel Sample (N=15)

Some of the common themes found throughout these surveys are listed below.

- More information: housing, program enrollment, court procedures, and general information addressing the needs of low income families
- Privacy (there is not place to conduct private conversations between clients or between other individuals involved in the case)
- Periodic trainings of judges, attorneys and case workers
- Area for children to play: complete with books, toys and supervision
- Drug and alcohol treatment
- Educational videos (parenting)

Preliminary Results of the Expanded Sample of Families (N=30) Statistical Results of Multiple Choice Questions

- 9 out of 30 individuals had never spoken to a lawyer
 - 2 of these individuals have been to the courthouse more than 5 times
- 11 out of the 21 (52%) respondents that had spoken to a lawyer were somewhat bothered or very bothered by the presence of other people in the waiting room
 - All of these individuals said that a private area to speak to their lawyer would make these conversations easier and more useful
 - 5 of these 11 respondents also reported being uncomfortable or very uncomfortable speaking to their lawyer
- 19 out of 30 (63%) respondents did not expect to speak to their lawyer while they were in court
 - 6 of these 19 respondents do not speak to their lawyer until they are in the courtroom
- 20 out of 30 respondents believe the chairs are disagree or strongly disagree that the chairs are comfortable
- 29 out of 30 respondents disagree or strongly disagree that the waiting room is an attractive place to be

Informational Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Employment, Budgeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court Process • Parenting Videos 	Social Service Needs: The majority of respondents were not aware of what services were available or what could be available to them in the waiting room.
Physical Space Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy (50% of respondents) • More comfortable chairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller spaces • A place to eat and drink 	Other Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site counseling • Reading Material • More things for children

Common Themes in the Short Answer Questions

Preliminary Recommendations

- Yearly group training programs for all related parties in dependency cases (lawyers, judges, attorneys, case workers, and social workers)
- Divide the waiting rooms into smaller spaces to provide a more intimate and private relationship with concerned parties
- Develop an in-house student social work program that can offer families services while they are waiting to see a judge
- An Information office where families can call an information hotline, meet with someone to ask questions, or obtain written material on specific questions
- Develop a system where families can be notified of their case if they have left the waiting room (a beeper system that works only within a certain area of the courthouse)
- Make a space available with vending machines, and a place to eat and drink

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES TRAINING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) is the city agency mandated to protect children from abuse, neglect and delinquency and to provide services that strengthen and preserve families. In January 2004 The Field Center began a collaboration with DHS to facilitate its efforts to improve the skills and response times of the Child Protective Services investigators and supervisors. The DHS goal included major reforms on the front end. Our role in this reform included:

- A preliminary review and assessment of the policy manual;
- Making recommendations for policy manual revisions so that it is clearer and more user friendly;
- Developing a procedures/practice manual that will guide practice;
- Gathering and compiling the staff development and training data and the curricula;
- Developing materials for conducting the focus groups and key informant interviews.

DHS requested that the remainder of the contract period focus on developing a Child Fatality Investigations section for the practice manual.

A child's death will trigger a series of investigations by the Department of Public Welfare, the police, the internal fatality review team, and the external fatality review team. The department must investigate the circumstances of a child death as a result of suspected child abuse or neglect. The investigation should determine the facts around the death of a child and a safety plan for remaining/surviving children. The project will be completed June 30, 2005.

FOCUS ON THE FIELD CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Maida Malone

Ms. Maida R. Milone joined the Field Center Advisory Board in 2004 and recently became its Chairperson. Because of her previous work with the Support Center for Child Advocates, and her training as a lawyer, the child-centered, multidisciplinary nature of the Field Center made sense to Ms. Milone. As an alumna of the University of Pennsylvania and Penn Law, Ms. Milone already had ties to the school, so joining the Field Center team was a good match.

When asked about her new role as the Chair of the Advisory Board, Ms. Milone responded that she is currently helping the Advisory Board define its sense of purpose. Once this is defined, the Advisory Board will be situated to enable the Field Center to fulfill its mission. Ms. Milone recognizes the teamwork necessary to address issues within the child welfare system.

While the Co-Directors strive to make far-reaching changes in the child welfare system, the Advisory Board works to support them in these endeavors. For example, through its efforts to develop the Board and focus on Strategic Planning, the Advisory Board enables important projects, such as the Judges Training and Family Court Initiatives, to occur.

In addition to her involvement with the Field Center, Ms. Milone is the President and CEO for the Center for Emerging Visual Artists (formerly Creative Artists Network). The Field Center is extremely excited to have Ms. Milone as the Chair of its Advisory Board.



CO-DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHT

Richard Gelles, Ph.D.



As one of the founding members of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice, and Research, Richard Gelles remembers "hammering out the first mission statement" over five years ago. His recognition of the importance of a multi-disciplinary center stemmed from the numerous requests for help he received after he wrote *The Book of David*. However, these requests for help required the assistance of more than one professional discipline, and highlighted the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to child welfare.

Today, Dr. Gelles envisions the Field Center as the "world's go-to place" to help resolve child-centered questions, and to protect, help, and assist maltreated children in achieving their developmental potential. When asked about the Field Center's accomplishments, Dr. Gelles highlights three areas: (1) the students who have interned with the Field Center and committed to issues of child welfare; (2) specific cases in which the Field Center played a key role in producing positive outcomes for children; and (3) the demonstrated viability of the Field Center.

Outside of the Field Center, Dr. Gelles is the Dean of Penn's School of Social Work (soon to be Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice). He is the author of numerous books, textbooks, and social policy books relating to family violence. His research includes work on the extent, causes, and consequences of family violence, and system reform.

In addition, Dr. Gelles is an avid baseball fan and had the opportunity to participate in the Phillies Spring Training this year (see photo to the left). As he points out, "being in this field is all consuming and you often give more than you get back." Consequently, you "need an outlet that makes you feel good," and for Dr. Gelles, this is (currently) baseball.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Rachel Kahn

Rachel Kahn is currently in her final semester at University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, graduating with her Master of Social Work (MSW) in May. Ms. Kahn has been an intern with the Field Center since the fall of 2004, and came to the Field Center in the hopes of gaining experience in an interdisciplinary approach to child advocacy. In the fall, Ms. Kahn will be starting law school at Temple University with the intention of pursuing a career in public interest law.

In her two years at Penn, Ms. Kahn's most notable accomplishment has been her ongoing independent research project on Family Violence Against Women in Guatemala. Under the guidance of Dr. Richard Estes at the School of Social Work, and with support from the Universidad del Valle in Guatemala City, Ms. Kahn developed and carried out a research project in Guatemala. Over the course of two months, Ms. Kahn conducted qualitative interviews with key members of the judicial system, social service sector, health system, and the women's movement. Ms. Kahn is currently in the process of analyzing her data with the intention of submitting an article for publication focusing on issues of family violence against women as seen by professionals working within the judicial system by the end of May.

Ms. Kahn's interests spread across issues of family violence, immigration, refugees, and asylum, and the crossover between the different areas.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Emily Brueckner

Emily Brueckner joined the Field Center as a student intern in September 2005. She is currently in her last year of the Master's of Social Work program at the University of Pennsylvania and will graduate in May.

Between her time as an undergraduate and her return to graduate school, Ms. Brueckner spent a year volunteering at Sojourner Center, a domestic violence shelter for women and children in Phoenix. The combination of her undergraduate study of family violence and her work at the shelter served as her inspiration to return to graduate school. Ms. Brueckner points out that one of the reasons why she chose to pursue her MSW at Penn was because of the opportunity to work with Dr. Gelles (Dean of the School of Social Work and Field Center Co-Director) on issues of family violence. "I knew about the Field Center before I decided to come to Penn, and was drawn to the multi-disciplinary approach of the Center," says Ms. Brueckner.

Outside of the Field Center, Ms. Brueckner is actively involved at the University of Pennsylvania. She served as the Social Work Student Council Vice President and the Chair of the Class Gift Campaign, and is a Graduate Associate in Stouffer College House, an undergraduate residence.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 20, 2005
New York, NY

Second Annual Adoption Policy Conference

Justice Action Center
New York Law School
57 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013
Phone: (212) 431-2314
Email: ckendall@nyls.edu
<http://www.nyls.edu/pages/3238.asp>

June 2-3

Philadelphia, PA

One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare

The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice, and Research
3815 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Phone: 215-573-4769
Email: confer@ssw.upenn.edu
<http://www.ssw.upenn.edu/cwconference/>

June 15-18

New Orleans, LA

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children: 13th Annual National Colloquium

Phone: 608-772-0872
Email: Apsaccolloquium2005@charter.net
<http://apsac.fmhi.usf.edu/>

June 20-22, 2005
Pasadena, CA

Child Welfare League of America Western Region Training Conference

Realities, Risks, and Rewards: Sharing in the Care of Our Children and Families
440 First Street, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-638-4004
<http://www.cwla.org>

June 29, 2005

Los Angeles, CA

Child Maltreatment: Current Issues in Research and Treatment Workshop

Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute
6160 Cornerstone Court East
San Diego, CA 92121
Phone: (858) 623-2777
Email: fvtrain@alliant.edu
<http://www.childrensinstitute.org>



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