ENJOY BROADWAY AND SUPPORT THE FIELD CENTER AT THE SAME TIME!

Purchase tickets at www.givenik.com/fieldcenter and 5% will be donated directly to the Field Center. Take a moment to check out our Givenik.com page (and bookmark it for future reference!) and find great tickets to all of your favorite shows. Help Broadway benefit child abuse!

THE FIELD CENTER BIDS FAREWELL TO BELOVED FACULTY DIRECTOR: REMEMBERING ALAN M. LERNER, ESQ.

The Field Center and the community at large has lost a great partner and friend.

Alan M. Lerner, Esq., Field Center Faculty Director and Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, died on October 7, 2010. A beloved teacher, respected legal scholar, and staunch child advocate, Professor Lerner left an indelible mark on those whose lives he touched.

Professor Lerner represented the University of Pennsylvania Law School at the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research. He founded and co-taught Penn Law’s Child Advocacy Clinic that brought law, medical, and social work students together to learn about child advocacy and child representation. Professor Lerner was an admired teacher and mentor, and he inspired many a student to pursue a life of commitment and compassion.

His career had its roots in the civil rights movement of the ‘60s, when he traveled to Mississippi to help register black citizens to vote. His passion for civil rights permeated his work. Professor Lerner’s career included public service as a member of the Lower Merion School Board and a notable law career in Philadelphia before joining Penn Law’s faculty in 1993.

While teaching law students the practice of law, Professor Lerner was also an integral part of the local legal community committed to serving the needs of abused and neglected children. He was a revered advocate for children in the child welfare system and he served as a member of the Philadelphia Advocates Roundtable, often joining with and leading his peers in collaborating on improved policies and practices in the field.

Professor Lerner was named a Bellow Scholar, an award bestowed on projects that embody the ideals of justice and transformation, for his work on Identifying the Red Flags of Child Neglect to Facilitate Evidence-Based Focused Responses. Among his academic interests were improving the representation of children in dependency

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THE FIELD CENTER FOR CHILDREN’S POLICY, PRACTICE & RESEARCH

Guided by the Schools of Social Policy & Practice, Law, and Medicine and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, the Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & 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.

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THE FIELD CENTER CONvenes NATIONAL THINK TANK ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION SHARING

The University of Pennsylvania’s Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research, in collaboration with Stewards of Change, is hosting a conference on Addressing the Myth and Reality of Confidentiality and Privacy in Cross System Information Sharing. This groundbreaking effort will be held on Penn’s campus on November 8 and 9, 2010 and will convene experts and stakeholders for an invitation-only “think tank” to explore challenges, generate solutions and establish standards of practice.

With generous support from the Hite Foundation in memory of Sybil E. Hite, the William Penn Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice, and Montgomery County, PA, the Field Center is convening national experts and thought leaders to explore the application of confidentiality and privacy to sharing of client information. The goal of the conference is to bring significant stakeholders together to talk about confidentiality in reference to information and portability, and follow up with solutions, with applications both locally and nationally. Confidentiality is perceived as the most significant barrier to sharing of information across systems, the foundation of an interoperable system of care. By bringing together the best thinkers, scholars and practitioners in this area, the issue of confidentiality as both a barrier and potential enabler of information sharing can be addressed, and national standards of practice can be established.

Over the past three years, the Field Center has embarked on research, analysis, convening of experts, and piloting the development of technology to improve decision-making and outcomes in child welfare and human services. Throughout this process, challenges to development and implementation of systemic change have been identified. Confidentiality is the most frequently cited barrier to implementation of an interoperable system of information sharing. Naysayers cite privacy issues as an insurmountable barrier to moving forward. In addition, a myriad of regulations provide hurdles to overcome.

The extensive research conducted by the Field Center cites specific rules, laws, and regulations that potentially impact the sharing of information. Before moving forward in establishing such interoperable systems, further direction and clarification is critical. The proposed sharing of information across systems is precedent setting in the field. In order to establish local and national standards of practice in regard to sharing information that is often viewed as confidential, it is critical to gather and integrate the latest research and thinking, and to examine promising practices from around the country. Approximately 50 experts and thought leaders with both local and national representation will participate in this invitation-only conference, culminating in the production of a white paper.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS RELEASES POLICY STATEMENT ON CHILD FATALITY REVIEWS

From Cindy W. Christian, MD, Robert D. Sege, MD, PhD, The Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, The Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention, The Council on Community Pediatrics

Injury remains the leading cause of pediatric mortality and requires public health approaches to reduce preventable deaths. Child fatality review teams, first established to review suspicious child deaths involving abuse or neglect, have expanded to a public health model of prevention of child fatality through systematic review of child deaths from birth through adolescence. Approximately half of all states report reviewing child deaths from all causes, and the process of fatality review has identified effective local and state prevention strategies for reducing child deaths. This expanded approach can be a powerful tool in understanding the epidemiology and preventability of child death locally, regionally, and nationally; improving accuracy of vital statistics data; and identifying public health and legislative strategies for reducing preventable child fatalities. The American Academy of Pediatrics supports the development of federal and state legislation to enhance the child fatality review process and recommends that pediatricians become involved in local and state child death reviews.
Background
The Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research conducted a research study, completed in 2005, that examined the experiences and needs of families awaiting dependency proceedings in Philadelphia Family Court at 1801 Vine Street. Among the findings were that families were spending extensive amounts of time in the Philadelphia Family Court waiting room, with the majority (63%) waiting at least 2 hours in the waiting room before being called into the courtroom to see the judge. Project PENN was designed to take advantage of the time that parents are waiting at the courthouse by helping them access some of the many concrete services that they need, those that frequently cause stress and disruption in families and place children at risk for harm.

After several years of planning and funded through an endowment gift establishing the Nancy Glickenhaus Family Court Program, Project PENN was launched at Philadelphia Family Court in October of 2009 to address some of the findings in this study. Under the supervision of Field Center staff, University of Pennsylvania second-year Master of Social Work (MSW) students provide onsite staffing of Project PENN. Starting with one morning per week in its pilot year, Project PENN staff approached families in the large multi-courtroom waiting room (serving courtrooms E, F, G, H, and J), offering to assist them in obtaining needed services. Philadelphia Family Court supplied office space with phone and internet access on site so project staff could have private conversations with parents while offering them immediate assistance and referrals; appointments with community agencies could be scheduled while the family was still at the courthouse.

Prior research found that 29% of families awaiting court hearings lacked information about social services such as housing, employment and financial assistance and 39% did not know what services were available to them. Project PENN developed an extensive 80-page resource directory with information on the various concrete services that families need, including emergency and long-term housing, food assistance, health care, employment, and utility resources. A hard copy of the directory and handouts on various resources were made available for client use. Additionally, applications for CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) were provided and families were offered assistance in completing these complex applications while they were waiting for their cases to be called.

Although families awaiting dependency proceedings have a multitude of needs, Project PENN is designed to focus specifically on referrals for concrete services as it hoped that, if provided with assistance in this area, the family’s DHS caseworker could focus on helping the family access therapeutic services that address issues of child protection. Additionally, Project PENN is designed as a voluntary program and only available to families while they are at the courthouse so compliance with services cannot be monitored.

Program Methodology
During the program’s pilot year, Project PENN was operational on Monday mornings on an academic calendar, from 9:00 am until noon. Between 12 and 15 families and/or professionals availed themselves of services during each session. In order to engage families, Project PENN staff approached adults in the waiting room, informed them about the program and inquired if there are services or needs with which Project PENN might help. Families were able to see what services are available through the Project PENN resource directory and then choose whether or not they would like some assistance from the program. Families were offered the opportunity to speak privately in the Project PENN office; being respectful of families was modeled throughout the program. Previous Field Center research found that 52% of individuals interviewed were somewhat bothered or very bothered by the presence of the other people while discussing their case in the waiting room.

Project PENN staff helped the families prioritize their most compelling needs, and assisted in identifying resources to meet those needs. Families were provided with information and referrals for services, and Project PENN staff often contacted agencies directly to access information and schedule appointments. Written material on their specific service needs was provided to the family as well.

Results
Over the course of the first year, Project PENN was staffed eighteen times, accumulating a total 54 hours of direct service to families. A total of 129, or 55% of families and professionals that were approached and offered services through Project PENN accepted and received services. Of those who received services, 88% were families awaiting court hearings. A full 58% of families that were offered services accepted and received services through Project

continued on page 6
Professor Lerner will be dearly missed by an expansive community of colleagues and friends. A few chose to share personal tributes.

"I write a great deal, but now I find that my words are nowhere near adequate to sum up my feelings or pay tribute to my colleague and friend Alan Lerner. Alan was a pillar who held up the Field Center. When I was with him he had a cool and reserved passion for children, the law, and baseball. From his stories, I suspect the coolness could be heated up when he was advocating a point in court. As I write this, half a world away, my enduring image of Alan is his smile and his bowtie. He always was there at our meetings with a thoughtful and insightful answer to any question. My time with Alan was as close as I would ever get studying the law, and Alan made my study a pure pleasure. Alan was a scrappy ballplayer—we played only once when I was preparing for my own trip to Phillies Dream camp. The Field Center could never have evolved into what it has become without the patience and stewardship of Alan. I will miss him greatly."

Richard J. Gelles, PhD
Dean, Penn School of Social Policy & Practice

"Having taught with Alan twice a week, both fall and spring semesters, for almost a decade, I can say with conviction that he was the most dedicated teacher I know at Penn. His commitment to his students was extraordinary, and I’m sure you can find many who will tell you about his impact on their legal education and careers. He was a fierce advocate for the vulnerable children he and his students represented, a loving husband, father and grandfather, and a great fan of baseball. I will miss him dearly. He was a wonderful colleague and friend."

Cindy W. Christian, MD
Chair of Child Abuse Prevention, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

"Alan Lerner brought light into the room. His passion and compassion, energy and wit, fully engaged those around him. He was a joyous man who lived life to its fullest. Philadelphia’s children have lost a great advocate, and his family has lost a loving husband, father and grandfather. A wonderful inspiration and mentor, Alan’s gifts will live on in those who were lucky to have known him. He leaves a void that won’t easily be filled. I will miss him."

Debra Schilling Wolfe, MEd
Executive Director, Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research

"Alan Lerner was a special guy. Having made a seamless transition from twenty-five years of corporate law practice to the world of clinical education (how many people could do that?), he proceeded to do what he always had done: teach as much by his example as by his word. He was a model for what it means to be dedicated to a case and, especially, to a client. He loved to win but accepted losses philosophically, as a source of learning. He defined “supportive” and was as generous of spirit as he was with his time. He believed strongly but was no ideologue and did not preach. He was mature in the best (and the many) senses of that word yet always seemed younger than his years. He never stopped growing, as a lawyer or as a person.

“Alan would have loved to read the words that have been written about him. But he would be even prouder (and rightfully so) of his true legacy—the generations of young lawyers and law students whose lives he touched and whose careers he nurtured and inspired. I feel privileged to have had Alan as a colleague for nearly two decades and as a friend for nearly four. If there is any consolation in this terrible loss, it is that Alan lived his too-short life fully, purposefully, and well. The halls of our program are a much poorer place without the man with the bowtie, the infectious laugh and the twinkle in his eye.”

Douglas N. Frenkel, Esq.
Morris M. Shuster Practice Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

We are grateful to the following individuals, foundations and organizations for their generous support of the Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

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Your tax-deductible donation to the Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research enables us to continue our critical work. Thanks to a challenge grant from the Joseph and Marie Field Foundation, gifts are matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

An envelope is attached for your convenience, or you may give a gift online by visiting www.fieldcenteratpenn.org. For more information, please contact Field Center Executive Director Debra Schilling Wolfe at (215) 573-5442 or dwolfe@sp2.upenn.edu.
FOCUS ON THE FIELD CENTER

THE FIELD CENTER’S TEAM IN TRANSITION: GOODBYE AND WELCOME

Anyone who has had contact with the Field Center over the past three years has had the pleasure of working with Deena Caswell, the Field Center’s Administrative Coordinator and Conference Manager. Effective October 1, Deena is moving on to exciting new opportunities. We wish her well as she relocates to Connecticut and begins work on her Masters in Library Science degree.

The Field Center would like to welcome Heather Farnath as its new Administrative Coordinator. Heather brings a wealth of experience to the Field Center, including serving as Events Coordinator for Perelman Quad on the University of Pennsylvania campus. She received her BA in English from Penn. Heather looks forward to joining the Field Center team.

FIELD CENTER ADVISORY BOARD PROFILE: DR. JANIS GOODMAN

Janis Goodman joined the Field Center Advisory Board in 2009 to serve as co-chair of the event committee for the Field Center’s 5th Anniversary celebration, with former Advisory Board chair Maida Milone. She has remained an active and vibrant member of the Board, serving on the Marketing and Development Committee.

Dr. Goodman earned a BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Missouri, and also holds an MFA in Theatre Management from Florida State University, and an MA in Anthropology, Master of Social Work, and PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Pennsylvania. She has continued her involvement with the School of Social Policy & Practice as a mentor for PhD applicants and students.

In addition to her participation on the Field Center Advisory Board, Dr. Goodman is also chair of the board of trustees for the Pennsylvania Ballet and member of the board of directors for the Alliance Française. With a passion for diversity, social work, theater and French culture and language, she enjoys spreading her focus across her many interests.

Dr. Goodman and her husband Stephen, a partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, recently purchased an apartment in Paris and look forward to sharing their time between Philadelphia and France.

Dr. Goodman has been a great asset to the Field Center’s Advisory Board, and we look forward to her continued efforts.

FIELD CENTER STUDENT PROFILE: DANIEL J. KNAPP

Daniel J. Knapp joined the Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research in September 2010 as an MSW intern. Prior to moving to Philadelphia, he spent four years at FosterClub, the national network of young people from foster care, with a mission to connect, educate, inspire and represent foster youth. Dan’s personal adoption from the foster care system allowed him to connect with the youth he served, and he was promoted to the position of Director of Young Leaders. He also served on the Board of Directors for the National Foster Care Coalition.

Prior to enrolling at Penn’s School of Social Policy & Practice, Dan earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from the University at Buffalo and a Masters in Education from Elmira College. After earning his MSW, he hopes to engage in research and advocacy at the policy level to catalyze change in the child welfare system. He continues to work with FosterClub as a consultant and recently traveled to Washington, DC to promote pre- and post-adoption services to the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth.

NEW FAMILY COURT INITIATIVE MEETS WITH SUCCESS: PROJECT PENN COMPLETES PILOT YEAR

(continued from page 3)

PENN. This was a higher engagement and utilization rate than anticipated. Four families requested assistance from Project PENN a second time when at the courthouse for a subsequent hearing.

Housing assistance was by far the most frequently requested service, with 53% of families requesting help with securing some form of housing. Employment and education (23%) and utility assistance (22%) were the next most requested services. Child and after-school care (17%), health care (16%), and legal assistance (15%) followed closely behind. As families who are at the point of needing court intervention in their lives often have multiple overwhelming needs, Project PENN attempted to help families prioritize their most pressing needs. While 83% of families asked for assistance in one area, 29% requested assistance with two services. Thirteen percent requested three types of services and 4% asked for help in four or more areas.

Footnotes
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE &amp; LOCATION</th>
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<th>CONTACT INFORMATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anaheim, CA</td>
<td>2010 Conference on Differential Response in Child Welfare</td>
<td>Phone: (800) 227-4645&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:candyl@AmericanHumane.org">candyl@AmericanHumane.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://www.americanhumane.org/protectingchildren/programs/differential-response/">http://www.americanhumane.org/protectingchildren/programs/differential-response/</a></td>
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<td>November 8 – 10, 2010</td>
<td>American Humane Association</td>
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<td>Palms Springs, CA</td>
<td>12th National Indian Nations Conference: Justice for Victims of Crime</td>
<td>Phone: (323) 650-5467&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:Conference@tlpi.org">Conference@tlpi.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://ovcinc.org">http://ovcinc.org</a></td>
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<td>December 9 – 11, 2010</td>
<td>Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)/Tribal Law and Policy Institute</td>
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<td>Tampa Bay, FL</td>
<td>Society for Social Work and Research Fifteenth Annual Conference</td>
<td>Phone: (703) 352-7797&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:info@sswr.org">info@sswr.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://www.sswr.org/conferences.php">http://www.sswr.org/conferences.php</a></td>
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<td>January 12 – 16, 2011</td>
<td>Society for Social Work and Research</td>
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<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>25th Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment</td>
<td>Phone: (858) 966-8572&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:jnelson@rchsd.org">jnelson@rchsd.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://www.chadwickcenter.org">http://www.chadwickcenter.org</a></td>
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<td>January 22 – 28, 2011</td>
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<td>Pasadena, CA</td>
<td>7th Annual Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss Conference</td>
<td>Phone: (626) 455-4585&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://ican4kids.org/conferences_Grief.asp">http://ican4kids.org/conferences_Grief.asp</a></td>
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<td>March 23, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law</td>
<td>Phone: (775) 784-6012&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:dbarnette@ncjfcj.org">dbarnette@ncjfcj.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1313/315">http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1313/315</a></td>
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<td>March 27 – 30, 2011</td>
<td>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>CWLA’s 2011 National Conference</td>
<td>Phone: (703) 412-2400&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:state2011@cwla.org">state2011@cwla.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://www.cwla.org/conferences">http://www.cwla.org/conferences</a></td>
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<td>March 27 - 30, 2011</td>
<td>Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>One Child Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:onechild@sp2.upenn.edu">onechild@sp2.upenn.edu</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://www.onechildmanyhands.org">www.onechildmanyhands.org</a></td>
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<td>June 6 – 8, 2011</td>
<td>Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice &amp; Research University of Pennsylvania</td>
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Fall 2010

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for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research

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