



News From the Field

National child welfare policy, practice and research

From the Desk of the Executive Director

The plight of children being separated from their parents at the border is a stark reminder of the trauma faced by children who are removed from their parents' care. Our hearts go out to these children and families whose lives will be forever impacted by this experience.

Much of the Field Center's work looks to lessen the trauma and improve the lives of children who are removed from their homes because of child abuse or neglect and placed in out-of-home care. This issue of *News From the Field* highlights just some of the ways that the Field Center strives to improve the lives of these children through innovative initiatives, translational research, and investing in their future.

Please join me in keeping all children impacted by trauma in your thoughts, and make a pledge to advocate for those without a voice.

Debra Schilling Wolfe
Executive Director
The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research



NEW RESEARCH STUDY EXAMINES MACROECONOMIC FACTORS IMPACTING FOSTER HOME SHORTAGE

The Field Center has initiated an important new research study to examine the impact of economic factors on the availability of foster homes nationwide. Two University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice faculty members, [Dr. Ioana Marinescu](#), economist, and [Dr. Johanna Greeson](#), Field Center faculty director and foster care expert, are leading this effort, which is being conducted in collaboration with [Fostering Media Connections](#) and release of their upcoming Foster Care Capacity Report.



The analysis provided by the Field Center team will attempt to ascertain what larger macroeconomic trends may be impacting the systemic ability to recruit and retain a foster parent "workforce."

Research questions include:

- How do trends in wages and employment affect the availability of foster parents?
- How do housing costs affect the availability of foster parents?
- To what extent could an increase in foster care board rates compensate for the effects of other trends that decrease the availability of foster parents?

The [Field Center](#) will be publishing its findings in a white paper in 2019.

NO LONGER JUST A DREAM: MAKING COLLEGE A REALITY FOR FOSTER YOUTH

With the support of The Philadelphia Foundation, the Field Center offered a robust program titled "No Longer Just a Dream: Making College a Reality for Foster Youth" to support increasing the number of foster youth who apply to and attend college. The event, hosted at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, was attended at full capacity, with nearly 150 child welfare and other youth-serving professionals representing over 50 different community agencies. Attendees were excited to receive critical information on a topic that is often overlooked in child welfare. This training was developed with assistance from the [Field Center's Foster Care to College Work Group's](#) Training Committee to provide professionals with tools and strategies to support higher education access and success for the foster youth that they serve.



Click [here](#) for more information about the training program.

PA Foster Care Tuition Waiver Legislation - Webinar Training

The Field Center collaborated with Juvenile Law Center on a webinar on [Pennsylvania's pending legislation, HB 1745, the Fostering Independence Through Education Act](#), to provide tuition waivers and support for foster youth attending Pennsylvania public colleges.

Click [here](#) to view the webinar training.

Stay Connected and Stay Informed

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Upcoming Conferences, Trainings, & Events

FFTA 32nd Annual Conference
July 8-11, 2018
Atlanta, GA
[More information](#)

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 81st Annual Conference
July 22-25, 2018
Denver, CO
[More information](#)

NACAC's 2018 Conference
Aug 7-10, 2018
Saint Paul, MN
[More Information](#)

30th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference
Aug 13-16, 2018
Dallas, TX
[More information](#)

JuST 2018 Conference
Oct 16-18, 2018
San Diego, CA
[More information](#)

2018 Conference on Innovations in Family Engagement

On February 9, 2018 President Trump signed the "Further Extension of the Appropriations Act of 2018" (PL 115-123). While most of the attention to the bill focused on the federal budget, for the child welfare community the most important part of the bill was the "[Families First Prevention and Services Act.](#)" The Families First Act is the first major revision of federal rules for foster care funding in twenty years. Since its enactment in 1980, Title IV-E of the Social Security Act of 1935 (PL 74-271) has restricted the nearly \$7 billion in federal funds for foster to the costs of board of foster children, administrative costs, and training.



Under the new law, states will be eligible for federal Title IV-E matching fund for services that prevent the need to place children in out-of-home care. However, the new bill also comes with restrictions on how the prevention funds may be used.

As this groundbreaking legislation is implemented, the Field Center will monitor and support its impact on children and families.

Oct 16-19, 2018
Vail, CO
[More information](#)

30th Annual NAEHCY Conference
Oct 27-30, 2018
Anaheim, CA
[More information](#)

Council on Social Work Education 64th Annual Program Meeting
Nov 8-11, 2018
Orlando, FL
[More information](#)

APHA's 2018 Annual Meeting & Expo
Nov 10-14, 2018
San Diego, CA
[More information](#)

1st ISPCAN Caribbean Regional Conference
Dec 2-5, 2018
Aurora, CO
[More information](#)

SSWR Twenty-Third Annual Conference
Jan 16-20, 2019
San Francisco, CA
[More information](#)

PA COLLEGES RECEIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LAUNCH CAMPUS SUPPORT PROGRAMS



The Field Center



completed the training of a second cohort of colleges and universities who are developing campus support programs for students who have experienced foster

care.

This cohort of Southeastern Pennsylvania institutions is comprised of Chestnut Hill College, Manor College, Montgomery County Community College, and Penn State Abington. These four schools join the Field Center's inaugural cohort of Cabrini University, Community College of Philadelphia, Temple University, and West Chester University as some of the first institutions in the state making a unique commitment to provide campus supports and positively impact educational outcomes for foster youth.

In early June 2018, the Field Center engaged in a menu of activities with the partner schools from the second cohort to assist them in program design, including consultation and technical assistance provided by national expert Maddy Day, Director of Outreach and Training for Fostering Success Michigan. Each of the partner schools will receive ongoing support from the Field Center as they continue to develop campus programming.

Click [here](#) to read more about the Field Center's Campus Support program support.

Help advance the work of the Field Center

The [Field Center](#) is pioneering innovative and critical work in child welfare.

All gifts made to the Field Center will be generously matched by the [Joseph and Marie Field Foundation](#) through June 30th 2018.

[DONATE NOW](#)

To learn more about how you can support out work, please contact Director of Development [Hannah Rawdin](#) at hrawdin@upenn.edu or (215) 573-9724.

For more information [click here](#).

FIELD CENTER FACULTY DIRECTOR TENURE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Field Center is pleased to announce that two of its faculty directors were recently awarded tenure by the University of Pennsylvania. [Dr. Tony Garcia](#) and [Dr. Johanna Greeson](#), both faculty at Penn's School of Social Policy & Practice, were promoted to Associate Professors by the Provost.

In addition to their appointments with the Field Center, Drs. Greeson and Garcia are Co-Directors of the School of Social Policy & Practice's Child Well-Being & Child Welfare Specialization.

Both Dr. Garcia and Dr. Greeson joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania in 2012.



FIELD CENTER RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Foster Care: Child Welfare's Responsibility and Challenge, authored by a Field Center team including [Debra Schilling Wolfe, MEd](#), [Sarah Wasch, MSW](#), [Bethany Watson, MA](#), [Nneka Ibekwe, MSW, EdM](#), and [Johanna Green PhD, MSS, MLSP](#), was published in a special issue of the APSAC Advisor on foster care (Volume 30, Issue 2). Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Faculty Director [Cynthia A. Connolly, RN, PhD](#), along with Janet Golden, PhD, published "Save 100,000 Babies": *The 1918 Children's Year and Its Legacy* in *Public Health Then and Now*, American Journal of Public Health, July 2018, Vol. 108, No. 7. Click [here](#) to view the article.

Field Center Executive Director [Debra Schilling Wolfe](#) provided testimony in support of HB 1745, the Fostering Independence Through Education Act, that would provide tuition waivers at Pennsylvania state colleges for foster youth. Click [here](#) to read the full testimony.

[Seth Morones](#), Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow, presented a workshop entitled Fostering the Future: Making College a Reality for Philadelphia Foster Youth at the Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development K-16 June Institute.

BYU radio's *Top of the Mind with Julie Rose* recently interviewed Field Center Executive [Director Debra Schilling Wolfe](#) about the Field Center's research on child sex trafficking and its correlates with child welfare. To listen to the interview, click [here](#).

EMPOWERING CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS THROUGH AWARENESS AND CREATIVITY

This spring, Field Center Advisory Board member Klair Fitzpatrick hosted a family-friendly event at her home to bring awareness of the center's work and provide an opportunity for kids in attendance to give back to other children. Adults in the room heard from the Executive Director about the breadth and depth of the work of the Field Center while enjoying brunch provided by the host.

The highlight of the day involved the creation of Superhero Capes by the children in attendance. Pictured here, the capes were created by each of the kids with love and care while they learned the importance of supporting others who need a helping hand.

In honor of Foster Care Month, the capes were presented to Philadelphia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to be given to the children they represent in child abuse and neglect proceedings in Philadelphia Family Court.

Click [here](#) to see photos from the event.



Protecting Children, Preserving Dreams

The Field Center is a collaboration of



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Click the link below to learn more about The Field Center
www.fieldcenteratpenn.org

To receive more information about Field Center work, trainings, and events please click [HERE](#).