



News From the Field

National child welfare policy, practice and research

From the Desk of the Executive Director

As 2018 draws to a close, we have a great deal to be thankful for as we continue our work to improving the lives of victims of child abuse and neglect and those who are involved with the child welfare system.

Among our accomplishments over the past year:

- * We collaborated with Child Welfare League of America to introduce the topic of Insular and Isolated Communities, and those who are not known to the child welfare system, through serving as Guest Editors of a first-ever volume of essays and encouraging further work on this under-researched topic.
- * The Field Center selected and has begun to provide technical assistance to a third cohort of campus-based support programs for foster youth at Pennsylvania colleges and universities, bringing the number of new programs to a total of 14 across the state.
- * Combining the expertise of faculty focusing on foster care and economics, the Field Center initiated research examining microeconomic factors that impact the foster care system, specifically addressing the capacity of the child welfare system to provide foster homes for all children needing placement.
- * After three years of Field Center advocacy, minor victims of sex trafficking will no longer be charged with prostitution but instead will be provided with needed services, with the recent passage of Safe Harbor legislation in Pennsylvania.
- * We published a comprehensive directory of support services for foster youth on college campuses across Pennsylvania, the first of its kind.
- * Field Center experts continue to share their knowledge, publishing research and presenting their work locally, nationally and internationally.

As we turn the page to 2019, we look forward to furthering systemic change through the efforts of our multidisciplinary team, to benefit the lives of vulnerable children.

From all of us at the Field Center, thank you for partnering with us in our work. We wish you all the best for the New Year.

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

Just Published: Campus Programming Directory for Foster Youth

The Field Center just released Pennsylvania's first statewide directory of campus programs for foster youth. The **Campus Programming Directory for Foster Youth** highlights campus programs and supports at higher education institutions across the Commonwealth, with a special focus on specific campus-based support programs for foster youth. Click [here](#) to view the directory online.

Click [here](#) to view the directory.

Stay Connected and Stay Informed

Stay up to date with the latest in child welfare by following the Field Center on social media. Click the buttons below to follow The Field Center.

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Like us on Facebook



Upcoming Conferences, Trainings, & Events

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

2019 Violence Intervention and Protection (VIP) Summit
Feb 6-8, 2019
Orlando, FL
[More information](#)

2019 National Conference on Juvenile Justice
Mar 17-20, 2019
Las Vegas, NV
[More information](#)

National Children's Advocacy Center 35th Annual Symposium on Child Abuse
Mar 18-21, 2019

SAVE THE DATE!

One Child, Many Hands
A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare
The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice & Research
June 5 - 7, 2019

DEADLINE EXTENDED

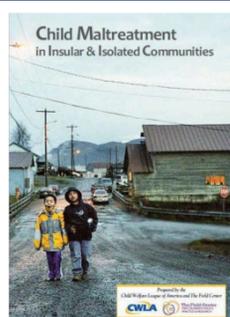
The Field Center has issued a [Call for Presentations](#). Proposed presentations are solicited that advance the field of child welfare from the perspective of a variety of disciplines. Information can be found on the conference website at onechildmanyhands.org and submission materials may be accessed directly by clicking [here](#). Proposals must include a cover sheet, maximum 25-word abstract, three learning objectives, and maximum 500-word description. The deadline for submissions has been extended to **January 5, 2018**.

The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research will hold its biennial **One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare** in Philadelphia, June 5 - 7, 2019 at the beautiful and historic University of Pennsylvania Law School. The multi-day conference will consist of three days of learning, featuring compelling Keynote Speakers, cutting-edge Plenary Panels, a variety of Workshops presented by national and international experts, closing with a Networking Luncheon.

FIELD CENTER GUEST EDITS NEW ESSAY COLLECTION PUBLISHED BY CWLA ON CHILD MALTREATMENT IN INSULAR AND ISOLATED COMMUNITIES

A newly-released online essay collection, the result of a collaboration between the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and the Field Center, addresses the need for more substantive research and increased awareness around child maltreatment within underrepresented and isolated populations. The essays selected for publication in *Child Maltreatment in Insular & Isolated Communities*, now available for download on the CWLA website ([here](#)), explore a diverse range of populations that are disproportionately underserved within the child welfare system, and consider new ways to support and engage these communities.

Field Center executive director **Debra Schilling Wolfe**, faculty director **Dr. Antonio Garcia**, and Penn School of Social Policy & Practice **Dean John Jackson** served as Guest Editors of this issue. The essays will serve to inform a forthcoming issue of the peer-reviewed journal, *Child Welfare*.



ECONOMIC BARRIERS AND FOSTER FAMILY RECRUITMENT



The Chronicle of Social Change convened a panel presentation on November 13, 2018 at the Rayburn House Office Building on "**Economic Barriers and Foster Family Recruitment.**" With a welcome by Congresswoman Karen Bass, co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, Chronicle publisher Daniel Heimpel discussed their recent national foster home capacity study, comparing the demand for foster care placements with available foster homes across the country.

Economist **Dr. Ioana Marinescu** presented preliminary findings from a Field Center research study, conducted with co-Principal Investigator and foster care expert **Dr. Johanna Greeson**, on macroeconomic factors that may impact the systemic ability to recruit and retain a foster parent workforce. **The Field Center** will be publishing its research findings in a new White Paper in early 2019. Click [here](#) to view the presentation.

(Photographed left to right: Karen Bass, United States Congress; Daniel Heimpel, Fostering Media Connections; Jennifer Jones, Alliance for Strong Families and Communities; Arny Eby, Foster Parent; Dr. Ioana Marinescu, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice)

Huntsville, AL
[More information](#)

8th Annual Strengthening Families Summit
April 1, 2019
Concord, NH
[More information](#)

National Conference on Access to Justice for Children and Families
April 9-12, 2019
Tyson's Corner, VA
[More information](#)

2019 National Conference, Advancing in Practice & Policy: Meeting the Challenge of the Family First Prevention Services Act
April 9-13, 2019
Washington, DC
[More information](#)

National Conference on Parent Representation
April 11-12, 2019
Tyson's Corner, VA
[More information](#)

26th Annual National Foster Care Conference
May 15-17, 2019
St. Petersburg, FL
[More information](#)

2019 National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium (NHSTES)
May 21-23, 2019
Baltimore, MD
[More information](#)

2019 National IV-E Roundtable for Child Welfare Training and Education
May 21-23, 2019
Atlantic City, NJ
[More information](#)

One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare
June 5-7, 2019
Philadelphia, PA
[More information](#)

APSAC's 26th Colloquium
June 18-22, 2019
Salt Lake City, UT
[More information](#)

2019 National Adoption Conference: Adoption on My Mind
June 25-27, 2019
Atlanta, GA
[More information](#)

NACAC 45th Annual Conference
July 17-20, 2019
Las Vegas, NV
[More information](#)

SAFE HARBOR FOR MINOR VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING BECOMES LAW IN PA

Child victims of sex trafficking in Pennsylvania will no longer be charged with prostitution and instead will be provided with needed services, thanks to the recent passage of "**Safe Harbor**" legislation. The Field Center has long advocated for this bill and was invited to its signing by Governor Tom Wolf in November.

In 2016, the Field Center published a White Paper entitled *An Analysis of Safe Harbor Laws for Minor Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Implications for Pennsylvania and Other States* ([view here](#)) that was disseminated to legislators and other concerned stakeholders. We offered testimony in support of this bill the following year ([read here](#)). Our groundbreaking national research study on *Human Trafficking Prevalence and Child Welfare Risk Factors Among Homeless Youth: A Multi-City Study* ([view report](#)) was published in 2018, further illuminating the scope of the problem.



PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS IN CHILD WELFARE

The Field Center Faculty Directors invited **Professor Richard Berk**, Professor of Criminology and Statistics at the University of Pennsylvania to speak on the topic of **Predictive Analytics**.

Dr. Berk is an international expert on evaluation research and statistical analysis. He has worked with the Philadelphia Department of Adult Probation and Parole and applies statistical algorithms to predict risk of repeated crime among the more than 50,000 adults on probation and parole. Dr. Berk's presentation examined the possible application of Predictive Analytics to child protective services.



To watch a video of the presentation, including Q&A conversation, click [here](#).



Help Advance the Work of the Field Center

[Double your impact at the Field Center now](#) and help ensure that all children to go sleep safer tonight than they did the night before.

Every dollar counts as the Field Center continues to pioneer innovative and critical work in child welfare. All gifts will be generously matched dollar for dollar by the Joseph and Marie Field Foundation.

LEGAL CHALLENGE TO THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978



During the period between the enactment of **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act** in 1974 (Public Law # 93-247) and the year the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (Public Law # 96-272) became law, a disproportionate number of Native-American children were removed from their parents and placed in the foster care system.

Between 1974 and 1978 in some states, the proportion of the foster care population made up of Native-American children reached as high as 25-35 percent (Myers, 2006). The vast majority of the children were placed outside of their tribe with non-Indian families. In response to a multi-year study of the placement of Indian children (Fanshel, 1972), tribal advocacy groups challenged such practices.

The **Indian Child Welfare Act** (ICWA) of 1978 (Public Law # 95-608) established standards for child custody proceedings related to foster care, termination of parental rights, and adoption of Indian children. The standards included: tribal court jurisdiction over children who reside on the reservations; the requirement of notification to the tribe of state or local proceedings involving the placement of an Indian child living off of the reservation, along with tribal rights to intervene and request transfer of the proceeding to a tribal court; an increased standard of proof-clear and convincing evidence; and placement preferences for the extended family or tribe (Pecora et al., 2000). ([Continue reading here](#))



PREPARING LEADERS IN CHILD ADVOCACY AND WELFARE

The **Penn Futures Project** is a partnership between three professional schools at the University of Pennsylvania-the Graduate School of Education, the School of Nursing, and the School of Social Policy & Practice-to address the challenges facing marginalized children and their families. It pioneers a bold, integrated approach to issues like poverty, mental health, healthcare access, and educational equity.

To be an effective advocate for children and families, students must understand that context matters and be committed to team-based, inter-professional advocacy. This project will create a multidisciplinary child advocacy certificate program that will teach students-among them future social workers, pediatricians, lawyers, nurses, and teachers-the role of education, health care, and legal systems in the lives of their clients. It will also highlight the importance of understanding the impact of trauma, mental health, and child and adolescent development on care. The project will also provide a template for creating other cross-school certificates at the University in the future.

Field Center faculty directors [Dr. Cindy Connolly](#) (Penn Nursing) and [Dr. Antonio Garcia](#) (School of Social Policy & Practice), along with faculty affiliate [Caroline Watts, EdD](#). (Graduate School of Education), are involved on the ground floor of this innovative new program.

The **Penn Futures Project** work group convened focus groups of community stakeholders, Penn students, and faculty in Spring 2018 to gauge interest in, and suggestions for, a child advocacy certificate. In Fall, 2018, there will also hold be a focus group with foster youth from Youth United for Change. As a result of these focus groups and discussions, a three-level framework for certificate requirements has been developed. At the university level, the work group continues to assess and work through the issues that facilitate and challenge an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program.



DONATE NOW

Among the key projects we are working on is improving the foster care system in the United States. On the average night, some 420,000 children go to sleep in foster care. Each year, 20,000 children age out of the foster care system. Read our [Annual Appeal letter](#) to hear the stories of those directly impacted by the system and how we can effectively intervene"

For more information [click here](#).



FIELD CENTER RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Three members of the Field Center presented at the Duke University School of Law Conference, "Silent Victims: Foster Care and Foster Care Adoption in America" on November 16, 2018. Managing Faculty Director [Richard J. Gelles, PhD](#) delivered the conference Keynote Address. Faculty Director [Johanna Greeson, PhD](#) presented on a panel entitled, "The Opioid Crisis: What Can be Done for Children." Faculty Affiliate [Cassie Statuto Bevan, EdD](#) presented on a panel entitled, "ASFA and the Families First Prevention and Services Act: What is Going Right/What is Going Wrong." For more information click [here](#).

Executive Director [Debra Schilling Wolfe, MEd](#) authored an article entitled "Foster Care Youths at Risk for Child Sex Trafficking," published in the November 2018 digital issue of Social Work Today. Click [here](#) to view the article.

[Seth Morones, MEd](#), Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow, presented a workshop on "Foster Care and Access to Higher Education" and participated in a panel on basic needs insecurity at the 2018 TRIO Conference in State College, PA.

Faculty Director [Cindy Christian, MD](#) participated in a panel presentation at the International ISPCAN annual conference in Prague, Czech Republic. The topic was "An Evidence-based Critique of the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment (SBU) Report on Abusive Head Trauma." For more information click [here](#).

[Sarah Wasch, MSW](#), Program Manager, presented on "Increasing College Access and Success for Students with Experience in Foster Care" at the 2018 Educational Stability for Youth in Foster Care Regional Trainings in Philadelphia, Mechanicsburg, and Pittsburgh, PA.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDENT TRAINING INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHT



The **Multidisciplinary Student Training Institute** offers opportunities for selected students across multiple disciplines to work alongside leaders in the child welfare field while completing their education. In addition to an annual cohort of macro social work students completing a field placement, the Field Center works with graduate students across campus to create the next generation of leaders. The 2018-19 academic year is in full swing with a law fellow studying child welfare policy and a PhD student advancing the center's quantitative research.

[Anya Perret](#) is a 2019 J.D. Candidate at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the Field Center's 2018-19 Lerner Fellow in Child Welfare Policy. Anya is an Executive Editor of the Journal of Law and Social Change and the student director of the Custody and Support Assistance Clinic at Philadelphia Legal Assistance. Prior to law

school, Anya worked for five years in child welfare, social services and early education, bringing to the Field Center her experience as a medical foster care caseworker and a child protective services investigator. Anya has a Master's in Early Childhood Education from Hunter College and a BA in History and Government from Dartmouth College.

[Nneka Ibekwe](#) is a PhD candidate in the Human Development and Quantitative Methods division at The University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Nneka brings experience as a social worker with children and families involved in social welfare programs, the juvenile justice system and academic enrichment programs. She holds an MSW from Columbia University School of Social Work and an EdM from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Prevention Science Research, where she worked as a manager at the Center for Education Policy Research and as a Graduate Teaching Fellow. Nneka received her BA in Sociology and African American Studies from the University of California, Davis.



To read full biographies of current Field Center students click [here](#).

The Field Center in the Media:



[Foster Care Youths at Risk for Child Sex Trafficking](#)
Social Work Today

Involvement in the child welfare system presumes a history of maltreatment for children and youths. When children can no longer remain safely in their own homes, courts may make the difficult decision to transfer care to the responsible child welfare agency, which then secures an alternative living



[Want to Help Poor Children? Give Their Caregivers Cash](#)
The Chronicle of Social Change

During the holiday season, we are all reminded to be grateful for all the good things in our lives. It should also be a time to think about how many of our fellow Americans are far less fortunate than we are. The level of inequality in the U.S. is far above that in other rich countries. The poorest 10 percent of



[New Safe Harbor Law to protect child victims of human trafficking](#)
Fox43

Governor Tom Wolf created new protections and supports for children of human trafficking and sexual exploitation by signing Senate Bill 554, now Act 130 of 2018. The new law shields children from prosecution for crimes their abusers forced them to commit, enhances law

arrangement. Although an increasing number are placed with kin, many more reside with nonrelative families.

[Continue to the full article >](#)

Americans get a mere 1.6 percent of total cash income, own earnings and government transfers included. In comparison, France and Sweden's poor receive more than twice as much.

[Continue to the full article >](#)

enforcement training and establishes a new fund for victim services.

[Continue to the full article >](#)

Protecting Children, Preserving Dreams

The Field Center is a collaboration of



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Founding Benefactors: Joseph and Marie Field

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](#).