



The Field Center
FOR CHILDREN'S POLICY,
PRACTICE & RESEARCH



News From the Field

National child welfare policy, practice and research

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Since 2005, the Field Center has proudly hosted the nation's preeminent multidisciplinary conference on child welfare. One Child Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare returns to the University of Pennsylvania campus on June 5 - 7, 2019.

In true interdisciplinary fashion, this year's Keynote Addresses will be provided by a physician, an attorney, and a social worker: Dr. Rachel Berger, Prudence Beidler Carr, Esq., and Carol Wilson Spigner, DSW. The conference's plenary panels, each focusing on a different critical topic, include Implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act, Legislative Determinations in the Field of Child Welfare, Predictive Analytics in Child Welfare, and Navigating the Pitfalls of the Transition to Adulthood for Vulnerable Youth.

With compelling breakout sessions and networking opportunities, this year's conference is the place to be for child welfare practitioners, managers, policy makers and advocates. Please visit the conference

#ChildAbuseFactOfTheDay Campaign

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. To raise awareness about the scope and impact of child abuse, the Field Center is hosting a month-long Child Abuse Fact of the Day Campaign on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

The campaign shares information and concludes with resources and

website, at www.onechildmanyhands.org, to learn more and register. We look forward to welcoming you to Philadelphia in June!

Debra Schilling Wolfe

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



LEADING CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



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

[REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!](#)

Join us in Philadelphia June 5 - 7, 2019 for an outstanding three days of learning, featuring compelling Keynote Speakers, cutting-edge Plenary Panels, a variety of Workshops presented by national and international experts, and two Networking Luncheons. Enjoy all that the beautiful University of Pennsylvania campus has to offer while attending [One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare](#), the nation's premiere multidisciplinary conference geared for child welfare practitioners, policy makers and administrators alike. The conference is to be held at the beautiful and historic University of Pennsylvania Law School.

interventions to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children.

Click to follow the Field Center on Twitter and Instagram and follow the hashtag: **#ChildAbuseFactOfTheDay**

First Annual Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser

On April 14th, the Young Professionals Council held their first annual Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser.

The YPC is especially grateful to **Colliers International** for supporting the Field Center's work as the Lead Sponsor of this inaugural event!

Click [here](#) to read more and view pictures from the event.

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.

Follow us on [twitter](#)

 Like us on Facebook



There is still time to partner as a **Conference Sponsor!** Reaching a national audience of social workers, physicians, attorneys, therapists, child welfare workers, nurses, court personnel, and policy-makers, [click here](#) to learn more.



Interested in becoming a **Conference Exhibitor?** *One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare* offers a great opportunity for exhibitors to showcase program and products to a diverse group of professionals. Click [here](#) for more information.

Visit onechildmanyhands.org for more information and program details.

Upcoming Conferences, Trainings, & Events

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

2019 National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium (NHSTES)
Child and Family Services Evaluation: Partnerships in the Era of Family First
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](#)

National CASA/GAL Conference
May 31-June 4, 2019

FOSTER HOME CAPACITY RESEARCH UPDATE

The number of children placed in foster care can be affected by many factors, including economic factors. To understand how these factors may play out, University of Pennsylvania Professor [Ioana Marinescu](#), PhD, Field Center Faculty Director [Johanna Greeson](#), PhD, MSS, MLSP, Field Center Executive Director [Debra Schilling Wolfe](#), MEd, & Research Fellow [Fei Tan](#), MSSP, conducted a National Foster Home Capacity Study.



The researchers first analyzed the demographics of foster parents. The team then investigated the association between the number of children in foster care and three key economic determinants at the state level: the association between payments to foster parents and the number of children in care, the association between housing costs and the number of children in foster care, and the role of labor market conditions in predicting the number of children in foster care.

Click [here](#) to read the full executive summary.

FAMILIES FIRST ONE YEAR IN: AN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE



The Field Center is closely following the implementation of recent federal child welfare reform, the **Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**.

In February 2018, President Trump signed the Bipartisan Budget Act. This bill included the FFPSA, which arguably constitutes the most significant change to child welfare financing since the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

The FFPSA makes federal Title IV-E child welfare money available for preventative services. This means that preventative services, previously funded at lower levels through Title IV-B block grants, are eligible for the same uncapped reimbursement as foster care services. Instead of applying for block grants to implement fixed-cost preventative programs, states can be reimbursed using the same calculations that inform foster care payments.

Title IV-E eligibility means that states can access proportional uncapped reimbursement for preventative expenditures, but only a portion of the costs are reimbursed. The government matches, but does not fully reimburse, eligible state spending. [Click to continue reading...](#)

Atlanta, GA
[More information](#)

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

APSAC's 26th Colloquium: Promoting Trauma Informed Practice in all Disciplines
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](#)

NCJFCJ 82nd Annual Conference
July 28-31, 2019
Orlando, FL
[More Information](#)

FFTA 33rd Annual Conference
July 28-31, 2019
Anaheim, CA
[More Information](#)

Crimes Against Children Conference
Aug 12-15, 2019
Dallas, TX
[More information](#)

2019 Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference:

THROUGH THE PORTAL OF THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

In February 2019, Philadelphia City Council's Committee on Children and Youth held a public hearing on the topic of investigations and child removals by the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS). Councilman David Oh, who had been investigated by the DHS for alleged child abuse, was attempting to learn whether his personal experience was atypical as he had concerns about the investigative process.



The Councilman also sought to address concerns regarding the rates of investigation and removal of children from families and homes. Testimony was provided by invited expert witnesses, and those impacted by DHS.

[Click here](#) to read a response from [Field Center Managing Faculty Director, Dr. Richard Gelles](#) regarding Councilman Oh's remarks.

Moving Upstream
Sept 16-18, 2019
Milwaukee, WI
[More Information](#)



THREE ADDITIONAL COLLEGES SELECTED TO JOIN THE FIELD CENTER NETWORK OF CAMPUS-BASED SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

[The Field Center](#) has completed the training and provision of technical assistance in the development of campus-based support programs for foster youth to six higher education institutions across the Commonwealth. Bloomsburg University, Community College of Allegheny - South Campus, East Stroudsburg University, Kutztown University, Penn State Greater Allegheny, and Westmoreland County Community College are now poised to improve upon their enrollment, retention, and graduation rates for students from foster care.

In response to a second statewide call for applications to join the colleges trained in previous cohorts, two more institutions have been selected to receive comprehensive technical assistance provided by the Field Center's [Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow, Seth Morones](#).

[California University of Pennsylvania](#), [Lackawanna College](#) and [Keystone College](#) are the next schools recently selected to work with The Field Center to design and launch a campus program specifically focused on supporting foster youth. With support from the Field Center, these campuses will enhance supports across multiple departments, including housing, counseling, financial aid, academic support, and more.



To learn more about the challenges foster youth face in post-secondary education, resources for youth and professionals, and the Field Center's work in this area, please visit the Field Center's Foster Care to College website at www.fostercaretocollege.org.

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.

DONATE NOW

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

For more information click [here](#).

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEGAL SERVICES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN FAMILY COURT



Testimony to Philadelphia's City Council provided by Field Center Faculty Director [Kara Finck, Esq.](#) focused on the role of quality interdisciplinary legal services for parents and children in Family Court and the potential impact on improving outcomes for children.



Based in part on Ms. Finck's professional experience leading the first institutional provider of holistic parent representation in the Bronx, her testimony calls for reform of the current model of parent representation and an increased accountability for all stakeholders to reduce the unnecessarily high rate of removal in Philadelphia.

To read the full transcript of the testimony, click [here](#).

FIELD CENTER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO ADVISORY BOARD



[Linda Fettmann, LCSW-R](#) has over 30 years of experience in the child welfare system, working most recently as a program manager at the Westchester Institute for Human Development in Valhalla, NY, where she oversees exemplary programs providing services to foster and adoptive families. Ms. Fettmann has a certificate in family therapy and uses her clinical skills to support and train foster and adoptive families and supervise graduate social work students and staff. A proud graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School

of Social Work, Ms. Fettmann also shares her expertise with students and field instructors as an Adjunct Professor and Field Advisor at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.

[Betsy Schur Levy, PhD](#) is a licensed clinical psychologist who resides in New York City. Dr. Schur Levy has a full-time private practice in New York City, where she has been a psychotherapist for over 30 years. She lectures and teaches in New York City and Philadelphia, and is an adjunct faculty member in the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Schur Levy's private practice includes work with children, adolescents,



young adults, adults and couples. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Schur Levy completed her Masters of Science and Masters of Philosophy degrees at Columbia University and then earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology at Columbia University.

FIELD CENTER RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Sarah Wasch, MSW, Field Center Program Manager, and **Seth Morones, MEd**, Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow, presented a workshop titled "Increasing College Access and Success for Students with Experience in Foster Care" at the 2019 Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN)/Independent Living (IL) Winter Statewide Meeting in State College, PA.

Faculty Director **Johanna Greeson, PhD, MSS**, MLSP, Research Fellow **Dan Treglia, PhD, MPP**, Executive Director **Debra Schilling Wolfe, MEd**, and Program Manager **Sarah Wasch, MSW** published the article "Prevalence and Correlates of Sex Trafficking among Homeless and Runaway Youths Presenting for Shelter Services" in the Journal Social Work Research.

Research Fellow **Dan Treglia, PhD, MPP**, presented Field Center research findings on Prevalence and Risk Factors from a Multi-City Study on Child Trafficking at the Society for Social Work and Research in San Francisco, CA.

Program Manager **Sarah Wasch, MSW** and Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow **Seth Morones, MEd** presented at the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education 2019 Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA. The workshop topic was "Rethinking Retention: Creating a Foster Care-Friendly Campus."

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT

The Field Center's **Young Professionals Council** (YPC) is a group of early career professionals with a passion and commitment to improving outcomes for abused and neglected children. YPC members increase public awareness of the Field Center's transformative work in addition to encouraging and promoting support of the center. Members of the YPC contribute to the Field Center's advocacy efforts and are exposed to networking opportunities as the next generation of child welfare leaders. Meet two of the YPC Members below:



Pragma Verma is a Project Manager in the Research and Evaluation Group at PHMC. She obtained her Master's in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice and was previously an intern at The Field Center. Pragma has worked in the child welfare and behavioral health fields before her current position in public health. She is committed to advocating for the child welfare system through her involvement with the YPC. As Chair of the YPC for the past 2 years, Pragma hopes to continue to bolster the YPC by increasing membership, raising funds, and creating a network of young professionals who are passionate about improving the well-being of children and youth involved in the child welfare system.



Sharayna Taylor is an entrepreneur who has dedicated herself to improving outcomes for vulnerable youth. Sharayna has previously worked as a mentorship coordinator in both Philadelphia and Washington, DC, working to ensure that children in foster care or experiencing adversity have access to the supports they need to be successful. She brings a strong understanding of the needs of children in foster care and has joined the Field Center's YPC to continue to raise awareness amongst her professional peers. Sharayna serves as the Events Chair, where she draws on her entrepreneurial skills in planning fundraisers and other events. Sharayna holds a Bachelor's Degree from Penn State University.

For more information about the Young Professionals Council, [email](#) the Field Center to be connected to a YPC member or staff liaison.

Protecting Children, Preserving Dreams

The Field Center is a collaboration of



The Field Center is a member of



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](#).