

CSSR NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



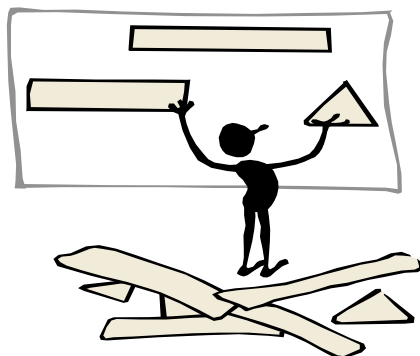
Greetings!

Well, I'm not exactly the director anymore, but I'd at least like to say "Adieu." On June 30, I officially ended my role as director of the CSSR. Because our search for a new director was not successful this past Spring, a committee has been formed to launch a new search this Fall. I'm pleased to announce that the Dean has appointed another committee to shepherd the CSSR through the next few months, until new leadership can be established.

The committee will be chaired by Neil Gilbert, and I thank him, in advance, for his kindness in taking this on. Thanks also to all of the staff and students of the Center who have weathered this period without a hands-on director and for their forbearance in the coming months. In the midst of transition, the Center is still enjoying tremendous success.

The next year should be equally productive and I hope particularly valuable to students, social service administrators, policy makers and practitioners. Several new staff have joined the Center (see page 5) a number of new grants have been awarded, and several studies have been completed (see page 6) which have influenced policy or practice at the state and local levels. This

should prove to be a wonderful year of growth and change for the CSSR; please join me in watching and participating in the developments along the way.



Best wishes,

Jill Duerr Berrick

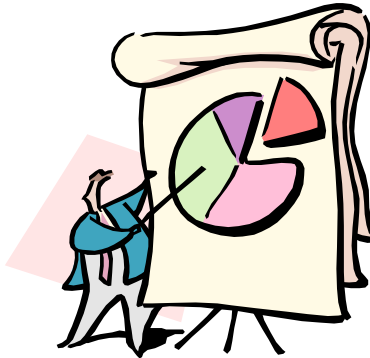
Inside this issue:

Message From the Director	1
Child Welfare Reform	2
News from BASSC	3
News from CASAS	4
New Staff	5
Brown Bag Lunches	6
Recent Reports	6



CHILD WELFARE REFORM IN CALIFORNIA

The Packard Foundation, the Stuart Foundation, and the California Endowment are funding a state-wide evaluation of two recent child welfare reforms: *concurrent planning* and *reunification exception*. Under concurrent planning, efforts toward finding a child an alternative permanent home through adoption or guardianship are made at the same time as efforts toward reunification. With reunification exception, child welfare agencies can opt *not* to provide reunification services to parents under certain circumstances, such as failure to reunify previously with a sibling. These new reforms are likely to have differential effects for children and families, yet these effects are largely unknown.



The first component of the study, funded by the Packard Foundation, will help determine how the 58 counties are implementing the new reforms. For example, we will learn whether counties are using a single social worker to simultaneously pursue reunification and alternative permanency efforts, or are dividing these tasks between two workers; and how decisions are made about which families should receive reunification services and which should not.

In addition to answering these kinds of questions, the implementation study will also clarify which counties are vigorously pursuing these new practices. Six counties with strong concurrent planning programs will be selected for both a process and an outcome study. In order to understand how important stakeholders experience these practices, the process study will involve focus groups with social workers, foster-adopt caregivers, attorneys, judges, and birth parents. The outcome study will help us understand how these policies might be affecting outcomes for children and families in the state. In each county, outcomes and case characteristics of 200 children who entered care prior to passage of concurrent planning and reunification exception legislation will be compared to those of 200 children entering care in the same county after passage of the legislation.

Lastly, an in-depth qualitative study of a small sample of families and other key informants will be conducted. These families, social workers, attorneys and caregivers will be followed for 1½ years, and interviewed in three-month intervals regarding their experiences with concurrent planning and reunification exception. Together, the study will provide a much richer understanding of the practice and outcomes of these new child welfare reforms than has been available so far. Findings should have implications for practitioners, policy makers, and child welfare administrators.

Jill Duerr Berrick, Principal Investigator
Amy D'Andrade, Laura Frame, Lorelei Mitchell, Research Associates





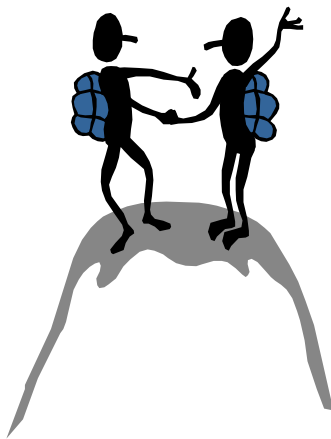
News from BASSC

When Child Welfare and the Court Systems Meet: Toward a Regional Approach for Creating Collaboration in the Judicial Process

In June, BASSC began work on a new, ten county study, examining the relationship between child welfare agencies and the courts in the context of juvenile dependency proceedings. The interaction of the child welfare and court systems in caring for county dependents demands that the two systems work together effectively. However, working relationships between social workers and legal professionals are compromised in many jurisdictions. The study framework suggests that differing organizational cultures and professional roles, as well as the adversarial and rule bound nature of the judicial process and the complex characteristics of child welfare cases themselves, contribute to difficulties in the relationship between the two systems.



Currently, BASSC researchers are developing descriptive profiles of the child welfare systems in each county, in order to provide a framework for data collection and comparative analysis of findings. In September, BASSC researchers will begin conducting focus groups with child welfare workers in each of the participating counties, as well as interviews with judges, attorneys, county counsel, and CASA volunteers, to explore issues relating to organizational culture, professional role definition, and other potential sources of conflict. In addition, a review of juvenile dependency case records will be conducted to identify case characteristics that serve to complicate the adjudication process and strain the relationship between professionals in the two systems. Finally, BASSC staff will interview leaders of model programs working to improve the relationship, in order to identify best practices in this area.



BASSC is also working to develop collaborative relationships with other groups that have an interest in the relationship between these two systems. For example, BASSC is working with the Judicial Council's Center for Children, Families and the Courts to incorporate the perspective of judges and attorneys involved in juvenile dependency cases at the design, analysis, and recommendation stages of the study. We are also requesting funding from the Zellerbach Family Foundation to support focus groups with foster youth, foster parents, and parents and guardians who have been involved in juvenile dependency proceedings. The goal of these partnerships, and of the study, is to foster collaboration between the child welfare and legal systems, and improve the adjudication process in juvenile dependency cases.

*Mike Austin, Principal Investigator
Sarah Carnochan, Project Coordinator
Jennifer Maney, Anne Abramson and Sarah Taylor, Research Assistants*



NEWS FROM CASAS

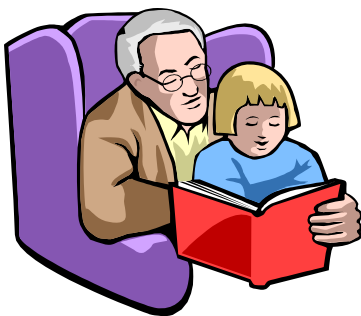
National Family Caregiver Support Program

The Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services has been asked by the California Department of Aging (CDA) to assist in the implementation and evaluation of the new federal, National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). The NFCSP was approved by Congress in December 2000 and includes \$125 million of funding through Title III-E of the reauthorized Older Americans Act. The NFCSP is intended to provide critical support needed by families to assist them in maintaining their caregiver roles for their older family members who are ill or who have disabilities and also older adults who have primary care responsibilities for young children.



The federal funds have been awarded to State Units on Aging who will work in partnership with area agencies on aging to implement the new program. The NFCSP is being implemented in a manner that provides significant flexibility to states. California, like many other states, will need to perform a statewide assessment of caregiver demographic characteristics, caregiver needs, resources available, resource deficiencies, and associated infrastructure/program development requirements, in order to enhance effective implementation of NFCSP.

Although a final agreement between the University and CDA has not yet been formalized, the University's role will likely include development of a profile of California's caregivers and care receivers, analysis of the state's caregiver support resources, guidance regarding best practices and potential short-term and long-term data collection activities, and preliminary evaluation of the initial impact of the NFCSP on California's caregivers and care receivers. The Center staff will work closely with major stakeholders and experts in all aspects of the development of the project.



Andrew E. Scharlach, Principal Investigator
Teresa Dal Santo, Project Director

*Project Staff: Nancy Giunta, Jill Greenlee, Kathryn Kietzman,
Kelly Mills-Dick, Jaimie Simon, and Stephanie Whittier*



NEW STAFF

Laura Frame

In August 2001, Laura Frame joined the Center for Social Services Research as Senior Research Associate. She oversees the CalWORKs/ Child Welfare Partnership project and is part of the team that is evaluating Child Welfare Reform for the State of California. However, Laura is not new to the Center. She has been an employee ever since she entered the School of Social Welfare at UCB as a PhD student in 1995. Her interests are in issues of poverty and child maltreatment, the effects of welfare reform on families involved with child welfare services, and the developmental needs of young children in the child welfare system. In addition to her research experience, she also does considerable clinical work in the area of infant mental health and parent-child relationship problems. At the end of September, she will be balancing her position at the Center and her clinical work at Oakland's Children's Hospital.



Helen Kim



In July 2001, Helen Kim joined the Center for Social Service Research as Webmaster. Working full-time, she oversees the Center's website and is responsible for design and maintenance. Helen will be improving the navigation within the website in addition to reformatting the "Performance Indicator" reports to increase usability. Her overall goal is to make the website easy to understand and user-friendly. Helen moved to the Bay Area from New York and has over five years of experience in web development, working as a webmaster for a non-profit agency that provides English tutoring for immigrants, and as a web developer for Terra Lycos.

William Jackman

In April 2001, William Jackman became Associate Specialist III for the Center of Social Service Research, but he has been with the CSSR since January 2000. Working under Barbara Needell's direction, he analyzes administrative data related to various project in the CSSR. Currently, he is working on several projects, including a University of Chicago study comparing the employment of emancipated foster care youth and reunified foster care youth. Bill also has his own economics consulting company. In addition to his professional expertise, Bill is an accomplished jazz pianist and just recorded a new CD.





BROWN BAG LUNCHES

All brown bag lunches are open to CSSR members and friends, faculty and staff of the school. They are held on Mondays or Tuesdays from 12PM—1PM in Room 15 (unless notified otherwise). Brown bag lunches typically feature presentations that have been previously offered to other audiences, allowing all of us the opportunity to keep current with each other's research and dissemination activities.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

October 29, 2001: "Using GIS Maps and Spatial Analysis to Evaluate Child Welfare Services" (Bridgette Lery and Barbara Needell)

November 19, 2001: "Using Software Tools in Qualitative Data Analysis: A Demonstration of Atlas.ti" (Laura Frame)



BASSC Recent Reports

Education for foster children: Removing barriers to academic success. Choice, P., D'Andrade, A., Gunther, K., Downes, D, Schaldach, J., Csiszar, C., Austin, M.J. (2001).

CASAS Recent Reports

On Lok Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training Project (GITT) Evaluation. Scharlach, A., Clark, S. & Kwan, K. (May 2000).

Case management & quality assurance under long term care insurance. Scharlach, A., Robinson, B., Dal Santo, T., Guinta, N. & Mills-Dick, K. (January 2001).

Aging of California's Baby Boomers: Implications for state policies, programs and personnel (Preliminary Report). Scharlach, A., Simon, J. & Dal Santo, T. (February 2001).

Children's Archive Recent Reports

Youth Emancipating from Foster Care in California: Findings Using Linked Administrative Data. Needell, B., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Brookhart, A., Jackman, W., Shlonsky, A. (2001).

The CSSR Newsletter is published twice annually and is distributed to the School of Social Welfare community.

CSSR Newsletter Editor: Lorelei Mitchell