

Using Research to Strengthen Child Welfare Programs

March 15, 2018, noon – 1:30 p.m. ET

Forum and webinar hosted by Mathematica Policy Research, the William T. Grant Foundation, and Casey Family Programs

Welcome



Ann Person, Ph.D., Mathematica Policy Research

Ann Person, senior researcher and director of the Center for Improving Research Evidence at Mathematica, is an expert in postsecondary education and the school-to-work transition. She has a decade of experience designing approaches to producing and applying evidence to improve programs, particularly in postsecondary and workforce education. Dr. Person has worked as a teacher and as an administrator, and from 2009 to 2012 she served as the senior program officer for research and data on the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's

Postsecondary Success strategy. She has a Ph.D. in human development and social policy from Northwestern University.

Moderator



Matthew Stagner, Ph.D., Mathematica Policy Research

Matthew Stagner is a nationally known expert on youth development and risk behaviors, child welfare, teen pregnancy prevention, evaluation design, and the role of research in policymaking. His work focuses on policies and programs for vulnerable youth, such as those transitioning out of foster care. Prior to joining Mathematica, Stagner served as executive director of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and as a senior lecturer at the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies. Stagner also served as director of the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute and director of the Division of Children and Youth Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). He is a member of the Welfare and Family Self-Sufficiency Research Technical Working Group in the Office of Policy Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children & Families, DHHS. He holds a Ph.D. from the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago, and an M.P.P. in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Presenters



Allison Blake, Ph.D., Licensed Social Worker

Allison Blake has more than 30 years of experience serving children and families. She served as commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families for more than seven years. Under her leadership, the department successfully implemented an integrated and a strategic approach to delivering child welfare services. This approach promoted evidence-informed, community-based services to support parents and youth. Dr. Blake also led New Jersey's effort to significantly expand its community partnerships to prevent child abuse and strengthen families. She previously served as director of the

Institute for Families at Rutgers University School of Social Work and Vice President of Accreditation Operations at the Council of Accreditation. Dr. Blake earned an M.S. W. from Rutgers University and a Doctorate from Fordham University. Through her extensive work and vast experience, Dr. Blake has acquired comprehensive knowledge and insight on developing programs and improving child welfare systems that improve the lives of children and families. She is a member of the National Board of Directors of the Child Welfare League of America and a member of the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters.



Kimberly DuMont, Ph.D., William T. Grant Foundation

Kimberly DuMont manages the Foundation’s Institutional Challenge Grant competition and grants program on Improving the Use of Research Evidence. She also supports grantees in their work and leads efforts to produce more relevant research for use by policymakers and practitioners in child welfare in ways that benefit youth. She is a key member of the Senior Program Team, which sets the Foundation’s research agenda and annual priorities. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2011, DuMont worked as a research scientist with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, where she directed an evaluation of the Healthy Families New York intervention, a home visitation service for children at risk for abuse and neglect. In that capacity, she bridged research—in this case, a rigorous evaluation—with the needs of practitioners and policymakers working to improve the health and well-being of at-risk youth. Her research from this work and earlier studies investigated links between neighborhoods, families, community-based interventions, and youth development. She earned her Ph.D. in community psychology from New York University and her B.A. in psychology from Wesleyan University.



Allison Metz, Ph.D., National Implementation Research Network

Allison Metz is a developmental psychologist, director of the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN), senior research scientist at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, and research professor at the School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Metz specializes in the implementation, mainstreaming, and scaling of evidence to achieve social impact for children and families in a range of human service and education areas, with an emphasis on child welfare and early childhood service contexts. Her work focuses in several key areas including: the development of evidence-informed practice models; the use of effective implementation and scaling strategies to improve the application of evidence in service delivery systems; and the development of coaching, continuous quality improvement, and sustainability strategies. Metz currently directs several national initiatives to build the capacity of major philanthropies and intermediary organizations to support jurisdictions in using evidence to improve outcomes for children and families.



Peter J. Pecora, Ph.D., Casey Family Programs, University of Washington, School of Social Work

Peter J. Pecora has a joint appointment as the managing director of research services for Casey Family Programs and professor, School of Social Work, University of Washington. He has worked with state departments of social services in the United States and in other countries to design and evaluate risk assessment systems for child protective services, intensive home-based services, and foster care programs. He has evaluated community-based child abuse prevention strategies in Los Angeles and group care reform in California. Dr. Pecora has also evaluated ACES-focused community-based networks in Washington and is developing multistate evaluation designs and fidelity assessment measures for child maltreatment risk assessment systems such as Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback and Signs of Safety. His coauthored books and journal articles focus on child-welfare program design, administration, and research.



Kelly Sachter, L.C.S.W., Family Connections, Inc.

Kelly Sachter is a director of programs at Family Connections, Inc., which provides services for families in New Jersey. Family Connections, Inc.'s mission is to engender hope, enhance safety, heal trauma, and strengthen families. Sachter is dedicated to partnering with stakeholders in the child welfare system to ensure that families can heal from the trauma that has occurred in their lives. Sachter has participated in the development of the Blueprint for Integration of Evidence Based/Evidence Informed Practices into New Jersey's Child Welfare System, and has partnered with the Department of Children and Families in multiple programs including various therapeutic models utilizing implementation science. Sachter has provided presentations and trainings for various agencies and organizations with the topics of child welfare, visitation, supportive housing, and trauma at national organizations including the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Child Welfare League of America, and Supervised Visitation Network.