

Doris Duke Fellowships

for the Promotion of Child Well-Being

Seeking innovations to prevent child abuse and neglect

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This edition of the newsletter highlights the events of the Third Annual Doris Duke Fellowships Meeting that took place at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago this past September.



Cohort Three fellows at the Third Annual Doris Duke Fellowship Meeting on September 26, 2013.

Notes from Deb

The Fellowship held its Third Annual Meeting at Chapin Hall last month, where we welcomed our newest cohort of scholars (Cohort Three) and reconnected with the fellows entering the second year of their fellowships. We are particularly pleased with the diversity of disciplines represented in Cohort Three. Although the majority of fellows continue to come from social work or social welfare programs, Cohort Three includes a medical student engaged in child abuse prevention research and doctoral students enrolled in nursing, community psychology, public policy, public health, child development, and other disciplines. The multidisciplinary character of this cohort, coupled with their deep curiosity and desire to learn from each other, resulted in lively discussions on such topics as immigration, mental health reforms, child welfare policy, and complex research methods. Our faculty included Chapin Hall's new executive director Bryan Samuels, senior research fellows from Chapin Hall, and several academic and policy mentors who are working with current fellows. We look forward to continuing our discussions with the fellows virtually, through our social networking system and quarterly webinars, and to cohosting a second meeting of the fellows this year with our colleagues at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Perhaps our most exciting news is that many of our current and graduating fellows are collaborating on a book project. *Advances in Child Abuse Prevention Knowledge: The Perspective of New Leadership* will showcase how the field's emerging scholars are using new research frameworks to shape their work, apply their findings, and define their learning communities to address many of the thorny research gaps that have long troubled the field. Initial chapter outlines are due November 1 and we hope to have a completed product out to the field by the end of 2014. We believe the book will be an important vehicle to showcase the individual contributions of the fellows as well as the power of collective effort.

Sincerely,

Deborah Daro, PhD
Fellowship Chair

Lee Ann Huang, MPP
Fellowship Manager

Highlights from the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was a rich opportunity for the Cohort Two and Three fellows in attendance to have a generative learning experience. Several well-known speakers were in attendance, including many that serve as mentors to fellows, including:

- [Jennifer Bellamy](#), University of Chicago (academic mentor to Aaron Banman)
- [Wendy Cervantes](#), First Focus (policy mentor to Megan Finno-Velasquez)
- [Rachel Gordon](#), University of Illinois- Chicago (academic mentor to Kristin Abner)
- [Todd Herrenkohl](#), University of Washington (academic mentor to Kate Daderko and J. Bart Klika)
- [Julia Littell](#), Bryn Mawr College (academic mentor to Jessica Schaffner Wilen)
- [Sheila Smith](#), Columbia University (policy mentor to William Schneider)

Other participants at the meeting included:

- [Barbara Bonner](#), University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- [Alan Detlaff](#), University of Illinois- Chicago
- [Anne Cohn Donnelly](#), Northwestern University
- [J. Curtis McMillen](#), University of Chicago
- [Suzanne Muchin](#), Frequency540
- [Bryan Samuels](#), Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
- [Fred Wulczyn](#), Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
- Marty Zaslow, [SRCD](#)

Fellows had time throughout the three days to meet in small groups within their own cohort and across cohorts to begin or continue the process of building professional relationships. Several workshops on a variety of topics were held, including an overview of the history of child abuse prevention; mental health treatment options for maltreated children, the intersection of immigration and child welfare systems, communication strategies for various audiences, and improving early childhood outcomes. Fellows were encouraged to consider how fathers fit into prevention initiatives and explored the developmental underpinnings of resilience in maltreated children. In addition to these topical workshops, methodological workshops were held on analyzing administrative data, propensity score analysis, and research synthesis techniques. Fellows also attended a reception where they were introduced to Chapin Hall staff and invited guests from the University of Chicago and other local entities.

New Work from Fellows and Mentors

[Megan Finno-Velasquez](#), Cohort Two fellow, has recently been informed that her manuscript titled "The relationship between parent immigration status and concrete support service use among Latinos in child welfare: Findings using the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW II)" has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Children and Youth Services Review*. Findings suggest that undocumented parents who are investigated by the child welfare system may be less likely to receive concrete support services aimed at preventing re-referral than parents who are U.S. citizens. This lack of services places their children at higher risk for maltreatment and future involvement with child welfare.

[Justin \(Jay\) Miller](#), [Jackie Duron](#), [Megan Finno-Velasquez](#), [Emily Bosk](#), and [Kristin Abner](#), Cohort Two fellows, are presenting a coauthored paper titled "The role and impact of peer-learning networks in social work doctoral education" at the Council for Social Work Education conference at the end of October. This paper explores aspects of the peer learning network supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. This study utilized a structured questionnaire with scaled survey items, as well as open-ended questions, to examine the use, benefits, and challenges to participating in the network. They will discuss findings in relation to implications for social work doctoral education programs.

[Kristin Abner](#), Cohort Two fellow, has a forthcoming publication in the *Journal of Social Service Research* titled "Dimensions of structural disadvantage: A latent class analysis of a neighborhood measure in child welfare data." This study uses the NSCAW II to employ latent class analysis to identify the number of classes needed to explain the distribution of caregiver responses on the Community Environment Scale. The identified classes are important for understanding the communities in which caregivers involved with the child welfare system reside.

[Bryon Powell](#), Cohort Two, was awarded a [Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation Dissertation Grant](#) and had several papers recently published in various journals. Four of these were coauthored with Byron's academic mentor, [Dr. Enola Proctor](#), and two were written with one of the speakers from our recent annual meeting, [Dr. J. Curtis McMillen](#).

- Proctor, E. K., Powell, B. J., & McMillen, J. C. (In press). Implementation strategies: Recommendations for specifying and reporting. *Implementation Science*.
- Powell, B. J., Proctor, E. K., & Glass, J. E. (2013). [A systematic review of strategies for implementing empirically supported mental health interventions](#). *Research on Social Work Practice*. doi:10.1177/1049731513505778.
- Powell, B. J., Proctor, E.K., Glisson, C. A., Kohl, P. L., Raghavan, R., Brownson, R. C., Stoner, B. P., & Carpenter, C. (2013). [A mixed methods multiple case study of implementation as usual in children's social service organizations: Study protocol](#). *Implementation Science*, 8, 92.
- Powell, B. J., McMillen, J. C., Hawley, K. M., & Proctor, E. K. (2013). [Mental health clinicians' motivation to invest in training: Results from a practice-based research network survey](#). *Psychiatric Services*, 64(8), 816-818.
- Powell, B. J., Hausmann-Stabile, C., & McMillen, J. C. (2013). [Mental health clinicians' experiences of implementing evidence-based treatments](#). *Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work*, 10(5), 396-409.

Featured Fellow

[Jennifer Mortensen](#)

Family Studies and Human Development
University of Arizona

by [MEGAN FEELY](#)

Jennifer and Megan, both Cohort Two fellows, interviewed one another about their academic and professional work, their experience in the fellowship, and what has inspired their commitment to maltreatment prevention.



Jennifer is in the PhD program in [Family Studies and Human Development](#) at [The University of Arizona](#). Her interest in the role of teachers in ameliorating the effects of maltreatment is an outgrowth of her personal experience working at an Early Head Start program and her academic training. Her work moves beyond the more traditional area of study of parent-child relationships to consider how the educational environment can influence the development of maltreated and at-risk children.

After finishing her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and becoming licensed to teach kindergarten to second grade, Jennifer completed her master's degree in [Human Development and Family Studies](#). Both degrees are from the [University of Nevada at Reno](#). After finishing her master's degree, Jennifer worked at an Early Head Start program with high-risk infants and toddlers, focusing on emotional regulation skills, especially for children living in potentially maltreating families. This experience led to her interest in exploring the importance of maltreated children's interactions with teachers. As the first step in a research career focused on this dyad, her dissertation uses Early Head Start Research and Evaluation data to explore the relationship between teacher sensitivity and children's emotional regulation.

In addition to working on the first of the three manuscripts that comprise her dissertation, Jennifer is working with her advisor on a paper that explores the impact of the neighborhood environment on parenting. She is also working with her minor advisor on a meta-analysis of parenting interventions designed to facilitate supportive parent-child interactions in socioeconomically disadvantaged families with infants and toddlers.

Featured Fellow

[Megan Feely](#)

Social Work
Washington University in St. Louis

by [JENNIFER MORTENSEN](#)

Megan describes her work at [Voices for Children](#) as sparking her interest in the intersection of the child welfare and judicial systems. [Voices for Children](#) provides children in foster care a guardian ad litem in the courts. Megan's work with the organization as a staff member and a child advocate helped her see the benefit of advocating for court decisions that promote well-being of the "whole child." Megan describes this approach as benefiting children's socioemotional well-being and thus positively impacting their ability to return home or remain in permanent foster and adoptive placements.



Megan has continued to collaborate with Voices for Children during the

completion of her MSW and PhD at the [Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis](#). Megan's dissertation research involves developing a statistical model of socioemotional well-being for children in the child welfare system. Utilizing structural equation modeling, Megan plans to examine multiple variables such as socialization, attachment, trauma, and peer relationships as being influential in socioemotional well-being. Ultimately, Megan foresees extending her dissertation research by tracking how well-being impacts children's trajectories through foster care. In addition to her dissertation research, Megan currently works with her academic advisor examining the effects of the [Triple P](#) parenting intervention in a sample of families involved with the child welfare system. She is also collaborating with Doris Duke fellows from Cohorts One and Two on developing a measure of fidelity to the [Triple P](#) intervention.

Calendar of Events

Fellowship Events

Applications for Cohort Four now being accepted

- Applications are due December 15, 2013
- [Information is available here](#)

Mid-Year Fellowship Meeting at Georgia State University

- February 26-28, 2014
- [Georgia State University](#), Atlanta, GA
- All three cohorts are encouraged to join us!

Upcoming Conferences

[American Public Health Association \(APHA\) Annual Meeting](#)

- November 2-6, 2013
- Boston Convention and Exposition Center, Boston, MA

[Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management \(APPAM\) Fall Research Conference](#)

- November 7-9, 2013
- Washington Marriott Hotel, Westin Grand Hotel, and Ritz Carlton Hotel, Washington, DC

[Society for Social Work and Research Conference](#)

- January 15-19, 2014
- San Antonio, TX

[Pew National Summit on Quality in Home Visiting Programs](#)

- January 29-30, 2014
- Washington, DC

ChapinHall
at the University of Chicago

