Co-Directors’ Report

The University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development launched a new era in 2003-2004. We finalized the consolidation of OCD offices into a single location by creating a new look for OCD, which you see in this new format of our Annual Report and will observe on our newsletter, reports, publications, and other materials.

This new look also includes a tag line that more accurately describes OCD’s functions: “Supporting families and professionals through research, education, practice, and policy.” We also identify our new administrative home with “An interdisciplinary University-community program of the School of Education,” and our website is being redesigned and integrated more closely with that of the School of Education. Further, we have created a motto that captures the Office’s purpose and style: “Partnering to put knowledge into action.”

Finally, having all of our Divisions housed in a single location has facilitated increased collaboration and synergy among Divisions, and a better integration of the diverse skills of OCD staff and collaborating partners. To portray this operational style, we have created “The OCD Model,” which represents graphically the diversity of skills and functions that OCD and its partners bring to bear on a project and how these skills can be integrated in a coordinated system to put knowledge into action to improve the lives of children and families. This Model is depicted in this report.

Despite the new look and Model, OCD retains its original vision, mission, purposes, principles of operation, criteria for new projects, and project domains, all of which are also summarized in this report. Consequently, OCD has not abandoned its original purposes and principles, but rather strengthened them by becoming more integrated and systematic, and we are pleased to communicate this enhancement in our new look in this report.
MAJOR EVENTS OF 2003-2004

There is much to celebrate this year:

The Early Childhood Initiative Demonstration Project (ECIDP) achieved its goals. The three-year ECIDP provided training and technical assistance to early childhood care and education providers in Wilkinsburg and Braddock and elevated their quality performance to rank them in the top 1% of center and home providers in the Commonwealth. OCD also worked with Hosanna House, Inc., and Heritage Health Foundation, Inc., to improve the administrative and fiscal management of their early childhood facilities, and reduced the overall cost of providing this exceptional level of service to an amount comparable to similar high-quality programs across the country.

OCD was awarded a regional STARS TA project. As an outgrowth and expansion of ECIDP, OCD was awarded a STARS TA grant to provide technical assistance to early care and education providers in Allegheny, Greene, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties as part of the Commonwealth’s Keystone Stars Quality Enhancement System.

OCD helped to achieve major policy successes in its campaign to reduce smoking among pregnant women. Pittsburgh has one of the highest rates of smoking during pregnancy of any major city in the nation, and OCD spearheaded a successful effort to change state Medicaid reimbursement policies to permit more extensive reimbursement of smoking cessation services.

OCD and its collaborative partners continue to encourage early literacy. In this campaign, which OCD initiated some years ago with several partners, OCD presented recommendations to the State Board of Education to amend teacher certification and professional development requirements, encouraged school districts to use the early care and education options of the Education Accountability Block grant, and participated in the development of early learning standards.

OCD manages United 4 Children. OCD assumed the leadership role for United 4 Children, a group of local early care and education providers and professional organizations that, through collaboration and self-help activities, aims to improve the quality of early care and education services offered to children and families throughout the region.

OCD creates a fatherhood curriculum and training program. OCD, with support from the Frank and Theresa Caplan Fund for Early Childhood Development and Parenting Education, has created a child development training curriculum especially designed for fathers, and in collaboration with the Fathers Collaborative has begun training seminars for fathers, initially incarcerated fathers and non-custodial fathers and progressively fathers in family support programs and other groups.
OCD participates in state and national research and policy consortia. Several years ago, OCD helped to create the Universities Children’s Policy Collaborative (UCPC) with the Prevention Research Center at Pennsylvania State University and colleagues at Temple University, which coalesced around UCPC providing research results to Governor Schweiker’s Task Force on Early Care and Education. Since then, UCPC has conducted several projects, including the initiation of Children and Family Impact Seminars for legislators and administrative policy makers which will be inaugurated next year. OCD has also joined the Consortium of University-Based Child and Family Policy Programs, a national group of university centers that have an interest in bringing scholarly knowledge to the policy process.

OCD provides family support consultation nationally. OCD, a leading proponent of family support principles in Allegheny County, has been asked to provide consultation and technical assistance to family support movements across the country, particularly a regional consortium in Florida.

OCD’s collaborative project in the orphanages of St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, improves children’s development. Entering its fifth year, this intervention project, which provides an improved social-emotional environment and promotes adult-child relationship building, is improving children’s development in nearly every domain. Children exposed to the interventions are physically bigger, have better mental and language performance, and show more typical social-emotional behaviors. Several other hospitals and orphanages are currently exploring how to implement the interventions.

OCD launches a new applied developmental proseminar and Food-for-Thought luncheons in the School of Education. As part of its administrative merger with the School of Education, OCD has organized two Food-for-Thought luncheons, one on emergent literacy and the other on challenging behaviors, which consist of brief presentations by School of Education faculty and OCD staff followed by a discussion of major issues. Further, OCD will offer in the spring a Proseminar on Applied Issues on Children and Families in Society that will include lectures and discussions of major topics in applied scholarship for children and families, including program development and grant writing, monitoring and evaluation, contributing to policy development, the child welfare system, the public health system, practice and policy issues in early care and education, etc.

OCD increases its scholarly publications. OCD has increased the number and breadth of its scholarly publications, including an article on child development research and public policy in the 50th Anniversary issue of the *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, a chapter on “Integrating Developmental Scholarship into Practice and Policy” for the next edition of the most widely used graduate text in developmental sciences edited by Michael Lamb and Marc Bornstein, and an SRCD Special Report on methodological issues in conducting applied developmental research, among others.
OCD remains in good financial condition, having received a renewal of basic support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation this past year. OCD’s annual budget of grants in force was $7,987,040 for fiscal 2003-2004, which was $736,449 less than last year, largely because of the completion of the Early Childhood Initiative Demonstration Project. Financial details are presented elsewhere in this report.

We hope you join with us in taking pleasure in our new look and accomplishments, and that you are able to spend a few minutes looking at the details presented throughout this report. We appreciate the support and cooperation we receive from the University administration, faculty, policy makers, government administrators, foundation leaders, human service agencies, professional organizations, and our staff, without which none of this would be possible.

Respectfully yours,

Christina J. Groak, Ph.D.  Robert B. McCall, Ph.D.

Co-Directors
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Vision, Mission, and Purposes

OCD Vision

All children, youth, and families will develop in safe and supportive environments and achieve their life potentials.

Mission and Purposes of OCD

The University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development is a university-community public-private informational resource and management facility that contributes to the welfare of children, youth, families, and communities in greater Pittsburgh, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the nation, and around the world.

Constituents

OCD is an intermediate organization serving faculty and administrators of the university, service professionals and agencies, policymakers, public and private funders, and others who work to improve the lives of children, families, and communities.

Mission

- OCD facilitates and develops through mutually-beneficial partnerships with its constituencies new knowledge, services, and policies to improve the lives of children and families in five domains:
  1. Interdisciplinary education and training.
  2. Interdisciplinary research and scholarship.
  3. Human service demonstration programs, networking, and strategic planning.
  4. Program monitoring and evaluation.
  5. Needs assessments and policy studies.

Specific Purposes

- To create and maintain a supportive and facilitative atmosphere for its constituencies within which interdisciplinary and collaborative activities may be conceived, nurtured, implemented, and managed.
- To provide guidance, assistance, and management of the planning, funding, development, implementation, and operation of innovative collaborative systems, projects, and programs in its domains of activities.
- To provide balanced, non-partisan, research-based information on service needs and program effectiveness communicated in a clear and useful format to those who can apply such information.
• To provide information, technical assistance, and a wide range of interdisciplinary and management services to collaborative projects locally and elsewhere pertaining to university-community partnerships; collaborative demonstration service and policy projects; strategic planning and systems analysis; program monitoring, evaluation, and needs assessments; interdisciplinary and applied scholarship, education, and training; and other activities that promote the welfare of children, youth, families and the communities in which they live.

• To disseminate research and professional information on children, youth, and families through publications, presentations, the popular media, and personal contact to those individuals who can use that information, including academics, service professionals, policymakers, parents, and citizens.

• To be an exemplar of a university-community partnership and explore, demonstrate, and communicate to other universities and communities how such a venture can be beneficial to both partners.
Principles of Operation

The Office of Child Development emphasizes certain themes in conducting its activities.

- **OCD emphasizes interdisciplinary or collaborative projects among its constituencies.** If a project resides essentially within a single discipline or is in the proper domain of another single organization, the Office typically defers to that discipline or organization.

- **OCD does not focus its efforts exclusively on one or two problems, issues, or content themes.** Instead, the Office represents an infrastructure and a support facility for educational, scholarly, service, evaluation, and policy projects on any topic pertaining to children, youth, and families and does not focus exclusively or primarily on any single issue.

- **OCD prefers to operate collaborations with its constituencies in a partnership manner.** This means that collaborators share in the rights, responsibilities, and credit in selecting a topic, planning and implementing a project, operating it, and reporting its results.

- **OCD tends to be responsive and flexible in the selection of special projects.** Because of its partnership style, new projects are typically selected when OCD and its constituency’s document that a need exists, agencies and personnel are available, and funding for the project is possible. Consequently, while OCD does initiate projects, its agenda is often set in collaboration with its constituent partners.

- **OCD is prepared to operate in a timely, often rapid, manner.** Many of OCD’s partners operate on short deadlines and OCD attempts to maintain the capability and flexibility to meet such needs.

- **OCD attempts to facilitate, coordinate, and help others meet their goals and objectives and does not necessarily need to play a lead or continuing role in a project.** While OCD does operate numerous projects when the collaborators request that the Office play such a continuing role, the Office also enhances capacity in other organizations and individuals so that they, not the Office, will operate the project as appropriate. Consequently, OCD will play any appropriate role in a collaborative project consistent with its mission and principles regardless of whether the funding comes to the Office or to another organization. Further, OCD spins off or transfers projects when they no longer need OCD or do not fit OCD's project criteria.

- **As long as core funding permits, OCD does not charge or extract quid pro quo benefits from participating groups or projects.** This policy attempts to preserve trust and confidence in the Office as a fair and independent manager of collaborations. However, funded projects that request the Office to perform a continuing administrative service or technical service typically pay OCD for that service.
• **OCD does not operate direct services.** Since the Office attempts not to compete with its constituencies, the Office does not deliver routine professional or human services, although the Office may coordinate existing services and supervise case-management functions in situations in which it is necessary or desirable to do so.

• **OCD has no formal membership.** Its services and assistance are available to any of its constituents, and anyone is eligible to be a partner in its collaborative projects.

• **OCD promotes the welfare of children, youth, and families, but it is not a partisan political advocate.** The Office prefers to operate as an independent, credible, unbiased, and balanced source of information and administrative manager of service demonstrations, program evaluations, needs assessments, and policy projects on behalf of children, youth, and families rather than as an advocate for specific pieces of legislation or partisan issues.

• **OCD prefers to think of its activities as mutually-beneficial, university-community partnerships rather than as "public service."** The Office does not simply give its time or resources to faculty or the community in a unidirectional fashion. Instead, it works in partnerships with its constituents toward mutually-beneficial joint projects funded by external agencies.
Project Criteria

As noted in the Principles of Operation, OCD operates in a flexible, responsive, and often rapid manner in collaboration with its faculty, service professional, funder, and legislative constituencies to create new projects. Criteria considered before for taking on a project include:

1. The project pertains to children, youth, families, and the communities in which they live.

2. The project represents an innovative demonstration of new knowledge, techniques, best practices, and state-of-the art activities, the purpose of which is to create new information about the project, its feasibility, and its effectiveness.

3. Some appropriate evaluation will be conducted to assess the project's process and outcome effectiveness.

4. The project has implications for education, research, services, policy, or the welfare of children, youth, and families beyond the specific project itself, and some provision is made to communicate the results of the project to achieve this purpose.

5. The project is a collaboration of stakeholders operating in a partnership mode.
National Advisory Board

The National Advisory Board meets biennially and provides the Provost of the University, OCD’s Local Advisory Board, and OCD Co-Directors with a review and evaluation of OCD’s programic activities and internal administration. It places OCD in national perspective with respect to the purpose, nature, and relevance of its projects, successes and challenges, prospects for funding, stature relevant to other such units in the country, role in the University and local and national communities, and future directions.

Dr. J. Lawrence Aber, Director, National Center for Children in Poverty, Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University, 215 W. 125th Street, Third Floor, New York, NY 10027.

Dr. Larry Aber is a prominent specialist in child development, especially low-income children and families, and social policy.

Dr. Frances Degen Horowitz, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016-4309.

Dr. Horowitz is a past president of the Society for Research in Child Development and Scientific Advisor to the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Gary B. Melton, Professor and Director, Institute on Families and Neighborhood Life, Clemson University, 158 Poole Agricultural Center, Clemson, SC 29634-0132.

Dr. Melton is one of the nation’s leading authorities on children and the law, and the institute that he directs is similar in nature to the Office of Child Development.

Dr. Morton W. Weir, Chancellor Emeritus & Professor of Psychology Emeritus of the University of Illinois, 2012A Eagle Ridge Court, Urbana, IL 61802.

Dr. Weir is a child development specialist (psychology) and former director of the Boys Town Center for the Study of Youth Development.

Dr. Heather B. Weiss, Director, Harvard Family Research Project, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, 3 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Dr. Weiss’ project provides information about the development, implementation, and evaluation of family support and education programs for policy makers, program directors, and evaluation researchers. Dr. Weiss is a consultant to numerous organizations dealing with family programs, especially their evaluation.
Local Advisory Board

The OCD Local Advisory Board is comprised of leaders from OCD’s constituencies of University administrators, community service professionals, private enterprise representatives, funders, and policymakers. The Board meets twice a year to advise the Office on broad programmatic and administrative matters, and the Office works with individual Board members on more specific issues as needed throughout the year.

Chairperson

Mr. Thomas Michlovic, (former legislator) 515 Verona Street, North Braddock, PA 15104 (phone 412-351-0559).

University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Clifford Brubaker, Dean, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 4029 Forbes Tower, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (phone 412-647-1261; fax 412-647-1255).

Dr. N. John Cooper, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 917 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (phone 412-624-6090; fax 412-624-6089).

Dr. Heidi Feldman, Ronald L. and Patricia M. Violi Professor of Child Development, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Children’s Hospital, 3705 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3417 (phone 412-692-7450; fax 412-692-8729).

Dr. Robert Glaser, University Professor of Psychology, Director Emeritus, Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh, 833 LRDC Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (phone 412-624-7450; fax 412-624-9149).

Dr. Kevin Kearns, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, 3E17 Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (phone 412-648-7621; fax 412-648-2605).

Dr. Peter F. M. Koehler, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, 100 Allen Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (phone 412-624-2763; fax 412-624-9163).
Community and Human Services

Ms. Barbara Chait, 605 Whispering Pines Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
(phone 412-963-1614; fax 412-967-9376).

Mr. Marc Cherna, Director, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, One Smithfield Street, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2225  
(phone 412-350-5705; fax 412-350-3414).

Mr. Ronald R. Cowell, President, Education, Policy, & Leadership Center, 800 North Third Street, Suite 408, Harrisburg, PA 17102  
(phone 717-260-9900; fax 717-260-9903).

Dr. Karen W. Feinstein, President, Jewish Healthcare Foundation of Pittsburgh, Centre City Tower, Suite 2330, 650 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(phone 412-594-2555; fax 412-394-5464).

Mr. Leon Haynes, Executive Director, Hosanna House, 807 Wallace Avenue, Suite 101, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221  
(phone 412-243-7711; fax 412-243-7733).

Mr. Mike Hepler, President and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Western PA, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201  
(phone 412-782-5710; fax 412-782-5720).

Ms. Claudia Morf, (former Vice President of Fiscal Affairs, Westinghouse Corporation)  
2522 Saddlebrook Road, Macungie, PA 18062  
(phone 610-706-0280).

The Honorable Timothy F. Murphy, Senator, United States Congress, 504 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
(phone 412-344-5583; fax 412-429-5092).

Ms. Margaret M. Petruska, Senior Program Officer and Director, Children Youth & Families Programs, Howard Heinz Endowment, Domini Tower, Floor 30, 625 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(phone 412-338-2615; fax 412-281-5788).

W. Russell Robinson, (former legislator) 820 Clarissa Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(phone 412-683-6044).

Ms. Mary Zubrow, Vice President of Communities and Governmental Affairs, Magee-Womens Hospital, Forbes Avenue and Halket Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(phone 412-641-4971; fax 412-641-1939).

Ex-Officio

Dr. Alan M. Lesgold, Dean, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, 5T01 Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(phone 412-648-1773; fax 412-648-1825).

Dr. Carl N. Johnson, Associate Professor, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, 5T25 Wesley Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(phone 412-624-6942; fax 412-624-7231).
Office of Child Development Divisions

Program Divisions

Planning and Evaluation

General Purpose

The Planning and Evaluation Division works in collaboration with human service agencies to build their organizational capacity for program improvement and self-evaluation through program evaluation, training, technical assistance, and the use of community indicators. The staff, trained in psychology, public health, child development, and criminology, possess expertise in the evaluation of early care and education, youth development, family support, and juvenile justice programs among other areas.

Illustrative Activities

Over the past two years, the Division completed a statewide evaluation of the Keystone Stars Program to assess the implementation and effectiveness of Pennsylvania's quality early child care initiative. In addition, the Division has conducted several environmental scans and needs assessments and has provided training in evaluation to over 400 staff working in human services.

Current Projects

The Division is evaluating a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment program for female juvenile offenders being implemented in several residential facilities in Pennsylvania. The Division is also evaluating family support programs in Allegheny County, assessing several early childcare programs and initiatives, reviewing after-school and pregnancy-prevention programs, and evaluating programs relating to developmental disabilities. The Division also maintains a database of publicly collected demographic, health, education, and welfare statistics pertaining to Allegheny County’s children and families. Finally, the Division hosted a Symposium on Evaluation in 2004 and is currently working with a cohort of human service organizations to increase their capacity in evaluation.

Anne Farber, Director
Interdisciplinary Education, Training, and Research

General Purpose

This Division promotes and conducts interdisciplinary education and training as well as applied research projects pertaining to children, youth, and families, and it communicates the results of research to parents, practice professionals, and policy makers.

Illustrative Activities

In the past, the Division has funded and co-directed one of ten federal child abuse and neglect training grants, one of five federal interdisciplinary child welfare training grants, and a locally funded interdisciplinary fellowship program in policy and evaluation. The Division also created a course titled Interdisciplinary Proseminar in Applied Issues of Children, Youth, and Families for advanced undergraduate and graduate students as well as community service professionals. It initiated Pittsburgh’s membership in the National Early Head Start Research Consortium, and conducted research on the effectiveness of the Pittsburgh site of the federally funded Comprehensive Child Development Program. The Division also operates the Frank and Theresa Caplan Fund for Early Childhood and Parenting Education which promotes and funds students and applied early childhood and parent education projects.

The Division publishes OCD’s quarterly newsletter that includes Special Reports (reviews of research on applied issues aimed at service professionals and policy makers), Backgrounders aimed at journalists, Parenting Guides, and a set of newspaper columns for parents.

Current Projects

Currently, the Division conducts several types of projects:

- The Division will offer a Proseminar on Applied Issues of Children, Youth, and Families in the Applied Developmental Program of the School of Education in the Spring of 2005. The course will include guest lectures and discussions on a variety of applied issues, including the child welfare system, the public health system, program planning and grant writing, early child care and education, applied research methods and program evaluation, and policy development.
The Division will continue to publish the newsletter, Special Reports, Backgrounders, and newspaper columns, and to fund activities that promote early childhood development and parenting practices through the Caplan Fund.

The Division is currently in the last year of a five-year federally-funded, collaborative research project in which structural changes (e.g., smaller group size, fewer and more consistently available caregivers, family hour) and/or training in child development and sensitively responsive caregiving are implemented in the orphanages for children birth-4 years of age in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. The effects of such interventions are being assessed on the children’s physical, mental, and social-emotional development as well as on the adjustment of such children who are adopted into the USA.

Robert B. McCall and Christina J. Groark, Co-Directors
Program Divisions

Service Demonstrations

General Purpose

The Service Demonstration Division works with partners to develop and implement quality service models that improve the lives of children and parents. It especially promotes programs designed and governed by participants and communities. Through this work, services and evaluation are integrated to improve programs; lessons learned are identified and disseminated to a broad audience; and assistance is made available to providers and community groups to build capacity to improve outcomes for children.

Illustrative Activities

The *Early Childhood Initiative Demonstration Project* met its four goals of quality programming through centralized technical assistance and monitoring, improved administration and fiscal management, mutually beneficial collaborations, and policy development. Over 1,000 children received care in Wilkinsburg and Braddock that was assessed to be in the top 1% in quality in the Commonwealth.

*Early Head Start* is a nine-year project that provides intense, individualized, comprehensive services to pregnant women, infants/toddlers (up to age 3), and their parents to promote positive child outcomes. Services are provided to 170 families in Clairton, Sto-Rox, the Hill District, and East End communities of Pittsburgh in collaboration with community-based agencies.

*Partnerships for Family Support* provides training and technical assistance to the 33 family support centers of Allegheny County and leadership and staff support to the infrastructure of the family support system, including the Family Support Policy Board and its committees (Executive, Quality Assurance, and Advocacy), the Roundtable, Site Directors Network, and Community Voices. Close to 7,000 families are enrolled in family support centers, and over 800 staff receive training and technical assistance through the Division.

Current Projects

In addition to the ongoing projects of *Early Head Start* and *Partnerships for Family Support*, Service Demonstrations began *STARS TA* in 2004. This project is part of the Keystone STARS quality enhancement system and delivers and coordinates technical assistance to early care and education providers in Allegheny, Greene, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The purpose is to provide individualized, hands-on assistance to providers participating in the Keystone STARS system so that they can achieve higher star designations, enhance their program quality, and improve outcomes for the children in their care. This project works in
collaboration with the United Way of Westmoreland County School Readiness Initiative and will include a behavioral health component and an overall evaluation of the project.

Laurie Mulvey, Director
Policy Initiatives

General Purpose

This Division improves outcomes for children and families by informing policymakers of research, best practices, and evaluation results and by developing and supporting collaborative organizations in their work to improve policies.

Illustrative Activities

In the past, the Division has pursued several major projects: It led the Starting Points project, which was an initiative to better inform policy makers and the public about the importance of the early years in the development of young children; it helped to deepen and expand the family support movement (growth of family support centers, development of parent leadership); it successfully promoted an agenda around children's health care access that influenced state policy and local implementation; it launched a comprehensive early literacy campaign that generated collaborative activities by universities, media, community, school, pediatric, parent, early childhood, and literacy providers; and it participated in a statewide media campaign to gain commitments from candidates for Governor to address children's issues in their campaign and after being elected.

Current Projects

Policy Initiatives is continuing prior work in policy development, systems reform, public engagement, program improvement, and public/private partnerships, while adding a greater emphasis on collaborations and making data available and used in decision making. Policy Initiatives currently works in six areas:

- **Children’s Health.** Policy Initiatives’ current work includes efforts on state and local policies to reduce smoking during pregnancy.

- **Children’s Behavioral Health.** We are making several efforts at systems’ change to provide real help in a timely way to parents and caregivers of young children with behavioral problems.
• **Early Childhood Education.** We are participating in efforts to evaluate a statewide effort to build an early learning system, to establish a local collaborative to expand quality early childhood education, and to build a collaborative of children's researchers at three state-related universities.

• **Responsible Parenting and Family Support.** We are strengthening and expanding the network of 31 family support centers and organizing parent leaders to be consumer voices on local and state policy issues.

• **Early Literacy.** We are urging state policy changes that would improve preparation of teachers for children birth to age 8 and locally to improve early literacy.

• **Youth Development.** We are promoting after school youth places to reduce youth crime and advance the participants in academic and career pursuits.

    In each project, there are collaborations with primary partners, development of intermediaries, formation of policy collaboratives, work with other OCD divisions, use of data and best practices, close relationships with funders, information for policymakers, and learning/evaluation.

    Robert Nelkin, Director
Support Divisions

Administrative Operations

General Purpose

Administrative Operations is responsible for providing administrative support for all divisions of the Office of Child Development.

Illustrative Activities

We support all phases of grant management, including budget development, expenditure processing, and budget monitoring. We maintain a budget tracking database and provide information and reports as needed. Additionally, we provide assistance regarding computing, human resources, physical plant, telecommunications, and policy and procedural issues. We link OCD with other University departments, such as the Office of Research, Payment Processing, and Research/Cost Accounting.

In 2001, we designed and implemented a budget tracking database and more recently a address database. We played a lead role in the move of OCD to the Lexington Avenue location and coordinated all of the issues related to the design of the space and the physical move.

Current Projects

We are now working on the implementation of an online, interactive performance management system, Performance Impact Workplace. We are also evaluating the integration of our budget tracking database with the School of Education’s budget system.

Roger Fustich, Director
Support Divisions

Community and Internal Services

General Purpose
Community and Internal Services manages projects, events, and activities among the Office of Child Development divisions and staff and between the Office and the University and the community.

Illustrative Activities
Community and Internal Services has identified emerging issues affecting children, youth and families; convened University and community representatives to explore these issues; and organized the development of networks and collaborations to pursue projects in these areas. Major issues over the years have been runaway youth, homeless families and children, and youth gang prevention. Community and Internal Services promoted best practices in the human service field on an international level as part of the Pittsburgh International Children and Families Institute. Internal to the Office, the Division planned, organized and implemented Office of Child Development events and activities, including the OCD 10-Year Celebration, Open House at the new Lexington Offices, annual staff retreats and quarterly meetings, and internal committees addressing the interests of OCD staff.

Current Projects
The Division is the facilitator and administrator for the Fathers Collaborative, which promotes involved and responsible fathering through a service model for non-custodial fathers, a law clinic in collaboration with the University Law School that addresses father access and visitation barriers, the development of a child development curriculum for fathers, and training in child development to over 400 fathers in a three-year period.

The Division is currently coordinating the planning of the 12th Annual Family Support Conference.

The Division organizes a Food for Thought Luncheon Series with the School of Education. These sessions consist of short presentations followed by a discussion of a major issue of interest to faculty and community professionals, such as challenging behavior and early literacy. Three discussion sessions are being planned for this school year.

The Division will organize Office internal activities including informal luncheon discussions on a variety of educational topics for staff, supporting internal committees (e.g., OCD Marketing Committee), planning OCD’s annual Retreat, and coordinating the OCD staff library.

Kathryn Rudy, Director
The OCD Model
Reports and Publications


Presentations


Smith, W.E. (Etheridge), & Likeness, K. (October 25, 2003). Early Literacy Standards for Non-School Hour Programs Serving Children 0 – 8 Years. Presentation at the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.


Training Workshops and Conferences Sponsored

Family Support Conference: Stepping Up and Stepping Out for Strong Families and Communities

A Family Support Conference for parents, neighborhood leaders, faith-based groups, family support participants, community and economic development organizers, social service agencies, child care workers, educators, health care providers, practitioners and human service administrators, child advocacy groups, foundations, public agency staff, policy makers and elected officials was held on April 28th, 2004. Approximately 800 individuals attended.

Family Support America Conference

The Family Support America’s 10th National Conference was held in Chicago from May 11-15, 2004. During this conference, seven Office of Child Development staff members presented workshops along with several parents and site directors. These included:

Underwood, G., Byrd, C., & Barron, M.A. Lessons Learned from Strengthening Parent Governance in Family Centers.


OCD Training Workshops

This year Maria Almenderez Barron gave 27 training workshops attended by 527 employed professionals, primarily from Family Support Centers, on a variety of topics, including Classroom Management, Principles and Practices of Family Support, Family Support Data Collection, Strengthening Governance in Family Support Centers, Strength–Based Assessment and Goal Planning, Early Literacy, and others.
New Grants Awarded


Farber, A.: *Duquesne Board by Design Evaluation*, Duquesne University – (1 Mar 04 – 28 Feb 05) - $22,000.

Farber, A.: *Forbes Evaluation Cohort*, Forbes Foundation – (17 May 04 – 16 May 05) - $10,000.

Farber, A.: *Heinz Evaluation Cohort*, Howard Heinz Endowment – (17 May 04 – 16 May 05) - $10,000.


Nelkin, R., & Smith, W.E.: *United 4 Children*, The Raymond John Wean Foundation – (Jan 04 – Dec 04) - $13,000.

Nelkin, R., & Smith, W.E.: *Build Evaluation for The Child and Family Policy Center*, Penn State University – (Jan 04 - Dec 04) - $18,000.


Rudy, K.: *Children’s Trust Fund*, Pennsylvania Children’s Trust Fund – (Nov-03 – Oct-06) - $150,000.


Townsend, M.: *Cerebral Palsy Evaluation*, United Cerebral Palsy – (1 Oct 03 – 30 Mar 05) - $12,000.


Continuing Grants in Force


Barnard, W.: *Evaluation of Mercy Prevention Project*, Mercy Children’s Medical Center – (July 02–June 03) - $10,000.

Barnard, W.: *Evaluation of Mercy Care Project*, Mercy Children’s Medical Center - (Sept 02-Sept 03) - $4,000.


Farber, A.: *Evaluation of Community Accountability Panels*, Pittsburgh Mediation Center – (Jan 02-June 04) - $4,500.

Farber, A.: *Interdisciplinary Fellowship Program in Policy and Evaluation* - Howard Heinz Endowment - (Aug 01–Jan 04) - $250,000.

Firth, R.: *Improving the Health Care of America’s Children* - RAND - (Jan 02-June 05) - $12,705.

Groark, C.J.: *Barriers to Mental Health*, The Jewish Healthcare Foundation - (Jan 01-Dec 04) - $70,000.


Groark, C.J., & McCall, R.: OCD Core Support – The Howard Heinz Endowment – (Jan 02-Dec 04) - $300,000.

Groark, C.J., & Mulvey, L.: Early Childhood Initiative Demonstration Project, Howard Heinz Endowment – (1 Apr 01 – 31 Mar 04) – $6,000,000.


Groark, C.J., & Rudy K.: Access and Visitation Partnering for Positive Parenting - Allegheny County - (Sept 01-Sept 03) - $90,000.

Groark, C.J., & Rudy, K.: Promoting Responsible Parenting Through Father Involvement, Howard Heinz Endowments - (Jan 02-Jun 04) - $250,000.

McCall, R., & Groark, C.: Effects of Improving Caregiving on Early Mental Health, NICHD - (1 Apr 00- 31 Mar 05) - $2,843,740.


Mulvey, L.: GAPS, The Pittsburgh Foundation – (1 Jan 02 – 31 Dec 05) - $145,000.


Mulvey, L.: *STARS TA*, Keystone University research Center/DPW – (1 Jan 04 – 30 Jan 05) - $404,250.


Mulvey, L., & Firth R.: *Reinvestment Project with Family Support*, Community Care Behavioral Health - (Jan 02-Dec 03) - $300,000.


Nelkin, R.: *Infant Mental Health*, The Staunton Farm Foundation - (Jan 01-Jan 04) - $147,000.

Nelkin, R.: *Early Literacy Task Force*, The Howard Heinz Endowments - (Jul 02-Dec.03) - $100,000.


Nelkin, R.: *Reading Interventions for Kindergarten and First Grade Students in Neighborhood Programs*, Howard Heinz Endowment - (Dec 02-Jun 04) - $60,000.

Nelkin, R.: *Youthplaces*, Vira Heinz Endowments - (Nov 98-June 04) - $170,000.

Nelkin, R.: *Early Literacy*, The Grable Foundation - (Dec 99- June 04) - $300,000.

Nelkin, R, & Smith, W.: *Reading Interventions*, The Howard Heinz Endowments - (Jul 01- Jun 04) - $160,000.


Grant History Summary
**Office of Child Development Awards**

Christina J. Groark received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Public Service Award for 2004. It is the University’s most prestigious award in recognizing outstanding public service.

Robert Nelkin, in a survey of educators in the Post-Gazette, was among those named as helping to shape the present and future of education in the region.

Amachi Pittsburgh, which began its work mentoring the children of incarcerated parents only a year ago, was honored by President Bush in Washington D.C. on June 1, 2004. Amachi, a Nigerian word meaning “Who knows what God has brought us in this child”, is a partnership of local organizations including The University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development. Debra Stark, a member of OCD’s Planning and Evaluation Division, is the evaluator for Amachi Pittsburgh.
Staff of the Office of Child Development

Co-Directors

Christina J. Groark
Robert B. McCall

Associate Director

Carl N. Johnson

Division Directors

Anne E. Farber, Planning and Evaluation
Roger Fustich, Administrative Operations
Robert B. McCall & Christina J. Groark, Interdisciplinary Training, Education, and Research
Laurie A. Mulvey, Service Demonstrations
Robert Nelkin, Policy Initiatives
Kathryn L. Rudy, Community and Internal services

Project Directors

Wendy Barnard, Youth Development
Sheila Beasley-Wright, Family Support Outreach
Ernie Dettore, & Bernadette Bennermon, Co-Directors Early Childhood Initiative Demonstration Project
Wendy Etheridge Smith, Assistant Director, Policy Initiatives
Ray Firth, Behavioral Health Policy
Vivian Herman, Early Head Start Program
Bryce Maretzki, Family Support Policy Board
Debra L. Stark, Partnerships for Family Support Evaluation
Maria Z. Townsend, Child and Family Indicators
Jan Zajac, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment & Evaluation

Administrators

Peggy A. Maloney
David M. Nicoll

Executive Administrative Assistants

Mary Ellen Colella
Mary Louise Kaminski
Staff

Maria Barron  
Jessica DeGel  
Larry Fish  
Sharon Harper  
Cheryl Huggins  
Angela Koval  
Lucas Musewe  
Michelle Puzzanchera  
Beth Stafura  
Jeanne Taylor  
Ann Bisceglia  
Doris Dick  
Giesha Glass  
Annette Harris-Bush  
Susan Jones  
Kelly Mehaffie  
Charlene Nelson  
Donna Saresno  
Tyletta Stiller  
Emie Tittnich

Graduate Students and Interns

Doris Dick  
Mary Ohmer  
Shannah Taylor  
Prisca Moeti  
Carrie Rishel  
Sufang Yao

Undergraduate Students

Jessica DeGel  
Jeremy Lupo  
Ira Kohn  
Tom McGough