# Annual Report Contents

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Screened family scene
Co-Directors’ Report

We are pleased to review a few highlights from the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development’s 22nd year of operation.

Program Highlights

- **Something Worth Giving.** As a result of discussions between OCD, Grable, Heinz, R.K. Mellon, and the United Way, Something Worth Giving aims to explore innovatively how to frame the agenda for children in an “uplifting and compelling” way to inspire, engage, and sustain public action. The focus of this one-year grant is to allow OCD and its partners to review and analyze existing practices and produce conceptual prototypes to explore alternative talking points for public dialogue.

- **International Projects.**
  1. **Russian Orphanage Project.** In the Russian Federation, the results of the five-year intervention project conducted by OCD and colleagues in St. Petersburg were written into a scholarly monograph that will be published late in 2008. In addition, implementing structural changes in another orphanage was completed. The Office was awarded a new five-year NICHD grant to follow children who were in the intervention orphanages and subsequently placed in families, either in USA adoptive families or St. Petersburg adoptive, foster, or biological families. The project will determine if the interventions had longer-term benefits after children were transferred to different types of families.
  2. **Latin American Project.** OCD also completed baseline assessments of the wards, caregivers, and children in an orphanage in Managua, Nicaragua, prior to an intervention implemented by Whole Child International designed to improve caregiver-child social-emotional interactions. Outcome data after the intervention are being analyzed.
  3. **USAID Indicators Project.** OCD identified indicators, created an index characterizing child welfare well-being, and provided a structure for assessing the progress of child welfare reform in 21 countries in Eurasia for the U.S. Agency on International Development.

- **Maternal and Child Health.** The Policy Initiatives Division of OCD is working in collaboration with Allegheny County on ways to reduce pre-term births. Also, in partnership with Medicaid and RAND, OCD is making steady progress on improving managed care engagement of “line staff,” increasing the number of medical practices involved, and linking components of mental health care.

- **Children’s Behavioral Health.** The System of Care/Starting Early Together (SET) collaborative has made progress assisting families of children with behavioral issues. Additional seminars have been developed for SET staff so they can better relate to the trauma and experiences of children in CYF, clinical consultation services have been realigned, and a session at a national conference of clinical directors was facilitated to promote the need to address parental issues.

- **Early Childhood Education.** OCD’s Policy Initiatives Division is collaborating with three Pennsylvania universities to ease the transition of children to kindergarten, taking the lead of a collaborative to improve the quality of early childhood education experiences, and facilitating the provision of early intervention services to early care and education providers.

- **After School Program.** The School Age Care (SAC) program, funded by the Southwest Regional Key (five counties), part of the Pennsylvania Early Learning Keys to Quality system, works to enhance quality for children attending out-of-school programs. Program staff provide professional development opportunities and on-site technical assistance for programs in Keystone STARS and to licensed providers not in STARS to achieve higher quality standards and to encourage enrollment in the system.
- **Family Support Conference.** OCD coordinated its 15th annual Family Support Conference. An energetic keynote speaker and a variety of practical seminars produced an entertaining, thought-provoking, and educational event that attracted the largest attendance in the past 5 years.

- **Family Centers of Excellence Project.** The Family Centers of Excellence Project assists two local communities to improve children’s school readiness through technical assistance and various integrated and intensive methods at both the community and family levels. A goal is to expand the program beyond 2 years and replicate the program in other communities.

- **Fatherhood.** OCD and its collaborators are in the process of re-tooling the Fathers Collaborative to increase father involvement in children’s lives. Additionally, OCD and its partners are discussing with Family Court staff approaches to preventing fathers from getting into arrears in child support payments.

- **Professional Development Academy.** OCD has embarked on a collaborative venture with the School of Education’s Applied Developmental Psychology program to create a Professional Development Academy (PDA). The PDA is an intense graduate student mentoring program that will produce more qualified and knowledgeable professionals. A framework specific to OCD and its collaborators has been created, general curriculum planned, and recruitment is underway for the first cohort of students this fall.

- **Succession Planning.** OCD began planning for the succession of key leaders in OCD over the next 5-10 years. First steps include a literature review and an assessment of OCD’s developmental stage to determine what types of personnel need to be developed and recruited to keep the organization on its mission track.

**Financial Highlights**

OCD received 22 new grants this year, all from local and state sources, totaling $2,300,023. This was only slightly less than last year despite the receipt last year of a single federal research grant of $2.2 million.

OCD’s total outside grants in force during the year was $6,462,275 which represented an increase of 15% over last year.

**Conclusion**

Thus, OCD continues to thrive in a constantly changing social and funding environment, thanks to a creative and dedicated staff and wonderful and supportive collaborators whom we very much appreciate.

Sincerely,

*Christina J. Groark, Ph.D*  
*Robert B. McCall, Ph.D.*

*Co-Director*  
*Co-Director*
Vision, Mission, and Purposes

Office of Child Development Vision
All children, youth, and families will develop in safe and supportive environments and achieve their life potentials.

Description
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, policy makers, 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 constituency’s new knowledge, services, and policies to improve the lives of children and families in five domains:

- Interdisciplinary education and training.
- Interdisciplinary research and scholarship.
- Human service demonstration programs, networking, and strategic planning.
- Program monitoring and evaluation.
- 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 for 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, policy makers, 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 all partners.
Principles of Operation

The Office of Child Development (OCD) 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, OCD typically defers to that discipline or organization.

- **OCD does not focus its efforts exclusively on one or two problems, issues, or content themes.** Instead, OCD 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 constituencies find 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, OCD also enhances capacity in other organizations and individuals so that they, not OCD, 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 OCD 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 OCD as a fair and independent manager of collaborations. However, funded projects that request OCD to perform a continuing administrative or technical service typically pay OCD for that service.

- **OCD does not operate direct services.** Since OCD attempts not to compete with its constituencies, OCD does not deliver routine professional or human services, although OCD 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.** OCD 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, the Office of Child Development 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 taking on a project include:

- The project pertains to children, youth, families, or the communities in which they live.

- 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.

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

- 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.

- 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 programmatic 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, Former Director, National Center for Children in Poverty, Professor of Applied Psychology and Public Policy, NYU/The Steinhardt School of Education, 246 Greene Street, New York, NY 10003.

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

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

Horowitz is a past president of the Society for Research in Child Development and scientific advisor to the American Psychological Association.

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

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.

Weiss’s 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 and 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 policy makers. The Board meets twice a year to advise OCD on broad programmatic and administrative matters, and OCD works with individual Board members on more specific issues as needed throughout the year.

Chair

Mr. Thomas Michlovic, Commissioner, PA Securities Commission, Commonwealth of PA, 1010 N. Seventh Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1410
Phone: 717-783-4389; Fax: 717-783-5125

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, Professor of Pediatrics and Neonatology, Stanford University, 750 Welsh Road, Suite 314, Palo Alto, CA 94304
Phone: 650-723-5711; Fax: 650-723-2829

Dr. Jean Ferketish, Secretary to the Board of Trustees and Assistant Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh, PA 15260.
Phone: 412-624-6623; Fax: 412-624-9147

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

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

Mr. James L. DiCostanzo, PNC Bank, 249 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2707
Phone: 412-762-3489; Fax: 412-705-1625

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

The Honorable Timothy F. Murphy, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives, 504 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Phone: 412-344-5583; Fax: 412-429-5092
Mr. Robert Nelkin, President and Chief Professional Officer, United Way of Allegheny County, 1250 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-456-6800; Fax: 412-394-5376

Ms. Margaret M. Petruska, Senior Program Officer and Director, Children Youth & Families Programs, Howard Heinz Endowment, Dominion Tower, Floor 30, 625 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-338-2615; Fax: 412-281-5788

W. Russell Robinson, Council Member, County of Allegheny, Room 119, 436 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-350-6570; Fax 412-350-6499

Mr. Frederick W. Thieman, President, the Buhl Foundation, Centre City Tower, Suite 2300, 650 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-566-2711; Fax 412-566-2714

Ex-Officio

Dr. Alan M. Lesgold, Dean, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, 5605 Wesley 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, 5941 Wesley Posvar Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Phone: 412-624-6942; Fax: 412-624-7231
The Office of Child Development Collaborative Model
Office of Child Development Divisions

Division of Applied Research and Evaluation

General Purpose
Through teaching and training, evaluating programs, and applying research to practice, the team from the Division of Applied Research and Evaluation (DARE) aims to improve the capacity of our non-profit and governmental partners to serve our children and families. Our team helps partners develop sensible and feasible evaluation plans, integrate research evidence into practice in a pragmatic manner, and identify impact opportunities where the social needs, research knowledge, and organizational missions converge. Our interdisciplinary team is comprised of experienced multidisciplinary professionals, with expertise in developmental, educational, social, and community psychology, program evaluation, teaching and instruction, policy analysis, and statistics. We collaborate with partners across practitioner, policy, and research arenas. Our current portfolio of projects pertains to early care and education, child mental and physical health, family support, youth development, after-school programs, community needs assessments, child welfare system reform, and juvenile justice programs.

Illustrative Activities
This year marks a renewed effort to integrate our “process” expertise (e.g., evaluation, logic model) with the “content” expertise of our partners. Working with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, our team is partnering with the National Center for Juvenile Justice to jointly develop standards for evidence-based best practices for juvenile justice programs and provide training and technical assistance to various levels of providers and agencies across Pennsylvania. We are also conducting a multidisciplinary exploration into how we can best communicate children’s needs to the public and engage the public in the children’s agenda. The collaboration involves major regional funders, the United Way, WQED (PBS Television), Carnegie Mellon University (Communication, Design, and Social Decision faculties and students), and Family Communications, Inc. The communication strategies are expected to apply at both the regional and agency levels. We are in the process of applying for Federal research grants, assembling a national team of researchers to apply the best experimental evidence in social/emotional resiliency to school achievement research into school and after-school practice. Lastly, we have an interdisciplinary study in a residential juvenile treatment facility to assess its readiness to adopt a progressive model of care and understand the existing obstacles that strain staff and the organization.

Current Projects
We continue to provide training, technical assistance, and evaluation support to our core base of partners, including Allegheny County Department of Human Services (Family Support, System of Care), Dauphin/Northumberland System of Care, the United Way of Allegheny County, state Office of Child Development and Early Learning, U.S. Agency for International Development, and youth development agencies.

Junlei Li, Division Director

Division of Service Demonstrations

General Purpose
The Service Demonstrations 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 School Age Care (SAC) Project is part of the Keystone STARS quality enhancement programs. Professional development and hands-on technical assistance is made available to practitioners who are caring for school-age children and are seeking to enhance their program quality and improve outcomes for the children in their care. This program delivers and coordinates professional development and technical assistance to practitioners in Allegheny, Greene, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties.

Current Projects
The Early Childhood Mental Health Project provides on-site support to early care and education practitioners in Allegheny, Greene, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. An early childhood mental health specialist, at the invitation of a facility’s director and with the permission of the parents, observes an infant or toddler in the classroom, develops an individual plan to address the child’s social/emotional development, communicates concerns to parents, and provides referral information to families with children who may need specialized services.

Early Head Start is an 11-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.

The Family Centers of Excellence Project facilitates the development, implementation, and evaluation of strategies that support two communities to strengthen their commitment to school readiness. This is achieved through integrated, intensive, community, and family approaches that support young children and their families. These strategies are designed to be sustained beyond this two-year project and replicated in other communities. In each of these communities, the family support center serves as the focal point for outreach, collaboration, service delivery, and community engagement. Intensive technical assistance is provided to the two centers to strengthen their overall quality.

Partnerships for Family Support (PFS) provides professional development and support to the 30 family support centers of Allegheny County and the infrastructure of the family support system. This includes 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 opportunities for professional growth through the Division.

STARS TA is part of the Keystone STARS quality enhancement programs. Hands-on technical assistance is made available to early care and education practitioners seeking to enhance their program quality and to improve outcomes for the children in their care, while achieving higher Star designations in the STARS program. Using a broad range of consultants, this program delivers and coordinates technical assistance to practitioners in Allegheny, Greene, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties.

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 its leadership in Smoke Free Mothers/Smoke Free Families has resulted in changes to Pennsylvania’s Medicaid policies and funding that will facilitate smoking cessation among pregnant women.

Current Projects
Policy Initiatives is continuing prior work in policy development, systems reform, public engagement, program improvement, and public/private partnerships. Policy Initiatives currently works in three areas:

Maternal and Child Health. In partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department, Policy Initiatives is working to reduce the rate of pre-term births in Allegheny County. In partnership with the Medicaid managed care organization and the RAND Corporation, we are partnering to increase the identification of maternal depression and access to care.

Children’s Behavioral Health. Policy Initiatives is making several efforts at policy and systems change to provide help in a timely way to parents and caregivers of young children with behavioral problems. In partnership with The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Policy Initiatives is providing workforce development, training, and clinical support for Allegheny County’s Early Childhood System of Care.

Early Childhood Education. We are leading a local collaborative to expand quality early childhood education; to build a collaborative of children's researchers at three state-related universities to improve the transition of children to kindergarten; and to link early care and education providers with early intervention services.

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 policy makers, and learning/evaluation.

Laurie Mulvey, Division Director

Division of Policy Initiatives

General Purpose
This Division improves outcomes for children and families by informing policy makers of research, best practices, and evaluation results that address potentially needed policy changes, and by engaging and supporting collaborating organizations, interested professionals, and families to improve public policies and professional practices.

Ray Firth, Division Director
Division of 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. Also, we provide financial information and reports as needed, and assistance regarding computing, human resources, facilities management, policy and procedural issues, and telecommunications. We link OCD with other University administrative departments, such as the Office of Research, Payment Processing, Research/Cost Accounting, and Human Resources.

Current Projects
Administrative Operations is updating the OCD internal web site.

Administrative Operations is developing a technology plan for OCD, including a schedule for computer replacement, transition from Windows XP to VISTA and from Office 2003 to Office 2007, and assessing the wireless network capabilities.

We are assessing the use of technology for training, including the review of equipment, software and the OCD external web site.

Roger Fustich, Division Director
The Office of Child Development Organizational Chart
Office of Child Developments Collaborators

DARE Collaborators

Phase I and II of Monitoring the Status of Child Welfare to CEE/CIS Countries for USAID
Victor Groza, Grace F. Brody Professor of Parent-Child Studies, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University.

Holt International, Kiev, Ukraine.

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC), Florence, Italy.

Something Worth Giving, A Exploration of How to Engage the Pittsburgh Community to Respond to Children’s Needs
Susan Hagan, Special Faculty in Design and Professional Writing, Carnegie Mellon University.

Suguru Ishizaki, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Communication Design, Carnegie Mellon University.

Darryl Ford Williams, Vice President of Production, WQED Television.

Promoting Evidence-Based Quality Standards in Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Services
National Center for Juvenile Justice, Pittsburgh, PA.

Various Community-Based Education-Related Evaluations
Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity (CEAC), School of Education, University of Pittsburgh.

Nurse Family Partnership, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

International Orphanage Projects
Rifkat Muhamedrahimov, Head Dept. of Social Adjustment and Psychosocial Support, Vice Dean for Research, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Natasha Nikiforova, Director, Baby Home 13, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Oleg Palmov, Docent, Department of Social Adjustment and Psychosocial Support, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

International Assistance Group, Pittsburgh, PA.

Nightlight Christian Adoptions, Fullerton, CA.

Whole Child International, Santa Monica, CA.

Service Demonstrations Collaborators

Partnerships for Family Support
Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

Family Resources

Focus On Renewal Sto-Rox Neighborhood Corporation

Jubilee Association

Kingsley Association

Primary Care Health Services, Inc.

Providence Connections, Inc.

Rankin Christian Center

South Hills Interfaith Ministries

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

YMCA of Homewood-Brushton

Centers of Excellence in School Readiness
Heather Bachman, Assistant Professor of Education, University of Pittsburgh, PA.

Beginning with Books

Carol Barone-Martin, Executive Director Early Childhood, Jan Matthew, Special Education Specialist, Rhonda Harrison, Program Office Head Star, Peggy Feldman, Special Education Counselor, Susan Chersky, Senior Manager Community Relations. Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Family Resources

Karen McIntyre, Dean College of Arts and Sciences, Point Park University.

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

Early Head Start
Allegheny County Health Department
Community Human Services Corporation

Family Services of Western Pennsylvania

Focus On Renewal Sto-Rox Neighborhood Corporation

Mercy Behavioral Health

The Consortium for Public Education

Keystone STARS TA
Beginning with Books

Point Park University

United Way of Westmoreland County

School Age Care
Mary Frances Silva-Bowser, Consultant,
Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children.

Early Childhood Mental Health
Alliance for Infants and Toddlers

Mind in the Making
Phyllis Esch, Consultant.

Policy Initiatives Collaborators

Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR)
Pam Long, BS, Allegheny County Health Department.

Margaret L. Watt-Morse MD MPH, Associate Professor,
Obstetrics & Gynecology, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Magee-Womens Hospital.

Robert C. Cicco, MD, The Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Pediatrics.
Reports and Publications


Presentations


McCall, R.B. (September 2007). Wingspread Conference participant in ‘Using Research to Improve Outcomes for Young Children: Challenges, Strategies, and Effective Action.” National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Society for Research in Children Development (SRCD), Racine, WI.


McCall, R.B., & Groark, C.J. (June 2007). “Improving Orphanages.” Invited presentation at a reception hosted by the US Ambassador to Nicaragua, Paul A. Trivelli, at his residence, Managua, Nicaragua.


Training Workshops and Conferences Sponsored

Family Support Conference
What’s Love Got to Do with It? The Heart of School Readiness and Success
June 4, 2008.

The 15th annual family support conference for parents, community leaders and members, family support staff and participants, human service agencies, early care and education practitioners, educators, head start staff, health care providers, and policy makers from the eastern part of the United States was held on June 4, 2008. Over 840 people gathered to hear keynote speaker Dr. Adolph “Doc” Brown, III, and participate in 26 workshops on the topic of school readiness and success and how families and love impact both of them.


Making Kids’ Lives Better Together: Lessons from Pennsylvania’s Partnerships to Benefit Young Children
June 10, 2008.

The Promising Practices Network (PPN), RAND Corporation, and Pittsburgh Social Venture Partners hosted an exclusive forum to discuss lessons learned from Pittsburgh’s public and private partnerships established to benefit young children.

Observers have credited Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh in particular, with having successful public/private partnerships that work effectively to promote the well-being of children in the region. This forum used a question and answer format, moderated by WQED correspondent, Michael Bartley, to summarize lessons that can be learned from Pittsburgh’s experience with public/private partnerships to benefit young children. A panel of distinguished leaders from the sectors that collaborated to promote children’s well-being discussed a variety of issues. Jeanne Taylor played a major role in mobilizing for the new pre-kindergarten program.

Bringing Communities Together: Resources, Outreach, and Advocacy for Early Childhood Success!

The day’s agenda included
- The Basics of Observing Children.
- Stress Management.
- Observation as a Tool to Guide Classroom Structure and Daily Planning Level.
- Improving ECERS Scores Through the PA Early Learning Standards.

Jeanne Taylor was a participant in the Professional Panel and took part in the Panel Discussion.

Other Training


New Grants Awarded

Bachman, H. “Identifying Child Care,”
The Spencer Foundation,
(May 2008 – August 2010), $449,800.

Bell, S. “Glade Run, Evaluation of Staff and Supervisory Relationships during Sanctuary Model Implementation,”
Glade Run Lutheran Services,
(November 2007 – November 2008), $10,000.

Bell, S. “Healthy Marriage Coalition Evaluation Report, Review and Logic Model Training,” Urban League,
(October 2007 – February 2008), $2,000.

Bell, S. “Urban League Logic Model Training and Development,” Urban League,
(January 2008), $1,500.

Bell, S., & Townsend, M. “United Way of Allegheny County Logic Model and Indicators Training.”
United Way of Allegheny County,
(July 2007 – June 2008), $31,750.

DeGel, J. “Boards-by-Design Evaluation,”
Duquesne University,
(November 2007 – April 2008), $10,000.

DeGel, J. “Urban Youth Action, Technical Assistance,”
Urban Youth Action,
(October 2007), $10,000.

DeGel, J. “Urban Youth Action, Youth Leadership Program Development,” Urban Youth Action,
(January 2008 – December 2008), $45,000.

DeGel, J. “YouthWorks, Logic Model and Indicator Training,” YouthWorks,
(March 2008 – May 2008), $10,000.

Firth, R. “Responsible Parenting and Economic Stability for Young Non-Custodial Fathers,”
The Howard Heinz Endowments,
(August 2007 - February 2009), $150,000.

Firth, R: “Early Childhood Community Engagement Benefits,” Pennsylvania Key,
(July 2008-June 2009), $50,000.

Firth, R. “Complementary Learning,”
The Howard Heinz Endowments,
(July 2007-June 2008), $200,000.

Groark, C.J. “ECEEP,”
The William Penn Foundation,
(April 2007 – June 2008), $450,000.

Groark, C.J., & McCall, R. B. “Core Support and Strategic Planning,” R. K. Mellon Foundation,
(September 2007 – November 2010), $150,000.

Groark, C.J., & McCall, R. B. “Creative Sustainability,”
The Howard Heinz Endowments,
(December 2007 – November 2010), $500,000.

Groark, C. J. “Adaptive Playground for Babyhome 3.”
Julia Petruska and community members,
(April 2008 – March 2009), $10,818.

Li, J. “Something Worth Giving,”
The Grable Foundation,
(February 2008 – December 2008), $15,000.

Mulvey, L. “School Age Care Project,”
YWCA of Pittsburgh,
(June 2007 - July 2008), $90,000.

Mulvey, L. “Family Centers of Excellence in School Readiness,”
The Howard Heinz Endowments,
(January 2007 - December 2009), $300,000.

Townsend, M. “Community Services Early Head Start,”
Community Services of Venango County,
(October 2007 – February 2008), $10,000.

Zajac, J. “System of Care Technical Assistance,”
Northumberland County Children and Youth Services,
Continuing Grants in Force


Grant History Summary
Office of Child Development Staff

Co-Directors
Christina J. Groark
Robert B. McCall

Associate Director
Carl N. Johnson

Division Directors
Junlei Li,
Applied Research and Evaluation

Roger Fustich,
Administrative Operations

Laurie A. Mulvey,
Service Demonstrations

Ray Firth,
Policy Initiatives

Project Directors
Sheila Bell,
Family Support Evaluation

Sheila Beasley,
Family Support Outreach

Bernadette Bennermon,
STARS TA

Doris Dick,
Assistant Director, Administrative Operations

Sharon Harper,
Partnerships for Family Support, Training and Technical Assistance

Vivian Herman,
Early Head Start

Ruth Kolb,
Family Support Policy Director

Ken Leistico
Special Projects, Centers of Excellence

Lucas Musewe,
Family Support Database

Maria Z. Townsend,
Child and Family Indicators

Jan Zajac,
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment and Evaluation

Administrators
Peggy A. Maloney
David M. Nicoll

Executive Administrative Assistants
Mary Ellen Colella
Mary Louise Kaminski

Graduate Students and Interns
Alex Debbas
Joan Eichner
Megan Julian
Johana Rosas
Emily Merz
Martin Trevino

Undergraduate Students
Susan Thomas
Brandi Melot

Staff
Suzanne Ashman
Ann Bisceglia
Jessica DeGel
Ernie Dettore
Chris Dunkerley
Maura Falchetti
Larry Fish
Barbara French
Amy Gee
Sharon Geibel
Dannai Harriel
Annette Harris-Bush
Gordon Hodnett
Emily Hollingsworth
Cheryl Huggins
Annette Jackson
Susan Jones
Regina Jones
Angela Koval
Anita Lichman
Margie Matesa
Kaitlin Moore
Charlene Nelson
Kalani Palmer
Donna Saresno
Janell Smith-Jones
Jeanne Taylor
Emie Tittnich
Chunyan Wang
Office of Child Development Awards

The Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice in Division 37 of the American Psychological Association presented the Distinguished Contribution to Child Advocacy Award to

Laurie Mulvey, M.S.W.

In recognition of her significant contributions to advocacy for children and their families.

August, 2007
Screened Group of Children