

North Carolina State University
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Annual Year-End Review

July 2008-June 2009

Center for Family and Community Engagement
Dr. Joan Pennell
Professor & Director

This year has seen major milestones achieved in establishing the first formally approved center within the college. As documented below, these accomplishments position the center to fulfill its mission and goals within the college, university, community, state, national, and international contexts. The mission of the center is:

Building partnerships to advance the leadership and wellbeing of families and their communities.

The year-end review is organized into the following areas:

1. Center Goals for the Year
2. Changing Environment
3. Major Accomplishments of Center
4. Administrative Accomplishments
5. Productivity in Research and Scholarship
6. Productivity in Engagement
7. Productivity in Teaching and Mentoring
8. Goals for Next Academic Year

Appended are the center's external funding, publications, and presentations for this year.

1. Center Goals for the Year

The goals for the center were developed in consultation with university and community associates. The major goals were as follows:

- Receiving approval to establish the center;
- Developing infrastructure to support center;
- Carrying out contracted work;
- Diversifying and expanding funding base;
- Building on state, national, and international affiliations;
- Strengthening interdisciplinary connections on and off campus;
- Planning center's advisory council; and
- Articulating center's mission, and raising center's profile.

2. Changing Environment

The global economic recession imposed constraints on center activities while providing opportunities for fulfilling its mandate. The constraints evolved over the year, making for a constantly changing terrain on which to build a new center.

The opportunities were generated, in part, as a function of the national response to addressing the economic recession. The mission of the center to advance family and community leadership and wellbeing fit well with state and national goals.

Additionally, the partnerships that the center director and staff had cultivated over the years yielded supports in funding and other resources from within the state and nation as well as from other countries. This meant that where some avenues were cut off locally, others opened up elsewhere.

The center's focus on the scholarship of engagement made it possible to integrate its public service and research. This approach was congruent with an increasing federal funding emphasis on intervention, implementation, and dissemination research and with federal expectations that recovery efforts document societal impacts.

3. Major Accomplishments of Center

- Board of Trustees granted approval to establish the center on September 18, 2008;
- Center received \$699,914 in external funding for work in 2008-2009;
- Center had fourteen publications and nine presentations in 2008-2009; and
- Planning group met on March 12, 2009, and provided guidance on formation of center's advisory council.

4. Administrative Accomplishments

Developing Personnel and Center Profile

- Encouraging center staff development through (a) funding conference travel within and out of state (in the fall), (b) holding workshops on training, distance learning, and team work, (c) providing mentoring to develop their research, publication, grant writing skills, and (d) using awards to recognize their accomplishments;
- Overseeing the development of a group of family and youth trainers, who have received services and come from diverse backgrounds, in curricular development and training;
- Employing 4 students: 1 Social Work undergraduate student (training support), 1 Psychology master's student (research assistance), and 2 Communications undergraduate students (video filming and editing);
- Raising the profile of the center through (a) presentations on and off campus, (b) meeting with public agencies and community groups, (c) creating a center brochure, and (d) refining the center's webpage;

- Obtaining center support through contracts from the North Carolina Division of Social Services and travel/conference support from the American Humane and British and Canadian sources (\$4,400).

Encouraging Diversity

- Developing and disseminating practice models that affirm diversity;
- Advancing youth, family, and community leadership in practice and policy;
- Promoting coordinated and culturally responsive approaches to resolving family violence; and
- Supporting efforts of Native groups, particularly related to child welfare.

Supporting Interdisciplinary and International Collaborations

- Fostering a system of care through joint training of social services, schools, juvenile justice, mental health, and public health;
- Partnering with scholars from various disciplines (e.g., social work, psychology, sociology, veterinary medicine, natural resources, nutrition, public health) in grant submissions, publications, presentations, and/or evaluation;
- Chairing or serving on interdisciplinary and/or international task groups;
- Conducting an international study of the evidence of family engagement in child welfare with collaborators from the New Zealand, United Kingdom, and United States; and
- Providing consultation and training on family meeting models within the state, other U.S. states, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

5. Productivity in Research and Scholarship

- Conducting research on family meetings, child welfare, and domestic violence;
- Carrying out program and training evaluation;
- Publishing in peer reviewed and trade venues; and
- Presenting in state, national, and international forums.

See appendix for listing of external funding, publications, and presentations.

6. Productivity in Engagement

- Providing training and technical assistance on child and family teams across the state;
- Serving on/chairing state and county committees; and
- Hosting discussion sessions with United Kingdom Director of Fostering Connections, Robert Tapsfield.

7. Productivity in Teaching and Mentoring

The center is primarily focused on public service and research rather than academic instruction. Its public service includes extensive curricular development and on-site and distance training across the state. These trainings have been opened to social work students, especially child welfare scholars.

8. Goals for Next Academic Year

The major goals for the center are as follows:

- Carrying out externally funded public service and research;
- Diversifying and expanding funding base;
- Strengthening interdisciplinary, national, and international connections; and
- Disseminating scholarship of engagement through varied and accessible means to increase practice and policy impact.

APPENDIX

EXTERNAL FUNDING

2002-present, Principal Investigator and Project Director, North Carolina Family-Centered Meetings Project, funded by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, primary funding US Department of Health & Human Services. Annual renewed for total of \$3,569,222.

- Training and Evaluation of Child and Family Teams, July 2009-June 2010, contract of \$545,662 [pending]
- Training and Evaluation of Child and Family Teams, July 2008- June 2009, contract of \$699,914.

2009-2011, Principal Investigator and Project Director, Outcome Evaluation of Strong Fathers Program, subcontract from Family Services Inc., Forsyth County, NC, funded by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, primary funding Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, US Department of Justice. Total of \$65,000.

- Outcome Evaluation, October 2009-September 2010, contract of \$50,270 [Pending]
- Outcome Evaluation, April 2009-September 2009, contract of \$14,730.

PUBLICATIONS

Chapters Crampton, D. S., & **Pennell, J.** (2009). Family-involvement meetings with older children in foster care: Intuitive appeal, promising practices and the challenge of child welfare reform. In B. Kerman, M. Freundlich, & A. N. Maluccio (Eds.), *Achieving permanence for older children and youth in foster care* (pp. 266-290). New York: Columbia University Press. (invited and reviewed)

Pennell, J. (2009). Widening the circle: Countering institutional racism in child welfare. In S. Strega & S. A. Esquao. [J. Carrière] (Eds.), *Walking this path together: Anti-racist and anti-oppressive child welfare practice* (pp. 78-95). Halifax, Nova Scotia, & Winnipeg, Manitoba: Fernwood. (invited and reviewed)

Pennell, J. (2008). Family group conferencing. In C. M. Renzetti & J. L. Edleson (Eds.), *The encyclopedia of interpersonal violence* (Vol. I, pp. 238-239). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (invited)

Articles **Pennell, J.**, & Burford, G. (2009). Introduction: Principled diffusion of family group conferencing in Canadian child welfare. In J. Schmidt & M. Sieben (Eds.), *Family group conferencing policy and practice in Canada:*

Our evolving experience [Special issue]. *Protecting Children*, 23(4), 3-8. (invited)

Bibliography Burford, G., Connolly, M., Morris, K., & **Pennell, J.** (2009). *Annotated bibliography on engaging the family group in child welfare decision making*. Englewood, CO: American Humane Association. Available at: http://www.americanhumane.org/protecting-children/programs/family-group-decision-making/re_annotated_bibliography/ [Last updated February 3, 2009.]

Reports **Pennell, J.** (with **Allen-Eckard, K., Gasman, S., Kirk, R., Latz, M., Poindexter, B., & Wakefield, A.**). (2008). *School-based child and family teams project: Summary report to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, fiscal years 2006-2007 and 2007- 2008*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University, Center for Family & Community Engagement. Available at http://www.cfface.org/dpi/documents/06-08DPIAR_2YrSummaryReport_8-28-08jp.pdf

Pennell, J. (with **Allen-Eckard, K., Gasman, S., Kirk, R., Latz, M., Poindexter, B., & Wakefield, A.**). (2008). *School-based child and family teams project: Annual report to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, fiscal year 2007 – 2008, Vols. 1-3*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University, Center for Family & Community Engagement.

Pennell, J. (with **Coppedge, A., & King, J.**). (2008). *North Carolina Family-Centered Meetings Project: Annual report to the North Carolina Division of Social Services, fiscal year 2007 – 2008*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University, Center for Family & Community Engagement.

Pennell, J. (with **Coppedge, A., & King, J.**). (2008). *North Carolina Family-Centered Meetings Project: Annual report to the North Carolina Division of Social Services, fiscal year 2007 – 2008: Summary and projections*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University, Center for Family & Community Engagement. Available at http://www.cfface.org/dss/documents/07-08DSSAR_SumProj_9-12-08jp.pdf

Newsletters **Pennell, J.** (2008, July). Benefits of child and family team meetings: What the research says. *MRS Newsletter: Information in Support of North Carolina's Multiple Response System*, 1(3), pp. 4-5.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

Morris, K., Burford, G., & **Pennell, J.** (2009, June). *Family rights and family engagement: An international review of the research*. Plenary at the 2009 Conference on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches. Pittsburgh, PA. (invited)

Burford, G., Morris, K., & **Pennell, J.** (2009, June). *Report on international family engagement research review*. Workshop at the 2009 Conference on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches. Pittsburgh, PA. (peer reviewed)

Pennell, J. (2008, October). *An international and inclusive review of family group decision making*. Presentation to 2008 Outreach Scholarship Conference, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA. (peer reviewed)

STATE, PROVINCIAL, OR LOCAL FORUMS

Allen-Eckard, K. (2009, April). *Family Group Decision Making: Supporting Family Leadership*. Workshop to People Places, Charlottesville. VA.

Allen-Eckard, K., Latz, M., & Soto, M. (2008, August). *Working with Hispanic/Latino families in child and family teams*. Workshop to 2008 Multiple Response Systems Institute, Greensboro, NC.

Gasman, S. & Henderson, S. (2008, October) *How to Get Children and Youth onboard for Child and Family Teams*. 87th Annual Social Services Institute: Decisions 2008. Raleigh, NC.

Gasman, S. & Poindexter, W. (2009, May) *Foster Care to Adoption: Defining and Engaging Family in Child and Family Team Meetings*. 11th Annual North Carolina Foster and Adoptive Parent Association's Conference: Awakening the Aloha Spirit...Changing Tides, Changing Lives. Charlotte, NC

Latz, M., & Soto, M. (2009, February). *Latino families and the child and family team process*. Workshop to Eastern Carolina University, NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative, Greenville, NC.

Pennell, J., Sherry, M., Longtin, S., & Taylor, E. (2009, April). Discussion of family violence in the context of family group conferencing. Workshop to 4th Professional Development Day, Family Group Conferencing Provincial Resource, Children's Aid Society and George Hull Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (invited)

Pennell, J. (2008, November). *Family group conferencing*. Presentation to Masters WIMBA Class, Collaborative Consultation & Larger Systems, University of Massachusetts Boston, Graduate College of Education, Department of Counseling and School Psychology. (invited)

Pennell, J. (2008, October). *Center for Family & Community Engagement*. Presentation to College of Humanities and Social Sciences Advisory Board, Raleigh, NC. (invited)

Pennell, J. (2008, September). *Widening the circle to stop family violence*. Seminar to Hampshire Family Group Conference Program, Hampshire Children's Services, Winchester, United Kingdom. (invited)

Pennell, J., & Inglis, S. (2008, September). *Family group conference & domestic violence*. Oxfordshire Family Group Conference Program, Oxfordshire Children's Services, Oxford, United Kingdom. (invited)