

Annual Year-End Review

July 2009-June 2010

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

Introduction

The Center for Family and Community Engagement was officially established in the Fall of 2008. In its second year of operation, the center remained firmly dedicated to its mission, strengthened its base and resources, and extended its collaborative networks. All this has supported the center in making substantive contributions to understanding and promoting family and community engagement. Engagement here refers to involving families and communities in making and carrying out decisions over their affairs that fit with their cultural practices and uphold human rights.

The mission of the center is to advance safe, healthy, and productive families and communities. Its theory of change to achieve this goal is widening the circle of supports around families and communities (Pennell & Anderson, 2005). This theory further specifies four pathways for widening the circle. These are:

- Cultural safety — a context in which family and community members can speak in their own language, express their values, and use their experiences and traditions to resolve issues
- Family leadership — a relationship in which the family members are central and their efforts are supported by community organizations and public agencies
- Community partnerships — a local collaboration in which each partner retains its distinctive role while striving to realize common goals
- Inclusive planning — a decision-making process that involves different sides of the family or community in making a plan, incorporates means of sustaining their participation, and is supported by public agencies and other groups.

To achieve its mission, the center offered training, technical assistance, and research within and outside the state; disseminated its work through various means to enhance its accessibility to diverse groups; and formed alliances within the university, community, state, nation, and world. All the work of the center concerned the scholarship of engagement, defined as:

The collaborative generation, refinement, conservation, and exchange of mutually beneficial and societally relevant knowledge that is communicated to and validated by peers in academe and the community. (NCSU, 2010)

This approach fit well within the university as a research-intensive and land-grant institution to better the lives of the people of North Carolina. It particularly supported the

College of Humanities and Social Sciences’ strategy of “engaging with communities, businesses, nonprofits, and governments to apply scholarly perspectives to ongoing challenges.” This annual reports documents the center’s accomplishments in realizing its mission.

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 and Challenges
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, presentations, and collaborations for this year.

1. Center Goals for the Year

The major goals were 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.

2. Changing Environment

The global recession continued to affect the state’s economy and limited the capacity of government agencies and foundations to fund new initiatives. Because the center had already established its reputation in family and community engagement, it was able to retain contracts. The economic downturn also meant that groups on and off campus recognized all the more the necessity of collaborative efforts and viewed the center as a valuable partner. In particular, the center’s signature area—family-centered meetings—ensured sustained funding and opened up new opportunities. These opportunities included state, national, and international requests for conducting research and evaluation, authoring papers, making presentations, providing training and consultation, serving on task forces, and developing grant applications.

3. Major Accomplishments of Center in 2009-2010

- In-state Training and Technical Assistance: 63 scheduled training workshops and 22 technical assistance and learning support sessions, for a total of 85 events; 95%

- of 1,235 participants agreeing that training or technical assistance had a positive impact (preliminary figures for year).
- Student Involvement: 2 advisory council, 4 training, 2 curricular development, 4 brochure development, 1 presentation, 2 research assistance, and 22 foster care survey participation (preliminary figures for year)
 - Dissemination: 2 peer-reviewed publications, 4 peer-reviewed publications in press, 16 presentations/workshops of which 5 state, 6 national, and 2 international, and 2 videos.
 - Contract/Grant Funding: Awarded \$593,741.
 - Committees/Task Forces: 8 NCSU campus, 3 state, 7 national, and 1 international.
 - Networking Alliance/Advisory Council: Its inaugural meeting was held in the fall, and its strategic planning session was held in the spring.
 - Awards: In recognition of her scholarship, the center director, Joan Pennell, was awarded the Alumni Association Outstanding Researcher Award. In recognition of her service, the training coordinator Jenny King received the CHASS Award for Excellence.

4. Administrative Accomplishments and Challenges

The main administrative challenge concerned the state's fiscal deficit. This meant that the state contractor restricted staff travel, and as a result, the center had to use other funds to underwrite staff's attending meetings or conferences. Both of these were important to maintaining a strong team spirit, promoting collaborative planning, and developing professional competencies. Additionally, the center's state-appropriated account was reduced, compelling even greater reliance on other funding sources. The impact of these reductions was mitigated by the center's already drawing more heavily upon other revenue streams and by its instituting a service center. The service center made it possible to accept task orders from groups off campus.

Developing Personnel and Managing Budget

- Encouraging professional development through (a) funding conference/workshop travel within and out of state; (b) holding workshops on training, distance learning, diversity, and team work; (c) providing mentoring to develop staff, student, and faculty research, publication, and grant writing skills; and (d) using awards/recognitions to applaud their accomplishments.

Fundraising and Profiling Center

- Obtaining center support through contracts from the North Carolina Division of Social Services, an internal grant from CHASS, travel/conference/author meeting support from U.S. and Canadian sources, and donation of director's honoraria to the center; and
- Raising the profile of the center through (a) presentations on and off campus, (b) meeting with public agencies and community groups and serving on task

forces/committees, (c) creating a project brochure and curriculum brochure, and (d) refining the center's webpage.

Encouraging Diversity

- Hiring or contracting with youth and family partners;
- Developing and disseminating practice models that affirm diversity;
- Advancing youth, family, and community leadership in practice, policy, and training;
- Promoting coordinated and culturally responsive approaches to resolving family violence; and
- Supporting efforts of American Indian groups, particularly as 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
- Hosting with campus (Department of Social Work, Office of Diversity and Inclusion) and community sponsors, a presentation by the Cree of James Bay, Quebec, Canada.

Consulting with Advisory Bodies and Partnering with Affiliated Organizations

- Establishing the center's networking alliance;
- Serving on state, national, and national advisory councils and task forces; and
- Providing consultation and training on family meeting models within the state, other U.S. states, nationally, and internationally.

The Networking Alliance is comprised of 16 Advisory Council members, 8 affiliates, and all 13 Center team members. The council members represent family and youth partners, public and nonprofit agencies, legal advocates, and universities. The affiliates provide for flexibility in rounding out cultural, community, and university perspectives as demanded by emerging issues in the community and the work of center. The first Networking Alliance meeting was held on Friday, October 9th, 2009. Advisory Council members and affiliates were introduced to staff, and the center director presented an overview of the center's history, work, and mission. The Networking Alliance met again on Monday, March 15th, 2010 along with two facilitators who guided the group in visioning work. This has served as a basis for ongoing planning by the center team about the center's

priorities and strategies and the results of this planning will be reviewed at the fall 2010 Networking Alliance meeting.

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;
- Presenting in local, state, national, and international forums; and
- Preparing funding proposals to federal, state, and foundation funders.

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;
- Providing consultation on family engagement to agencies in North Carolina, other U.S. states, Canada, and the United Kingdom; and
- Serving on/chairing state and county committees.

The technical assistance and learning support (TALS) was particularly noteworthy because it responded to emerging needs around delivery of child and family teams across the state. The TALS program provided direct support to social services and other agencies with whom they partnered such as schools, mental health, and juvenile justice. Center staff developed and delivered tailored workshops, presentations, individual consultations, and program implementation assistance around topics ranging from engaging families/youth to supportive coaching around meeting facilitation.

See appendix for collaborations.

7. Productivity in Teaching and Mentoring

- Providing opportunities for students in public service and research;
- Resourcing student learning; and
- Developing in-class and distance technologies for teaching and culturally sensitive instruction.

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. The center's work offers opportunities and supports for student learning in real-world environments.

Students from multiple disciplines (e.g., psychology, social work, design, public health, public policy), universities (e.g., Duke, ECU), and levels of education (high school,

undergraduate, graduate) have participated in center activities. These included serving on the center's advisory council, co-training, curricular development, brochure development, presenting, and evaluation/research. Depending on their type of involvement, students were paid for time and travel, and their efforts were recognized through gift certificates or acknowledgments in publications. The center provided financial support for a doctoral study and oversaw graduate student research.

8. Goals for 2010-2011

The major goals for the center are as follows:

- Engaging youth, families, community organizations, government agencies, and other universities in the center's work;
- Implementing public service and research;
- Disseminating innovative practices and research findings;
- Providing opportunities for faculty, students, and staff for public service and professional development;
- Diversifying and expanding the center's funding base;
- Strengthening the infrastructure to support the center;
- Building on campus, state, national, and international affiliations; and
- Raising the Center's profile on and off campus.

APPENDIX

AWARDS GRANTED

2009-2010, 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, prime US Department of Health & Human Services, contract of \$538,471.

2009-2010, 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, prime Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, contract of \$50,270.

2010, Principal Investigator and Project Director, Veterans Survey, Scholarship and Research Award, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University. Partnering with University of Arizona and University of North Carolina at Greensboro, grant of \$5,000.

2010-2011, 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, prime US Department of Health & Human Services, grant of \$544,080.

TASK ORDERS

Pennell, J., & Kearney, C. (2010). *Family meetings toolkit* (sections on key elements, safety, strengths, and family private time). New York State, Center for Development of Human Services, contract of \$3,332.

Pennell, J., Allen-Eckard, K., Wakefield, A. (2010). Consultation to Cree Board of Health and Social Services James Bay, Quebec, on Family Group Conferencing. Funding from Cree Human Resource Development, contract of \$7,938.

PUBLICATIONS

Books Connolly, M., Burford, G., Morris, K., & **Pennell, J.** (under contract). *Family engagement and participation*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan. (peer reviewed)

Journal Issue **Pennell, J.**, Burford, G., Connolly, M., & Morris, K. (Eds.). (under review). Taking family rights seriously: Family engagement and its evidence in child welfare. Proposal for special issue to *Child Welfare*.

Chapters **Pennell, J.**, & Koss, M. P. (in press). Feminist perspectives on family rights: Social work and restorative justice processes to stop women abuse. In E. Beck, N. Kropf, & P. B. Leonard (Eds.), *Social work and restorative justice: Skills for dialogue, peacemaking, and reconciliation*. Oxford University Press. (invited & peer reviewed)

Pennell, J., & Crampton, D. S. (in press). Parents and child maltreatment: Integrating strategies. In J. W. White, M. P. Koss, & A. E. Kazdin (Eds.), *Violence against women and children: Consensus, critical analyses, and emergent priorities: Vol. II. Navigating solutions*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. (invited & peer reviewed)

Pennell, J., & Kim, M. (2010). Opening conversations across cultural, gender, and generational divides: Family and community engagement to stop violence against women and children. In J. Ptacek (Ed.), *Restorative justice and violence against women* (pp. 177-192). New York: Oxford University Press. (print and online publication) (invited & peer reviewed)

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 & peer 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 & peer reviewed)

Articles

Pennell, J., Sobrero, P., & Cowling, E. B. (under review). The scholarship of engagement: Cultural challenges and institutional imperative.

Burford, G., **Pennell, J., & Edwards, M.** (in press). “A friendlier, less intimidating experience”: Family team meetings as principled advocacy. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*. (peer reviewed)

Allen-Eckard, K., Latz, M., & Coppedge, A. (2010). What do families want? Family voices in the training room. *Protecting Children*, 25(1). 11-21.

Poindexter, W. T., Reikowsky, R. C., Koss, M. P., & Pennell, J. (2010). Supporting family-led processes within a social work agency: Lessons learned. *Protecting Children*, 25(2). (peer reviewed)

Pennell, J., Edwards, M., & Burford, G. (2010). Expedited family group engagement and child permanency. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 32, 1012-1019. doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2010.03.029 (peer reviewed)

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)

Reports North Carolina State University. (2010). *Report of the Task Force on the Scholarship of Engagement*. Raleigh: Office of Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development.

Newsletters **Poindexter, B.** (2009). If no one can, then perhaps everyone can, *MRS!* 5 (1).

Poindexter, B. (2009). Which hat goes where, when, and how? *Facilitation Focus*, Center for Family and Community Engagement.

Videos **Pennell, J., & Kearney, C.** (2010). *Family meetings toolkit* (sections on key elements, safety, strengths, and family private time). New York State, Center for Development of Human Services.

North Carolina Family-Centered Meetings Project. (2009). *Keeping it Real*. Raleigh: North Carolina State University.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

Presenter Burford, G., **Pennell, J.**, & Morris, K. (2010, June). *International findings on family engagement in child welfare*. Plenary panel at the annual conference of the American Humane on Family Group Decision Making, Burlington, VT. (invited)

Latz, M., & Meadows, E. (2010, June). *One family's story: How North Carolina is partnering with families to promote better child and family team practices*. Annual conference of the American Humane on Family Group Decision Making and Other Family Engagement Approaches, Burlington, VT.

Pennell, J., & Rauktis, M. E. (2010, June). *Measuring fidelity to key FGC practices from multiple perspectives*. Discussion group at the annual conference of the American Humane on Family Group Decision Making, Burlington, VT.

Pennell, J. (2010, June). Family group conferencing and domestic violence. Keynote presentation at the international conference of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, Toronto, Canada. (invited)

Pennell, J., Sobrero, P., & Cowling, E. B. (2009, September). Scholarship of engagement and cultural challenges within an academic context. Panel presentation at the 10th Annual National Outreach Scholarship Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. (peer reviewed)

STATE, PROVINCIAL, OR LOCAL FORUMS

Presenter **Pennell, J.** (2010, June). *Family team meetings and racial equity*. Presentation at the University of Toronto, School of Social Work, Canada. (invited)

Meadows, E. (2010, May). *Transitions and child and family teams*. Presentation for the Chatham County Collaborative, Agency and Family Partners, Chapel Hill, NC

Pennell, J. (2010, May). *Women abuse and FGDM*. Web-ex presentation, University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work. (invited)

Allen-Eckard, K., Meadows, E., & Jones, L. (2010, April). *Family parent trainers-moving beyond the pop up parent role*. Workshop to 2010 North Carolina Foster and Adoptive Parent Conference, Charlotte, NC.

Allen-Eckard, K., & Meadows, E. (2010, April). *The synergy of family professional collaboration*. Workshop for Public Health and Children with Special Needs Family Council, Raleigh, NC.

Meadows, E. (2010, April). *Breaking down the barriers/Building a family-driven system*. Keynote Presentation for the Craven County Department of Social Services Conference, New Bern, NC.

Pennell, J. (2010, April). *Funding the scholarship of engagement*. Presentation at the Meet the Researcher series and Engagement Brown-Bag Luncheons, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (invited)

Pennell, J. (2010, April). *Old problems, new solutions: Family violence and restorative responses*. Plenary presentation at the Crime Victims Week and Child Abuse Prevention Workshop, Florida Atlantic University, Broward, FL. (invited)

Pennell, J. (2010, April). *Sexual assault*. Panel presentation at the Crime Victims Week and Child Abuse Prevention Events, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL. (invited)

Meadows, E. (2010, March). *Strength based child and family teams*. Workshop for the Chatham County Collaborative, Agency, and Family Partners Pittsboro, NC

Brazel, J., Eisemann, J., **Pennell, J.**, & Severin, L. (2010, February). Balancing research and writing time with other responsibilities. Panel presentation to Assistant Professors' Learning Community, Sponsored by Office of Faculty Development, Association of Women Faculty, African American Faculty-Staff Organization, Multicultural Faculty Group, and Office for Diversity and Inclusion. North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (invited)

Sobrero, P., **Pennell, J.**, & Cowles, E. (2010, February). Scholarship of engagement and cultural challenges within an academic context. Presentation to NCACES All Specialists Meeting, North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (invited)