

Faculty for June 20, 2016 Predictive Analytics Day

Crystal Ward Allen, MSW, LSW has been with Casey Family Programs since spring of 2014, after 24 years working with the child welfare system in Ohio. While Crystal was Executive Director of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, Ohio joined the Title IV-E Waiver in 1997; greatly increased the identification, engagement and support of kinship caregivers as an alternative to unrelated foster care; experienced a 42% reduction in the number of children in custody; established the statewide OHIO Youth Advisory Board and OhioReach for foster alumni seeking post-secondary education; and aggressively advocated for the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. Crystal was Project Manager of one of the federal Kinship Navigator grants authorized in that act.



Her early career years were spent as a juvenile probation counselor in Appalachia, VA; adolescent group care in Pittsburgh, PA; and child welfare in suburban Minnesota. She is a Va. Tech Hokie as well as an OSU Buckeye, loves to ride her bike, hike and enjoy music - but most importantly she has two amazing adult children. Crystal is passionate about ensuring every child and youth is safe, and has someone that is unconditionally crazy about them - thus, strengthening families is a must.

Eric D. Fenner retired as the director of Franklin County Children Services in 2011, a public child welfare agency that serves the Columbus, Ohio, area. In 32 years of public service, including stints at the Franklin County Juvenile Court as Assistant Director, Franklin County Department of Jobs and Family Services, as Deputy Director, and Ohio Youth Advocate Programs, as Associate State Director, Eric spent over 20 years in Child Welfare. The final 5 years were spent as the Franklin County Children Services' first African American Executive Director.



Under Mr. Fenner's leadership, Franklin County launched several new initiatives aimed at increasing family engagement and assuring permanency for youth, including alternative response and team decision making. The result in Franklin County was a 29 percent reduction in the number of children in foster care over the last three years – and the lowest amount in 12 years.

As managing director of one of four strategic consultant teams at Casey Family Programs, Mr. Fenner oversees a team of professional consultants and support staff who build relationships and provide technical assistance and support to child welfare systems in about 14 states.

Bryan Lindert is the Senior Director of Quality for Eckerd Kids. He is responsible for the overall quality of services in the largest privately operated child welfare system in the country. In 2013, Bryan implemented Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback, an approach to Quality that helped reverse a pattern of nine child homicides that had occurred under prior provider. This work was highlighted in the final report of the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities. He is currently working with 5 states to apply predictive analytics to fatality and abuse prevention. Bryan previously worked for the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County as the Child Abuse Prevention Manager. He also held a variety of positions at the Florida Department of Children and Families.



Barbara Needell, MSW, PhD, retired from her position as a researcher at the Center for Social Services Research, School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley. As former Principal Investigator of the California Child Welfare Indicators Project (funded by the California Department of Social Services and the Stuart Foundation), she has worked extensively with statewide and county specific administrative data. The team at UCB collaborates with state and county colleagues to produce and publicly disseminate the data used to support the California Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability System (http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare).



The CCWIP partners with the Children's Data Network at the University of Southern California (datanetwork.org) to provide technical assistance with the use of linked administrative data in child welfare. The CCWIP has joined with Casey Family Programs to provide support to states and counties nationally with the Casey-Berkeley Data Advocacy Project, and Barbara continues to consult with Casey and the Children's Data Network as an independent contractor. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Mills College, with a B.A. with Honors in Psychology. She received her M.S.W. and Ph.D. with Distinction from the School of Social Welfare at Berkeley, and was the recipient of the 2008 Peter Forsythe Award for Leadership in Public Child Welfare from the American Public Human Services Association. She is the mother of two fine young men.

Jonathan G. Sushinsky recently joined the Results Oriented Management team, and in this role, works with states to improve child welfare reporting and the use of data to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. Prior to joining the ROM team, Jon was the Manager of Research, Analysis, and Data for the Colorado Division of Child Welfare. His background includes research and data analysis of child welfare, juvenile justice, and substance abuse issues.



Jon has promoted the use of inferential and predictive statistical modelling in a variety of areas over the years. Colorado's Division of Child Welfare has used ROM data for the last several years to inform practice and policy in continuous quality improvement efforts including the use of analytics to identify risk of emancipation for children who are legally free for adoption.

Susan Smith, PhD is the Senior Director of Data Advocacy at Casey Family Programs in Seattle, WA. Casey Family Programs is an operating foundation dedicated to improving, and ultimately eliminating the need for, foster care in the United States. She leads work with public jurisdictions to support data-driven decision-making and also internally tracks the impact of Casey's investments. She has worked in nearly all states and territories to improve measurement in child welfare and has led national initiatives to improve outcome-driven, child-focused child welfare practice and policy. Prior to coming to Casey, she served on the faculty at the University of Southern California, School of Social Work, and has taught child welfare policy and research there. Her expertise is in public and child welfare policy. Dr. Smith currently holds an adjunct lecturer position on the USC, where she teaches occasional courses on research and social policy.



Michelle Rawlings is the Director, Bureau of Safety and Well-Being, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Michelle is responsible for prevention and early intervention programming, child welfare policy and program development, the child welfare continuous quality improvement system, including critical incident reviews, and management of the state's Title IV-E program. Michelle has over twenty years working in Wisconsin's child welfare system, including managing the Division's child welfare data and analytics section, working in program and professional development for two local child welfare programs which serve kids and families in Milwaukee and Rock counties, and serving as an ongoing services child welfare case manager in Dane county.



Yvonne Humenay Roberts, PhD, is a Senior Research Associate at Casey Family Programs in Seattle, Washington, where she has worked since 2013. Her primary projects at Casey involve managing, evaluating and providing consultation on studies assessing child welfare practice models and the implementation of trauma-informed care into state and local systems of care. Dr. Roberts is currently leading a multi-state evaluation of the Eckerd Rapid Safety FeedbackSM (ERSF) Model, an approach that utilizes measurement of a baseline of serious risk factors with real-time quality assurance. Prior to joining Casey, Dr. Roberts completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Division of Prevention and Community Research at Yale University, where her research focused on the effects of trauma exposure on children's mental and physical health.



Dr. Roberts earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan and a PhD in Psychology with an emphasis on Child Clinical and Health Psychology from the University of Cincinnati. She is a licensed clinical psychologist. She is the Editor-in-Chief of *APA Division 37 Section Newsletter on Child Maltreatment* and currently serves as a reviewer for *Professional Psychology, Research and Practice*, *American Journal of Community Psychology*, *Archives of Pharmacy Practice*, *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, and *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Professor Rhema Vaithianathan is the Co-Director of the Centre for Social Data Analytics at AUT University in Auckland, New Zealand. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Singapore Management University.



Professor Vaithianathan works extensively with linked administrative data in both the evaluation of services and in predictive analytics. She has led the creation of a predictive risk modelling tool for child welfare services in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. That tool, due to go live in July 2016, will help call takers as they screen thousands of calls alleging maltreatment every year. www.csda.aut.ac.nz