The meeting will begin in a few moments

New Directions in Child Abuse and Neglect Research

Communications Webinar

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE AND
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
New Directions in Child Abuse and Neglect Research

Communications Webinar
March 25, 2014
Welcome and Introductions

Abbey Meltzer
Director of Communications

Institute of Medicine
Today’s Agenda

• Furthering the Impact of the Report
  *Dori Sneddon, Children’s Bureau*

• Reviewing Report Findings
  *Mary Dozier, PhD, University of Delaware*
  *Joan Levy Zlotnik, PhD, ACSW, National Association of Social Workers*

• Spreading the Message and Utilizing Report Findings
  *Abbey Meltzer, IOM*

• Understanding and Using New Materials
  *Sharon Reis, GYMR Public Relations*
Furthering the Impact of the Report

Dori Sneddon, MSW
Child Welfare Program Specialist, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect

Children’s Bureau
Furthering the Impact of the Report

• Impact of the report on the field

• Integral need to further the findings of the report

• Important key findings distilled in communication products to serve as a tool to extend the reach of the report in your work
Reviewing Report Findings

Mary Dozier, PhD
Amy E. DuPont Chair of Child Development
University of Delaware
Consensus Study: New Directions in Child Abuse and Neglect Research

The Committee was tasked to:

• **Build** on the review of literature and findings from the evaluation of research on child abuse and neglect;

• **Identify** research that provides knowledge relevant to the programmatic, research, and policy fields; and

• **Recommend** research priorities for the next decade, including new areas of research that should be funded by public and private agencies and suggestions regarding fields that are no longer a priority for funding.
Expert Committee

Anne Petersen, PhD (Chair) – University of Michigan
Lucy Berliner, MSW – University of Washington
Linda Burton, PhD – Duke University
Phaedra Corso, PhD – University of Georgia
Deborah Daro, PhD – Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
Howard Davidson, JD – American Bar Association
Angela Diaz, MD, MPH – Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Mary Dozier, PhD – University of Delaware
Fernando Guerra, MD, MPH – University of Texas
Carol Hafford, PhD – NORC at the University of Chicago
Charles Nelson, PhD – Harvard University
Ellen Pinderhughes, PhD – Tufts University
Frank Putnam Jr., MD – Cincinatti Children’ s Hospital Medical Center
Desmond Runyan, DrPH, MD, MPH – Kempe Center, University of Colorado
Cathy Spatz Widom, PhD – John Jay College
Joan Levy Zlotnik, PhD, ACSW – National Association of Social Workers
Risk Factors

Certain factors elevate the risk for child abuse and neglect, but none of these individual or contextual factors has been shown to “cause” child abuse or neglect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental/Caregiver</th>
<th>Contextual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Early Child Bearing</td>
<td>• Single-Parent Household</td>
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<td>• Substance Abuse</td>
<td>• Stressful Environment</td>
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<td>• Antisocial Personality Disorder</td>
<td>• Social Isolation</td>
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<td>• Poverty</td>
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<td>• Violence</td>
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Research Priorities

• High-quality qualitative and quantitative studies; longitudinal studies

• Innovative experimental studies that will allow tests of causality

• Ecological model: individual, community, family, cultural factors
Consequences

**BRAIN DEVELOPMENT**
- Changes in the prefrontal cortex of the brain
- Changes to the stress response system

**RELATIONAL SKILLS**
- Poor peer relations
- Difficulty at work
- Aggression

**PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH**
- Depression
- Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Heightened anxiety

**RISK BEHAVIORS**
- Alcoholism
- Early sexual activity
Consequences

• Individual differences

• Resilience
Research Priorities

• Enhance understanding of separate and synergistic consequences of abuse and neglect

• Improve understanding of mechanisms

• Abuse and neglect have pernicious effects but research demonstrates that change is possible
Reviewing Report Findings

Joan Levy Zlotnik, PhD, ACSW
Director, Social Work Policy Institute
National Association of Social Workers
Interventions and Service Delivery Systems

Significant advances have been achieved in the development of evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions.
Research Priorities

• **Implementation** of proven programs with **fidelity** in the systems where children receive care

• **Sustainability** (including funding)

• **Cultural adaptations** of evidence-based programs for understudied populations

• **Research** on interventions designed to strengthen **protective factors** and promote **resiliency**

• Strategies for better **reaching, engaging, and retaining target populations**, especially those at highest risk and facing the greatest challenges

• **Programmatic cost analyses** or **economic evaluations**
Child Welfare System

Expected Outcomes:
Safety, Permanency, Well-Being

**Recent System-Level Reforms**
- Differential Response
- Privatization
- Parent and Family Engagement
- Practice Models

**Major Categories of Services**
- Child Protection Investigation
- Family-Centered Services and Supports
- Foster Care
- Adoption
Child Welfare System

**Multisystem coordination**
is critical to child welfare system performance and outcomes for children

Child welfare systems must have **capacity to implement** service improvements

**Improved empirical data**
provides a greater understanding of the experience of children involved with child welfare

**Multidisciplinary** and multi-method experience and expertise is essential
Research Priorities

• Support and undertake rigorous evaluations of effective service models
• Research highly effective delivery systems
• Study how to implement evidence-based practices in complex system
Spreading the Message and Utilizing Report Findings

Abbey Meltzer
Director of Communications

Institute of Medicine
Spreading the Message and Utilizing Report Findings

Activities and results to date:

- Media coverage
- Presentations by committee members
- Report materials
Spreading the Message and Utilizing Report Findings

**Goal**: Develop resources that promote actionable information from the report to accelerate progress and research on child abuse and neglect.

**Key focus areas for communications:**
- Research gaps
- Interventions
- Child neglect
Spreading the Message and Utilizing Report Findings

Report resources and materials available on toolkit page:

www.iom.edu/childmaltreatmentresources
Using New Materials

Sharon Reis
Partner
GYMR Public Relations
Using New Materials
Using New Materials: Research Gaps

Report findings reveal what still needs to be better understood. Research questions brief looks to:

- Synthesize research questions by topic
- Identify gaps in knowledge and areas at greatest need for research
- Provide foundation and priorities for future research projects

Core audience: research and funder communities

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Using New Materials: Interventions

Report details progress in developing interventions to reduce child abuse and neglect, ameliorate consequences, and improve parental capacity. Fact sheet outlines:

- Key elements of successful interventions
- Approaches, practices, and strategies with evidence for effectiveness
- Information for determining potential models of intervention
- Factors to consider in implementation

Core audience: child welfare professionals, administrators, national associations, federal/state agencies
Using New Materials: Child Neglect

Report notes that cases of physical and sexual abuse are declining, but neglect is not. Video on child neglect:

• Emphasizes need for attention to this issue
• Defines types of neglect
• Outlines long-term effects and factors impacting risk and resilience
• Includes call to action

Core audience: general public
Using New Materials: Child Neglect
Using New Materials

Putting into Practice:
• Share widely to help draw attention to these areas
• Use and have available at conferences and speaking engagements
• Post materials on your organization’s website
• Promote via social media
New Directions in Child Abuse and Neglect Research

For more information and to download the report, please visit: www.iom.edu/childmaltreatment

Toolkit resources available at: www.iom.edu/childmaltreatmentresources