

**Discussion Group Meeting Agenda**  
*Building Successful Research-Practice-Policy in Child Welfare*  
March 15, 2016  
Washington, DC

Researchers strive to produce and identify successful strategies for improving youth-serving programs, practices, and policies. However, there is often a gap between the development of services shown to be effective and the routine use of those services by youth-serving agencies. In addition, researchers don't always ask the questions that are challenging decision-makers. According to research from Dr. Lawrence A. Palinkas, research-practice-policy partnerships can be an important strategy for narrowing this gap. While many such partnerships exist, there is much to be learned regarding the roles policymakers and practitioners can play in collaboration, how best to structure these collaborations to maximize their utility, and how partnerships can inform policy and practice in order to yield the most positive outcomes for children. This meeting will explore three different partnership models, as defined in Dr. Palinkas' [white paper](#) prepared for the William T. Grant Foundation.

The models include:

- Model 1: Researcher-driven; primary function to generate knowledge
- Model 2: Practitioner-driven; primary function to disseminate knowledge
- Model 3: Driven equally by research and practice; multiple functions

In this meeting, we will:

- Convene research, policymaking, and practitioner communities who do not normally interact with one another to facilitate relationship building.
- Explain the different models and the role of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in each.
- Identify challenges and opportunities inherent with these types of partnerships.
- Discuss common elements of successful partnerships.
- Explore how the use of research in policy and practice varies based on the strategy used to share the research. Participants will be encouraged to share the challenges they anticipate in helping this strategy take hold and their ideas about what would help in overcoming these obstacles.

Takeaways:

- Participants will leave with a more nuanced understanding of the critical role relationships, trust-building, and context-setting play in establishing successful and enduring research/practice partnerships.
- Participants will identify concrete ideas on how to promote, establish, and sustain these partnerships, as well as questions to consider regarding their local context.

**Agenda:**

8:00 AM      **Breakfast Available**

8:30 AM      **Welcome and Introductions**

AYPF will provide welcoming remarks, and participants will have the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves, their organization, and their work.

9:00 AM

### **General Overview**

**Presenter: Dr. Kim DuMont, Senior Program Officer, William T. Grant Foundation**

Kim DuMont will set the stage for the day's discussion. She will give an overview of why the William T. Grant Foundation believes research-practice-policy partnerships are a promising strategy for narrowing the gap between these often siloed institutions, and describe the goals for the meeting.

9:15 AM

### **Overview of Partnership Models**

**Presenter: Dr. Lawrence A. Palinkas, School of Social Work, University of Southern California**

Dr. Palinkas will provide an overview of the three models for research-practice partnerships discussed in his paper. He will emphasize that all three involve some degree of research, technical assistance, knowledge generation, and knowledge dissemination, with the differences between models arising from the amount of attention given to each component, as well as who initiates the partnership. (We will ask him to refrain from addressing the elements of successful partnerships as delineated in his white paper, as we want participants to tease those out from the presentations and discuss in small groups. We'll then pull all that information together towards the end of the day.)

9:35 AM

### **Question & Answer**

9:50 AM

### **Break**

10:00 AM

**Panel 1: Model 1** – *The primary function of this type of partnership is to conduct research and generate knowledge.*

The case study examined in this panel involves a partnership between the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC) and San Diego County Child Welfare Services (CWS). In this partnership, researchers at CASRC examine the effect of a foster parent training and support initiative (KEEP) on risks associated with placement disruption. CWS provides access to the data, participates in data collection, and reviews study findings. Child welfare case managers and foster parents receive training in the intervention and use it with a cohort of families meeting study inclusion criteria. Although both partners are viewed as equals, the research institution (CASRC) is the primary driver of this partnership.

In this panel, speakers from CASRC and CWS will discuss the diverse roles they play, as well as challenges and opportunities inherent in this type of partnership.

**Presenters:**

- **John Landsverk**, former Director, CASRC

10:20 AM **Question & Answer**

10:30 AM **Small Group Discussions**

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion in small groups, and will identify some essential elements for a successful “Model 1” type of partnership. They will also share any information about similar models they are familiar with.

10:50 AM **Share-outs**

One member from each small group will share that group’s thoughts with all participants. We will record this information and post it around the room.

11:00 AM **Panel 2: Model 2 – *The primary function of this type of partnership is to provide long-term technical assistance and disseminate knowledge related to evidence-based interventions.***

The case study examined in this panel involves a partnership that was driven by a policy decision to improve quality of care delivered by using practices with demonstrable outcomes. In this case, the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) in New York City made a decision to use evidence-based interventions to strengthen parenting for foster, biological, and adoptive parents involved in the child welfare system. To carry out this plan, ACS contacted Patricia Chamberlain of the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC) in Eugene, Oregon, as she had previously developed evidence-based parent training interventions. This project, known as Child Success New York City (CSNYC), was driven primarily by ACS.

In this panel, speakers from OSLC, ACS, and CSNYC will discuss the diverse roles they play, as well as challenges and opportunities inherent in this type of partnership.

**Presenters:**

- **Patricia Chamberlain**, Senior Scientist, Oregon Social Learning Center
- **Leslie Abbey**, Chief Program Officer, Lantern Community Services

11:20 AM **Question & Answer**

11:30 AM **Small Group Discussions**

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion in small groups, and define some essential elements for a successful “Model 2” type of partnership. They will also share any information about similar models they are familiar with.

11:50 AM **Share-outs**

One member from each small group will share that group’s thoughts with all participants. We will record this information and post it around the room.

12:00 PM **Networking Lunch**

1:00 PM **Panel 3: Model 3** – *This model is a combination of the first two models. Research, technical assistance, knowledge generation, and knowledge dissemination are undertaken in equal measure.*

The case study examined in this panel involves a partnership between New York University (NYU) and New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), in which research and technical assistance are given equal weight. NYU and OMH share an equal responsibility for leadership in the partnership, which is informed by OMH’s desire to deliver high quality services, and by researchers’ desire to use the community as a “natural laboratory” for developing, testing, and implementing evidence-based practices in child mental health settings. Leaders of both organizations have experience in research, policy and practice, and act as “culture brokers” to bring together all parties to address child mental health issues of common interest.

In this panel, speakers from NYU and OMH will discuss the diverse roles they play, as well as challenges and opportunities inherent in this type of partnership.

**Presenters:**

- **Mary McKay**, Director, McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, School of Social Work, New York University
- **Donna Bradbury**, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Mental Health

1:20 PM **Question & Answer**

1:30 PM **Small Group Discussions**

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion in small groups, and define some essential elements for a successful “Model 3” type of partnership. They will also share any information about similar models they are familiar with.

1:50 PM **Share-outs**

One member from each small group will share that group’s thoughts with all participants. We will record this information and post it around the room.

2:00 PM **Gallery Walk**

Participants will have an opportunity to walk around the room, observing the elements for successful partnerships in preparation for the following large-group discussion.

2:15 PM **Moderated Large Group Discussion**

Larry Palinkas will facilitate a whole-group discussion, summarizing participants’ criteria for success and including his own research on common elements of successful partnerships.

2:45 PM **Closing Session**

Participants will be given time to reflect on their learning and write down how they will integrate this learning into their current or future work. They will also record questions they are still grappling with. Participants will then be invited to share briefly their intentions and questions.

3:15 PM

**Adjourn**

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