North Carolina State University  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  

Center for Family and Community Engagement  
Annual Report  
July 2011-June 2012  

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Professor & Director  

1. Introduction  

The Center for Family and Community Engagement is a university center dedicated to public service and scholarship. The mission of the center is advancing safe, healthy, and productive families and communities. This mission fully supports the emphasis of the university on health and well-being and the goals of the center’s community partners. To address complex societal issues, the center uses a collaborative solution-finding approach. The center is known nationally and internationally for its work on engaging families in decision making that safeguards their child and adult members and strengthens their local and cultural communities.  

The center’s success rests upon its very solid networks with youth, family, community, government, academic, and international collaborators. These partnerships produce community-based scholarship involving interdisciplinary and professional teams and facilitate research opportunities for faculty and students. The center attracts the funding to support engaged scholarship and provides an infrastructure designed to create mutually sustaining linkages across engagement, research, and learning.  

2. Changing Environment  

The work and revenue of the center are generated in large measure through its involvements with groups outside North Carolina State University—in North Carolinian counties, state departments, federal government, inter-university collaborations, and international associations. In partnering with these groups, the center remains mission-focused while responding to emerging issues. Examples of these issues are encouraging responsible fatherhood, supporting military-connected families, maintaining tribal affiliations of American Indian children, stabilizing the education of foster youth, and finding domestic alternatives to inter-country adoptions.  

3. Major Accomplishments of Center in 2011-2012  

Over the year, the center has continued to strengthen its reputation as a leader in family and youth engagement within the state as well as nationally and internationally. Evidence of the center’s heightened profile includes the major accomplishments:  

- Engaging faculty, students, and staff in public service and research;  
- Securing a competitive federal grant on foster youth and education;  


● Expanding collaborations and state funding to promote family-centered practice;
● Strengthening international linkages to carry out the center’s mission; and
● Publishing, presenting, and providing consultation on policy, practice, and research regarding family engagement in state, national, and international venues.

4. Accomplishment of Center’s Goals

Center Goal 1: Enhance local and global engagement through focused strategic partnerships

The center has promoted local and global engagement through focused strategic partnerships in the state, country, and abroad. The center encourages partnering approaches to curricular development and delivery. For example, these include partnerships between youth and family partners who have received services and agency-experienced trainers and between center staff and the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.

- **In-state Training and Technical Assistance**: 57 scheduled formal training workshops, 9 formal workshops scheduled as technical assistance, an estimated 40 technical assistance and learning support sessions, 6 in-person facilitator forums, 6 online facilitator forums, and 9 online policy and good practice events for a total of 127 events; 623 formal training workshop participants, an estimated 205 technical assistance and learning support participants, 96 online facilitator forum participants, 137 online policy and good practice participants, and 50 in person facilitator forum participants for a total of 1,111 training participants (estimated to end of year).
- **Community Engagements**: 16 by staff and faculty.
- **Networking Alliance**: center advisory council members of family and youth, community organizations, public agencies, and universities; 2 meetings annually.
- **National and International Consultation**: family engagement, father engagement, family violence, and evaluation methods.

See appendix for community engagements of staff and faculty.

Center Goal 2: Enhance interdisciplinary scholarship to address the grand challenges of society

The center has established a reputation as a leader in research and publication on family engagement to safeguard child and adult family members. The center partners with scholars from various disciplines in grant submissions, publications, presentations, and evaluations.

- **International Colloquium**: on risk aversion in child welfare with participants from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and United States.
- **International Collaboration**: on family engagement to develop domestic solutions to out-of-home placements of children in Guatemala.
- **Consultant**: on U.S. and international studies
- **Publication**: 17 publications, 8 peer-reviewed and 9 non-refereed.
- **Presentation**: 11 presentations/workshops, 7 national/international and 4 local/state.

See appendix for listing of publications and presentations.
Center Goal 3: Enhance the success of our students through educational innovation

The center provided learning experiences to graduate and undergraduate students in research, practice, policy, and training. Disciplinary fields included Social Work, Sociology, Psychology, English, Management, Communications, and Design.

- **Funded Positions:** 5 graduate research positions (including 2 field placements).
- **Training and Education:** 7 class presentation
- **Conference Presentations:** 2 student conference proposals under review.

Center Goal 4: Enhance organizational excellence by creating a culture of constant improvement

The center has succeeded in enhancing its capacity through developing staff competencies, encouraging diversity and inclusion, and obtaining external funding.

- **Staff Development:** supporting the professional development of staff, students, and faculty through (a) funding conference/workshop participation; (b) holding workshops on training and practice models; (c) providing mentoring on research, publication, and grant writing skills; and (d) using awards/recognitions to applaud accomplishments.
- **Encouraging Diversity:** employing 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.
- **Awards:** $869,379, all external funding
- **Task Orders:** $9,235.

See appendix for listing of awards and task orders.

Center Goal 5: Enhance scholarship and research by investing in faculty and infrastructure

The center is designed to provide a research infrastructure to support the capacity of its researchers and community partners.

- **Grants:** providing support on grant development and administration.
- **Travel:** funding conference and other travel.
- **Consultation:** mentoring on research, publication, and training.
APPENDIX

Funding

Awards Granted

External

2011-2013, J. Pennell Principal Investigator and Project Director and J. Hall Co-Principal Investigator, Fostering Youth Educational Success, a grant under Child Welfare-Education System Collaborations to Increase Educational Stability, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau.
- Infrastructure-Building, September 2011-February 2013, grant of $248,998.

- Outcome Evaluation, October 2011-September 2012, contract of $51,301.

2012-2013, J. Pennell Investigator, Family Group Conferencing in Guatemala, principal investigator J. Robi, funded by Brigham Young University, Family Studies Center and Wells Research Grant.
- Training and Evaluation, 2012-2013, grant of $25,000.


Task Orders

2012-2013, J. Pennell Investigator, Family Group Conferencing in Guatemala, principal investigator J. Robi, funded by Brigham Young University, Family Studies Center and Wells Research Grant. Service contract to CFFACE of $3,810.


Publications

Refereed

Journal Issue


Journal Articles


**Chapters**


**Non-Refereed**

**Reports**


**Articles**

King, J. (2012). Who should be at my CFT? *Fostering Perspectives.*


**Handbooks**


**Presentations and Workshops**

**National or International Forums**

**Presenter**


**Accepted**


**State, Provincial, or Local Forums**

**Presenter**


**Facilitator**


**Presider & Organizer**


**Student Involvement**

Staff delivered seven presentations to approximately 123 social work students. Two students participated in the Networking Alliance. Fourteen students participated in research, training delivery, curricular development, DVD editing and authoring, independent study, field placement, and graduate research assistantships. One training coordinator obtained her MS in Management.

**Faculty Involvement**

Dr. Jodi Hall, Department of Social Work, served as the co-Principal Investigator of the Fostering Youth Education Success Project. Dr. Karen Bullock, Department of Social Work, and Dr. Maxine Thompson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, collaborated with the center on proposal development.

**Community Engagement**

*Consultant*

Pennell, J. (2012-present) Consultation on Evaluating Family Group Conferencing, New Zealand Ministry of Social Development, in collaboration with Australian National University, University of Nottingham (UK), and University of Vermont.


Pennell, J. (2011) Planning Member, Safety, Fairness, & Stability for Youth and Families Creating a Plan of Action, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.


Pennell, J. (2009-present). Consultant, Network of Experts, Violence Against Women Online Resources (VAWOR), Collaborative Project of the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) at the
University of Minnesota and the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Member**


**Chair**


**Liaison**


**University and Professional Service**

**Department of Social Work**


Pennell, J., Reappointment, Promotion, & Tenure Reader (2008-present).

Pennell, J., Curriculum Committee - member (2011-present).

Pennell, J., MSW Program Committee - member (2005-present).

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences**


**University**


**Editorial Services**


Professional Development

*Asset Maintenance/Surplus Course*, North Carolina State University, 1 staff member.

*Public Systems: Responding to Students Affected by Trauma*, Chapin Hall, 1 staff member.

*Trauma Informed Resource Parenting*, National Center for Traumatic Stress Network, 1 staff member.

*Trauma Informed Services across a System of Care*, Durham System of Care Sponsored training, 1 staff member.

*Tribal Connections Gathering*, NCDSS and NC Court Improvement Funding, 1 staff member.

*Honouring the Circle, Connections and Wisdom Conference*, American Humane Association, in Toronto, Canada, 1 staff member.

*Social Networking* Children's Bureau Webinar, 3 staff members.

*Blackboard Collaborate v10 versus v11*, NCSU DELTA Webinar, 1 staff member.

*Blackboard Collaborate Workshop 2: Putting It All Together*, NCSU DELTA Webinar, 1 staff member.

*Blackboard Collaborate Help Desk!* NCSU DELTA Webinar, 1 staff member.

*Coaching Skills*, NCDSS 2 staff members.

*Building Awareness and Cultural Competency*, 2 staff members.

*Healing in Broken Places: A Social Justice Perspective to Address Trauma*, 5 staff members.

*Training Room Tips* workshop (How to read the room and participants), 1 staff member.

*Signs of Safety*, 1 staff member.

*How to Partner with Professionals and Be Heard*, 1 staff member.