



*Bridging the Gap: Research, Practice and Policy: A symposium
on Effective Mental Health Treatments for Children and
Adolescents*

Final Report

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Submitted by

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Mental Health Connection Symposium Report

The 4th Annual Mental Health Connection Symposium *Bridging the Gap: Research, Practice and Policy: A symposium on Effective Mental Health Treatments for Children and Adolescents* was held in the Brown-Lupton University Union at Texas Christian University November 8, 2010 and November 9, 2010. This year's symposium was sponsored by Cook Children's Medical Center, ACH Child and Family Services, Lena Pope Home, Inc., MHMR of Tarrant County, and JPS Health Network. The Judith Birmingham Center for Child Welfare in the School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Arlington provided 12 hours of continuing education (CEUs) for Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. This year's planning committee included the following persons.

Conference Planning Committee

Kris Painter, PhD, LCSW, Chair
Assistant Professor
School of Sociology and Social Work
Texas Woman's University

Erin Carlson, Dr.PH
Faculty
Department of Health Management and Policy
UNT Health Science Center

Lee LeGrice, PhD, LCSW
Executive Director
Mental Health Association of Tarrant County

Susan Garnett, LPC, LMSW
Deputy CEO
MHMR of Tarrant County

Carolyn Presnall, LCSW, LPC, LMFT
Director of Psychiatry
Cook Children's Medical Center

Joseph Peeler Howell
District Director
Representative Mark Shelton, M.D.

Maria Scannapieco, LMSW, Ph.D.
Professor and Director
Center for Child Welfare
University of Texas at Arlington
School of Social Work

Todd A. Landry
Executive Director
Lena Pope Home

Patsy Thomas, MS
President

Kay Barkin
Social Marketer
Mental Health Connection/Hand in Hand



The Conference Agenda

The planning committee met face-to-face over the course of several months to determine the focus and structure of this year's symposium. A diverse group of Faculty Presenters were identified and recruited by the committee. Faculty presenters included experts on child well-being, health care, implementation science, children's mental health, and family engagement. In addition to the invited speakers, local champions were invited to provide status reports on initiatives resulting from past symposiums. Following is the 2-day agenda.

Agenda

November 8, 2010

8:00 **Registration and Breakfast**

8:30 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Todd Landry, Executive Director, Lena Pope Home

9:00 **How Healthy Are Our Children?** Benchmarks of Texas children's well-being
from Texas KIDS COUNT
Frances Deviney, Ph.D., Center for Public Policy Priorities

Frances Deviney, Ph.D., Texas KIDS COUNT Director and Senior Research Associate at the Center for Public Policy Priorities. Dr. Deviney manages the creation of the annual Texas KIDS COUNT data book, website and special reports. She also oversees the center's 2010 Census outreach efforts, manages the "poverty versus family budgets" project, and acts as a resource to individuals and community groups across the state needing assistance with data. She received her doctorate in Developmental Psychology. The Texas KIDS COUNT project, which is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has provided sound and reliable data on key benchmarks of child well-being for Texas and each of Texas' 254 counties since 1993. In addition to providing a free online data resource, Texas KIDS COUNT provides data that helps to create, implement and encourage good policy and effective services that improve the lives of Texas children.

10:30 **What Does Health Care Reform Mean for Children in Tarrant County?**
Navigating the impact of the new legislation on clients we serve
Tim D. Lee, FSA, MAAA, Milliman

Tim D. Lee, FSA, MAAA, is principal and consulting actuary with Milliman, an actuarial and consulting firm. His expertise is in the area of health insurance. Mr. Lee's clients have included insurance companies,



HMOs, PPOs, hospitals, physician groups, employee benefit plan sponsors and governmental entities. He has broad experience in working with indemnity and managed care programs, consulting with both purchasers and insurers of healthcare in the commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid markets. In recent years, Mr. Lee has worked with several state and local governments to develop solutions for the uninsured population.

12:00 Lunch

12:30 **How Can We Improve Our Community's Access to Information?** Network of Care coming to Tarrant County
Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley

1:00 **How Do We Lead the Community Towards Change?**
Implementation science and core drivers for systems change *Melissa Van Dyke, The National Implementation Research Network*

Melissa Van Dyke, LCSW, MSW, is the Associate Director of the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) located at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ms. Van Dyke's current research interests include organizational change, system transformation and complexity sciences. Before joining the NIRN team, she worked in state government in New Mexico with families and youth in child welfare, children's mental health and the juvenile justice systems. In addition to her years of direct services, Ms. Van Dyke worked in administration as Deputy Superintendent of a large juvenile correctional facility. She has also been actively involved in various organizational and statewide program implementation and system improvement initiatives.

3:15 **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

November 9, 2010

8:00 **Registration and Breakfast**

8:30 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

8:45 **How Do We Bring It All Together?**
Integrating systems of care, wraparound, evidence-based practices, and performance measurement
Robert M. Friedman, Ph.D., Louis de la Parte Florida Health Institute, University of South Florida



Evaluation of Symposium

To examine the success of this year’s symposium, participants were asked to complete an evaluation at the end of the two days. A total of 89 persons completed the evaluation. The evaluation consisted of three sections. In the first section, participants were asked to respond to eight statements with “*Strongly Agreed*,” “*Agreed*,” “*Disagreed*,” or “*Strongly Disagreed*.” Across 7 or the 8 areas, over 90 percent of participants responded favorably (Table 1).

Table 1: Overall symposium evaluation

	Percent who Agreed or Strongly Agreed
The Bridging the Gap Symposium was well organized	99%
The venue for the Bridging the Gap Symposium was convenient	98%
The venue for the Bridging the Gap Symposium was comfortable	80%
I would recommend the Bridging the Gap Symposium to a friend	92%
The information provided by the Speakers was useful	99%
The presentations overall, held my interest	93%
The presentations at the symposium will make a difference in my practice	97%
The Bridging the Gap Symposium overall was a worthwhile experience	99%

In the second section of the evaluation, participants were asked to rate each speaker on the organization of his or her presentation, whether the presenter held their interest, and whether they found the information provided to be useful to their practice. As with first section, participants were asked to respond to statements with “*Strongly Agreed*,” “*Agreed*,” “*Disagreed*,” or “*Strongly Disagreed*.” Overall, participants rated Dr. Deviney, Dr. Cunningham, and Ms. Van Dyke as being the most organized and interesting (Table 2).

Table 2: Evaluation of speakers

	Presentation was well organized	Presentation held my interest	The information was useful to my practice
Francis Deviney, Ph.D	99%	98%	99%
Tim D.Lee,FSA,MAAA	80%	48%	53%
Melissa VanDyke	99%	93%	92%
Robert M.Friedman,Ph.D	88%	65%	72%
Phillippe Cunningham,Ph.D	99%	99%	96%



The last section of the evaluation asked participants to respond to two open-ended questions. The first question asked participants what they liked best about the Bridging the Gap Symposium. The following are the responses from participants.

The topic of engagement
Appreciated the updates
Enjoyed Dr. Cunningham
Food Service
Close to restrooms
The diversity of information
Networking
Contact list in back of booklet.
Well organized and stayed within time frames.
Notebook with PowerPoints.
The togetherness of all the providers.
Dr. Cunningham was fabulous!
Melissa Van Dyke
Working at tables with others
Information about where the learning communities are at.
Make this annual forever.
Patsy Thomas and the committee did a great job.
Tim Lee and Dr. Friedman gave information that does not get noticed as often as it should.
Getting the brainstorming and networking.

The second open-ended question asked participants for their suggestions for improvements at next year's symposium. Following are the respondents' answers.

Ways to get more involved.
More interaction
Recycle!
Temperature.
Give Dr. Cunningham more time.
Add more clinical speakers
Agenda crowded on the 2nd day.
Giving the symposium next year a specific topic.
Needed Valet Parking.
Sound not working well.
More brainstorming time, less experts.
How to sustain programs.
Allow more time for our teams to talk. Would like a true lunch break.
More time for discussions.
Local groups too rushed, love to hear more from our teams.
Repeated information from previous years.



Workshops for both administrative and clinical staff.
Entertainment.
Tim Lee needed more community perspective.