

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

2020 | Volume 2 (Special Issue).

Editor's Note

Research and Evaluation in Child, Youth, and Family Services seeks to advance the principles of social justice and transformative child welfare through robust inquiry. It achieves this by fostering collaborative partnerships among researchers, agencies, and communities to highlight evidence-informed policies, programs, and services that aim to enhance the well-being of children, youth, and families within diverse social contexts. Volume 2 is comprised of five journal articles completed by a total of 15 MSW students.

Where is the Magic in Counsellor Training? Thematic Analysis on the Self Reported Learning Experiences of CYHC Counselling Interns was conducted by John Badger and Kassie Maxwell in collaboration between the MCFD and the Chilliwack Youth Health Centre (CYHC). The study focused on evaluating the CYHC Drop-In Counselling Program which provides on-demand counseling for youth aged 12 to 26 by counseling interns under supervision. Ten interviews were conducted using a Critical Incident Method (CIM) as it allowed participants an opportunity to volunteer information on 'critical incidents' they felt was impacting their experiences as interns at the CYHC. The analysis revealed several themes, leading to recommendations such as program orientation, maintaining the current supervision model, and providing ongoing educational opportunities.

Identifying Barriers and Accessibility Recommendations for Individuals of the Vancouver's Downtown East Side Community in Accessing End-of-Life Care was conducted by Tara Azizi and Sylvana Soto in collaboration between the MCFD and May's Place, a hospice in Vancouver's Downtown East Side (DTES) community. This qualitative study focused on examining barriers to accessing end-of-life care for marginalized and vulnerable individuals in the DTES community. The study used biopsychosocial-spiritual theory and trauma-informed practice frameworks to gather insights and recommendations for improving accessibility to end-of-life care services. Through interviews with six professionals in the field, the study identified barriers such as trust issues with healthcare providers, a lack of appropriate services, and substance use. It also highlighted the strengths of May's Place and recommended further implementation of harm reduction practices, increased collaboration among healthcare providers, and inclusive care to ensure a dignified end of life for DTES community members.



Youth Gangs in the British Columbia (BC) Lower Mainland was conducted by Amanda Steeves, Anastasia Kuechler, Teodora Jotovic, and Madison Maher. This research focused on the unique gang landscape in British Columbia, aiming to understand preventive measures, gaps in services, and the reasons why youth join gangs. The study used social-ecological theory and dislocation theory as theoretical frameworks to analyze gang behavior. Through micro-focus groups and thematic analysis, four major themes emerged: program collaboration, program provisions, community involvement, and youth and families. The research highlighted the need for improved coordination among various service systems, emphasized the importance of addressing youth's lack of connection and belonging, and called for a collaborative community approach to better support youth at risk of gang involvement.

Youth Transitioning from Care: Key Considerations for the Development of a Collaboration Model was conducted by Emily McClocklin, Alexis Fisher, and Manprit Chutai. The study focused on identifying collaborative approaches in Canada, New Zealand, and the U.K. for supporting young adults transitioning out of the child welfare system. It aimed to provide recommendations for British Columbia based on best practices from these jurisdictions. The study gathered qualitative data through a Qualtrics survey, analyzed it thematically, and identified five key themes related to transition support and collaboration: transition, extended care support, advisory group, strengths of collaboration, and challenges. These themes inform recommendations for future research and for the development of a collaboration model for MCFD to best support youth transitioning from care.

Creating Effective Family Plans was conducted by Madeline Meikle, Mahtab Janjua, Hailey Pitman, and Iosefina Para. The study aimed to evaluate the use of the Family Plan Structured Decision-Making (SDM) tool in child protection work. The research findings highlight themes such as the need for transparent guidelines, barriers to collaboration, and the importance of training and mentorship. The project offers recommendations to improve the tool's effectiveness and suggests further research areas, particularly in the context of Aboriginal families and resource mobilization.

The conclusions, interpretations and views expressed in these articles belong to the author(s) as individuals and may not represent the ultimate position of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. We hope you enjoy this volume of research articles and that it can help inform research, policies, program development, and practices. If you have any questions about any of the research projects, please contact me at b.lee@ubc.ca.

Sincerely,

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