

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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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 5 is comprised of four journal articles completed by a total of 9 MSW students.

Foster Parent Retention was conducted by Avery Bell, Natalya Falkingham, and Kayla Lajeunesse. The purpose of this research study was to explore the experiences contributing to foster parents leaving the service in the South Fraser Region in British Columbia and better understand how the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) can enhance foster parent retention. This study used an exploratory research approach and identified four themes: retention of foster parents; relationship with agency; strengths, relationship with agency; deficits and desired changes. The study suggested future research, policy, and practice recommendations to enhance foster parent retention based on its findings.

Promising Interventions for Children with Suspected or Confirmed Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) was conducted by Andro Abaya, Briana DeJonge, and Natalya Rogachyova. This exploratory study used online focus groups and interviews with professionals working with children and families with suspected and confirmed FASD to explore on promising programs, approaches, and interventions with this population. Three main themes were identified in the analysis: 1) understanding behaviours, 2) creating spaces of inclusion, and 3) targeting structural barriers to be a promising approach for children with FASD. The study outlined barriers mentioned by professionals along with their suggestions on how to address them.

Transforming Ministry of Children and Family Development's Approach to Service Evaluation: A Jurisdictional Scan was conducted by Elie Haddad. This jurisdictional scan was conducted on the province of Alberta's usage of an outcomes-based service delivery (OBSD) framework to inform how MCFD can better support vulnerable children, youth and families. Three overall themes were noted through the jurisdictional scan: 1) OBSD was not implemented in isolation, 2) OBSD has clear intention and purpose to its formulation, and 3) OBSD was not envisioned as the "best practice" approach to evaluation and engagement within Children's Services.



Evaluating Providence Health Care's Cultural Safety Education Initiative for Healthcare Social Workers: Preliminary Results was conducted by Gary Lai and Shelby Decker in collaboration with Providence Health Care (PHC). With the phasing out of the San'yas training, PHC social work leadership team created their own cultural safety educational initiative with ongoing input from the Indigenous Wellness and Reconciliation team. A quasi-experimental design was used to evaluate the initial two months of the one-year educational initiative. The initial results demonstrate promising potential in strengthening participant's perceived confidence and knowledge in culturally safe and trauma informed practice. Findings have potential transferability to other sectors such as child welfare to practice in a culturally safe and trauma informed approach.

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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