

THE SALLY PEARCE PALMER CONFERENCE SERIES

3VOICES IN CHILD WELFARE

Dr. Sally Palmer, Professor Emerita of the McMaster School of Social Work, provided funding for a conferences organized by the School of Social Work in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The goal of the conferences is to address emerging research and approaches in the field of child particularly developments that centre the voice of the children, youth, families and communities the child welfare The conference series has been built on the following principles.

PRINCIPLE OF 3VOICES

Child welfare needs to be developed by the following 3Voices working together:

1/ Service users (i.e. children, vouth, families, grandparents, kin, and others who have received and are eligible to receive child welfare services, and those from communities impacted by child welfare services)

2/ Service providers (i.e. workers, managers, policy makers, foster parents. community members and leaders, or anyone else involved in the delivery of child welfare, child wellbeing, and related services)

3/ Academics, researchers, or traditional knowledge keepers (i.e. anyone involved in teaching, writing, researching, journalism, and keeping and sharing knowledge about child welfare and child wellbeing).

IMPACT PRINCIPLE

Impact in academia tends to be measured by the extent that scholars think each other's ideas important, and the extent an idea is discussed in academic literature

Social work, however, is a doing occupation, so the impact that matters are ideas that social workers say help them do their jobs well, and practices that service users say benefit their lives

This conference holds that the impact that matters, is harmony between the 3Voices endorsing an idea or practice. We contend that impact comes from harmony between the three voices—because if academic research, worker experience, and service users' knowledge, all agree that a policy or practice is beneficial, then likely it is.

JUSTICE PRINCIPLE

Child welfare is geared primarily toward addressing the failings of parents, and not the failings of the state—this is a mistake. Of course, child welfare must help children, youth, and families with their personal struggles, but should also address the societal inequalities that compound and often cause these struggles.

The conference promotes ideas that simultaneously address both the personal and the political roots of child welfare problemsideas and practices that include a social justice perspective. We contend, however, that social workers have no mandate to unilaterally pursue their own personal ideas of social justice, but instead need to develop a vision for social justice in partnership with the families and communities they serve. As such, we look for social justice work that reflects 3Voices.

MARGINS PRINCIPLE

Indigenous, Black and other voices that tend to be underrepresented in the way child welfare is imagined and deliveredconsequently the conference will attempt to centre and emphasize these

As well, as soon as anyone becomes a child welfare service user, their voice also tends to be marginalized. As a result, the conference attempts to centre and emphasize service users' voices.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

The first conference was held in February, 2018 and was attended by over 200 people. Feedback from participants was positive. Innovative ways of including service user voices were shared, and the concept of 3Voices resonated with what participants were doing or wanted to do.

A clear vision that social work needs to be built on 3Voices was evident at the conference, but a clear vision did not emerge about how this idea can be moved forward to become a primary principle on which all social work (not just child welfare) is based upon.

Participants recommended that the next conference in the series be centred on working groups that move the 3Voices concept forward, and that invites be sent to policy makers, legislators, lawyers and others working alongside service users, and also service user organizations.

> Blake Anderson, Cheyanna Dargie, Sara Dargie, A Study of Music and its

lity to Give Voice: Photo Elicitation

Heather

MacKenzie, Kelsey

Williams, Kailee D,

Maddy C, on

Fostering

LGBTQ2S+ Youth

in the Foster Care

Sally Palmer & Gary Dumbrill,

Gary Dumbrill, et al, The McMaster Child Welfare

Laurie Sherry-

Kirk,

Dalal Badawi, Multi-Generational Trauma of Loss: Resisting the

> Jill Stoddart, Leyco Wilson, Keghani

> Mardikian, Kathryn

Barratt, & Santiago

Liberating Men From Cultural

Expectations of

Al-Ab Al-Ha

Indigenous Child and Family Well Being

Indigenous Circle Work and Youth

Ann Fudge Re-imagining (RPP): A

Ashley, Amanda Integrating Youth Voice Into Workplace

Practice

Melody Lotfi & Jaleesa Bygrave Supporting Families Living by HIV/AIDS in Navigating Children's Aid

Conceptualizations of Care and Safety of Children in Muslim

Society Involvement Shemar Newman-Gaynor, Tina Garnett, Deborah Goodman, An Essential Developmental Element for Black Child Welfare Youth ~ Exposure to African Diaspora "Black" Culture

Michelle Hayes & Kim Martin, The Role for Parenting Coordination in Child Welfare Custody and Access Cases

Jacquie Scatcherd & Marilee Sherry Three Part Harmony: Family Group ncing Family Group Decision Making

Will Rowe, Lorraine, Zach Thompson, Bending the Gender Boxes in Child Welfare: Strategies toward Trans and Gender

Inclusion and Equity in the Child

Welfare System

Translating and/Place-base Knowledge & 'hought in Socia

Archana Medhek Lacey Lewis and Jeff Graceamma Jacob Mallinath, Ferzana Chaze, Dianne Fierheller, Immigrant Mothers and their Families Within the Moriarty, Child Welfare Syster

Analyzing the Nervous CPS Worker: Considering Surveillance

Jill Esposto, Sarah tobertson, Weavin Safety into the Fabric of the Community: Challenging the Narrowing

date of Child

System Erin Kuri, Nancy Dali & Rosealie Hall, The Shifting Perceptions of Risk and

"Good Mother" vs the "Young Mother Responsibility in Support of Young Families Involved in the Child Welfare

> Will Rowe, Lorraine Gale, & Zach Thompson, Child Welfare and ersion of Neo-Liberal entality: A Praxis of Fili

Maddie Brockbank & George Kostic, Unpacking The Caring Dads Program at its Intersection with the Child Welfare System

Saara Greene, Allyson Ion, Marvelous Muchenje, Doe O'Brien-Teengs, Samara Carroll, Melody Lotfi, Gary Dumbrill, The Positive Parenting Pilot
Project: A
Community-Based HIV Research and Training Response to Supporting Mothers Living with HIV Who Have Child Welfare

Nick, Dakota, Gissele Taraba, Martha Lara, Cheryl Elbers, Listen to Me: The Power of Children and Youth's Voice Services







Ryan Wood, The

Live Different's

Program







