

SECTION ON CHILD MALTREATMENT INSIDER



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President's Column

Jennie G. Noll, PhD
President

With the passing of our beloved friend and colleague, Penelope K. Trickett, let me communicate the extreme humility with which I assume this post. Penny was a visionary, impassioned by the difference research can make in the lives of maltreatment survivors. From her long-term study of child sexual abuse sequelae, to her supreme ability to do large-scale work within complicated child welfare systems, Penny made a huge impact on the field. She touched and influenced the lives of countless esteemed colleagues and students over the decades. Indeed, big shoes to fill.

By way of introduction, let me tell you a bit about myself. With Penny Trickett and Frank Putnam, I worked on the long term, longitudinal study of sexual abuse survivors which is now in its 30th year follow-up. I have conducted several additional NIH-funded longitudinal studies focused on abused females' risk for pre-term parturition, teenage motherhood, premature cognitive aging, and sex trafficking. In 2013 I joined Penn State University to direct the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network; a cluster-hire of 12 faculty across five colleges to conduct impactful research to solve the complex issues of child maltreatment from transdisciplinary lenses.



As of April 2017, I am the Principal Investigator of the NICHD P50 Capstone Center for child maltreatment research and training titled "Penn State's Translational Center for Child Maltreatment Studies." This P50 Center is aimed at becoming a national model for scientists working in conjunction with advocates, practitioners, and policy makers to resource, conduct, and disseminate impactful new science that can change health and developmental trajectories for victims, mobilize public investment in prevention and treatment, accelerate science to practice, spark dynamic system-wide solutions, and support and inspire future generations to do the same.



SECTION ON CHILD MALTREATMENT
Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice
Division 37 of the American Psychological Association

Now come the challenges of the next phase. Of course there is the challenge of moving on and honoring Penny's legacy. We'll begin this tribute with the APA Presidential symposium to be delivered at the 2017 conference in Washington, DC titled "Advancing methods in child maltreatment research to more effectively influence child welfare policy: Honoring Penelope K. Trickett". We have also contracted with Springer to produce a special issue of *Advances* that will include papers produced by Penny's students and close colleagues showcasing her legacy in the advancement of their work.

And then there is the very real possibility that, with the changing political climate, public resources devoted to child welfare will continue to shrink. The key issues on the table (including repealing the Medicaid expansion of the ACA, extending MEICV, and the reauthorization of CAPTA) will require increased vigilance and coalescence around these and other important issues facing abused and at-risk children.

Fortunately, we have a very competent and committed Section leadership to take on these challenges and spearhead this coalition. For their patience during this trying time of leadership change and their incredible flexibility and service, I would like to thank the Section leadership with whom I have the honor to serve, listed below in this newsletter.

Please contact me directly if you have suggestions for how the Section can increase its impact for the betterment of children and families. My friends call me Jennie, jgn3@psu.edu



Call for Member-at-Large nominations!

It's election time again, and the Section needs you!

In 2017 we will hold elections for a single position, a Member-at-Large, for a three-year term. The position description is below. Interested candidates should submit a statement of interest to Section Past President Jennifer Kaminski (jkaminski@cdc.gov). Feeling too overcommitted but still want to help out? Please email Jen the names and email addresses of member or nonmember friends/colleagues who might be interested in getting involved.

Member-at-Large Position Description: The three elected Members-at-Large are to serve, at the request of the President, as Chairs or members of standing committees or task forces or as liaisons to other organizations. Members-at-Large shall serve three-year terms, in staggered sequence, from January 1 to December 31. Members-at-Large also are to be available to assist the other officers with special projects.

Members at Large prepare a complete report to the President semi-annually before the meetings of the Division 37 and Section Executive Committees. The report includes information about ongoing, new, and planned efforts to support the Mission of the Section.

Considering Parent-Child Relationship Factors in Delayed Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse

**Sarah M. Tashjian, JD, Deborah Goldfarb, JD,
& Gail Goodman, PhD**

The discovery of child sexual abuse (CSA) often requires disclosure by the young victims due to frequent absence of physical evidence and the clandestine nature of sexual acts. There are many worries for CSA victims that can silence them, often resulting in non-disclosure or delayed disclosure. Past research and national surveys indicate CSA disclosure rates may be as low as 16% to 25% (National Children's Advocacy Center, 2014), and fewer than 25% of child victims are thought to disclose immediately following CSA assaults (McElvaney, 2015). Delayed disclosure can diminish successful prosecution, impede therapeutic intervention, and expose other children to harm. Psychological science has thus dedicated significant resources to identifying factors that relate to delayed disclosure. The bulk of present research focuses on victim-related factors, such as age, gender, abuse type, and victim-perpetrator relationship status. However, these efforts often overlook the broader familial relationships that may contribute to delayed disclosure of CSA. Non-offending parents play an important role in the disclosure process both as recipients of disclosure and as intermediaries regulating access to intervention from authorities (e.g., Reitsema & Grietens, 2015). As such, child protective services caseworkers are typically instructed to interview families as a collective unit and develop a safety plan and assessment with the non-offending parent and child victim both present (DePanfilis & Salus, 2003). Although this practice may be appropriate for children who have secure and trusting relationships with their non-offending parents, it does not account for potential adverse consequences (e.g., retributive punishment) for children whose parents may react negatively to disclosure.

An important consistency across different models of CSA disclosure is that children's expectations of reactions by disclosure recipients factor centrally in their decisions whether or not to disclose (e.g., Goodman-Brown, Edelstein, Goodman, Jones, & Gordon, 2003). Low levels of familial support have been linked to lower disclosure rates, delayed disclosure, and wavering after disclosure (Lawson & Chaffin, 1992). These models of support generally focus on post-disclosure assessments of the recipient's acceptance that the abuse occurred. This relatively low bar for "support" leaves a potential concern of many victims unaddressed, specifically child victims may worry whether disclosing to someone with whom they had prior negative experiences will result in adverse reactions to the disclosure. CSA victims are often exposed to other forms of maltreatment including emotional and physical abuse (Turner, Finkelhor, & Ormrod, 2010). Although this abuse may often occur at the hands of the CSA perpetrator, circumstances vary. In some cases, in addition to the violence experienced at the hands of the CSA perpetrator, children may experience physical and/or emotional abuse by their parents, the same parents to whom the child is most likely to make a disclosure of CSA. Children maltreated by their parents, compared to non-maltreated children, form more negative expectations of their caretakers (Stronach, Toth, Oshri, Manly, & Cicchetti, 2011). Of importance, these expectations may adversely affect speed of disclosure for non-parental abuse.

In a recent study, we considered the relationship between children and their parental figures as a potential factor in delayed disclosure of CSA when the parent was not the CSA perpetrator (Tashjian, Goldfarb, Goodman, Quas, & Edelstein, 2016). Reports of emotional and physical abuse by a parental figure significantly predicted longer delays in CSA disclosure perpetrated by someone other than a parental figure, above and beyond victim demographic, abuse-related, and victim-perpetrator relationship status. Our results are resonant with the polyvictimization literature, which indicates that individuals experiencing multiple victimizations are the ones who manifest the most extreme traumatic responses (Finkelhor et al., 2011). Future research assessing factors related to delayed disclosure should continue to investigate the role of parenting, as well as characteristics of the child and the target victimization (in our case, emotional and physical abuse by non-offending parents was an important consideration for sexual abuse disclosure). Additionally, we urge child-welfare professionals to be cognizant of the parent-child relationship when evaluating CSA disclosure, even when the parent is not the CSA offender. Given the central role parents play in the disclosure process, accounting for the complexity of child-parent relationships provides important context to disclosure delays.

Of course, the parent-child relationship is not the only force influencing victims' decisions about whether and when to disclose. Although mixed results have emerged in research when considering child victims' age as well as their gender, the scientific literature generally points to older children and boys being more likely to delay or avoid disclosure compared with younger children and girls (e.g., Widom & Morris, 1997). Children sexually abused by a family member are also less quick to disclose than those abused by an extrafamilial perpetrator. The latter finding in particular may stem from a psychological mechanism similar to the one driving our results that emotional and physical abuse by a non-perpetrator parental figure related to more delayed CSA disclosure. When a parent is the CSA perpetrator, child victims are concerned about being punished, appearing disloyal, and disrupting the family structure as a result of their disclosures of sexual abuse (Malloy et al., 2011). Similarly, children who experience emotional or physical maltreatment by their parents (when the parents are not the CSA perpetrators) may have expectations that their parental figures cannot be trusted to react supportively or intervene to stop the non-parental CSA.

A major advancement in the field of child advocacy is a recognition that not all victims eventually disclose and that those who do disclose most often do not do so immediately. Although efforts focus on limiting delayed disclosure, a nuanced understanding of the circumstances under which children are likely to delay disclosure helps child welfare professionals better tailor services to the needs and expectations of children. Refining and enhancing our understanding of child victims' expectations throughout the disclosure process will have significant implications for improving disclosure rates and disclosure experiences for children who suffer sexual abuse.

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Organizing—and Reorganizing—during a Chaotic Time for Federal Policy

Micah A. Haskell-Hoehl

Senior Policy Associate Administrator

As noted in my December newsletter column, November's election caused the ground underneath the feet of advocates and lobbyists of every stripe to shift—regardless of the issues or constituencies they cover or represent. Now, over three months into the 115th Congress and Trump Administration, the situation remains much the same. Winners and losers under the new political landscape certainly are emerging clearly; however, the chaos defining of this moment in Washington is making it hard even for those whose issues are in favor.



For example, the [American Health Care Act](#) (AHCA) landed with a thud in the U.S. House chamber, and Speaker Ryan pulled the legislation from consideration before it went to a vote. After years of GOP votes to repeal the [Affordable Care Act](#), the process and lack of deliberation around AHCA surprised those on all sides of the issue. Given the clarity, though, on certain core issues, such as coverage, Medicaid, reproductive health, and others, [APA](#) and other groups found the decision to oppose the bill easy, while organizations and advocates seeking ACA repeal were left on their heels.

Issues surrounding federal spending present a similar guessing-game. In mid-March, President Trump released his fiscal year (FY) 2018 “[skinny budget](#),” a brief outline of the Administration's priorities for federal agencies. The proposed cuts are considered to be so draconian that many Republican members of Congress do not consider them serious. Even when both the White House and Congress are controlled by the same party, tension exists around what the former wants and the latter intends to provide. However, reaction from the Hill to the Trump “skinny budget” was unusually swift and skeptical, which makes it particularly difficult to pin down congressional appropriators on where they will land with funding for agencies, offices, and programs. Given the drastic top-line cuts to critical agencies, such as the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Housing and Urban Development, [APA](#) here, as well, opposed the proposal.

Programs that help meet the needs of America's children, youth, families, and caregivers face a tough road ahead. The White House is likely to release its full fiscal year 2018 budget request in May. This document should contain much greater detail than the "skinny budget," and APA anticipates proposed cuts to many programs of key importance to our efforts. A rumor floating around Washington at the moment is that expired laws could be defunded entirely (for example: the relevant U.S. House subcommittee over the last two years has zeroed out funding for activities under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act [JJDP], which expired in 2007. At the same time, House members last year overwhelmingly approved JJDP



reauthorization by a [vote of 382-29](#), revealing a misalignment between support for the law and funding for it). This puts advocates in a difficult spot. Though highly unlikely, the community is concerned about potential defunding of a host of expired laws supporting children and family that includes the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Head Start, JJDP, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and others. At the same time, attempting to renew these critical programs could open them up to damaging provisions.

Because of this pickle, APA and partner organizations and coalitions are focusing attention and energy on federal funding for priority programs. We have decided that the potential political liabilities for members of Congress, should they defund expired laws, are too high. In addition to APA's regular [submission of recommendations](#) for federal funding, [PI-GRO](#) has been involved much more over the last six months with the [Children's Budget Coalition](#) and in appropriations efforts being led by the [National Child Abuse Coalition](#). At the same time, our office is working to ensure our ability to defend the purpose and structure of critical programs. To that end, for example, I am working currently with our graduate

scholar, Annie Davis, to prepare a policy brief on child development and the effectiveness of early childhood education, to help beat back attacks on Head Start.

We need to be able to respond to ever-changing circumstances in Washington. While it may be tempting to settle in and do business as usual, too many things we thought we could take for granted over the last several months have gone in entirely different directions. PI-GRO will continue to give psychology a strong voice at the children, youth, and families policy table, and I encourage you to join in these efforts, help inform our actions, contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas, and participate in the APA [Federal Action Network](#).

Spotlight on Early Career Psychologists

Helen Milojevich, PhD
ECP Committee Co-Chair

The ECP column will continue to spotlight early career psychologists within the field of child maltreatment. Successful ECPs from a variety of career paths are chosen to help graduate students, interns, and early ECPs in making wise training and career choices. Our current spotlighted ECP is a great role model for members interested in a career within an applied research setting that includes a combination of research, teaching, and administrative tasks.

Gary Germa, Ph.D., has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Services at California State University, Fullerton, since the fall of 2012. In his role at Fullerton, he splits his time between conducting research on foster care youth, teaching undergraduate courses on such topics as *Child Maltreatment*, and completing a variety of administrative and service tasks (e.g., mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, working on task forces to address the needs of transgender students on campus).

Dr. Germa's current research examines risk and resiliency in foster care youth. His work addresses such questions as: what promotes positive adaptation among at-risk youth? What



processes are associated with parents' successful navigation of family strain? He is particularly interested in how social relationships can promote adjustment during times of risk and adversity. His research draws on several theoretical perspectives including attachment theory, family systems theory, risk and resiliency, and stress and coping. Further, drawing on the ecological model of human development, he is interested in the role of social relationships in relation to both psychosocial and physiological adjustment

among community samples of families and at-risk youth. Overall, he has found that, despite the hardships and adversities experienced by youth in foster care, these children often demonstrate a depth of resiliency and have a range of strengths that can be leveraged to improve their long-term outcomes.

Dr. Germa graduated with a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of California, Irvine in 2008. His path to his Ph.D. was not perhaps a straight one, but one to which many in academia can relate. Dr. Germa's interest in research first began during his undergraduate studies at the University of California, Irvine. After leaving a previous career path, he had initially enrolled at UC Irvine as a junior transfer with the goal of laboratories as a research assistant. It was during his time as a research assistant that his academic interests shifted from direct care to a more research-centered focus. On the advice of several faculty at UC Irvine, Dr. Germa decided to apply to Ph.D. programs in Developmental Psychology.

Looking back on his own path into academia, Dr. Germo advises undergraduates to keep an open-mind when considering career options. Moreover, he suggests that undergraduates explore a variety of options. Like him, they may find that the path that they have chosen is not actually the best fit. Being flexible and willing to change directions can lead to much more fulfilling and successful outcomes.

Following graduate school, Dr. Germo began teaching at UC Irvine in the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior as an adjunct lecturer. He then spent a year as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Psychology at Wesleyan University, where he taught *Adolescent Psychology* and *Research Methods and Design*. Shortly after his time at Wesleyan he was appointed to an Assistant Professor position at CSU Fullerton. In regard to the job market and finding a place in academia, Dr. Germo reflects that the “job market is tough” and those who are passed up for jobs should not take it personally. Now that he has been on the other side of job searches in his role as Assistant Professor, Dr. Germo says that he realizes how much more involved and complex the process is than he realized when he was applying. There are so many factors that applicants cannot see or are not aware of, and much of the final hiring decision may come down to factors beyond an applicant’s control. Instead, when facing the job market, Dr. Germo suggests that applicants figure out their identity—as a researcher, teacher, and colleague—in order to determine their goodness of fit within an institution. Ultimately, the goodness of fit between an applicant and an institution will help determine the outcome of a job search. So, as Dr. Germo puts it “knowing who you are as a colleague and a researcher is crucial for finding the right fit when on the job market”.

Currently, Dr. Germo is building his program of research examining the role of social relationships in the resiliency of foster care youth. Dr. Germo’s interest in foster care youth began through volunteer work with the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Orange County, a non-profit organization that provides advocacy for children through a one-on-one relationship between a trained and supervised court-appointed volunteer and a maltreated child. During his time as a CASA volunteer, Dr. Germo noticed that despite the best of intentions, the advocates were often confronted with a myriad of challenges that made it difficult to promote the needs of the youth. Given the hardships that these youth faced, even with the aid of an advocate whose role was to ensure that their needs were being met by the court system, Dr. Germo wondered how other foster care youth who did not have an advocate were faring. He then started asking: how can we improve the foster care and dependency systems to improve outcomes for vulnerable youth? It was with this question in mind that he began partnering with community agencies to conduct applied research throughout Orange County.

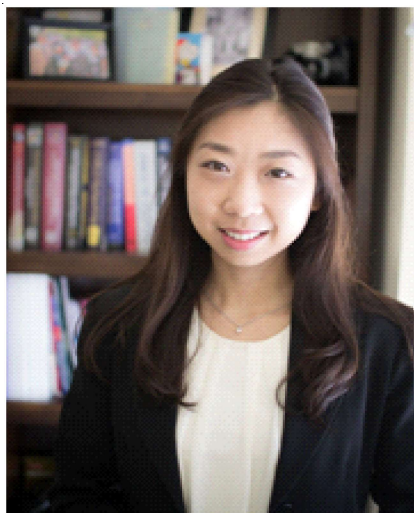
Dr. Germo has found that partnering with local community organizations can be professionally and personally rewarding. These partnerships allow academics to conduct applied research and disseminate findings to those in need of the results. The partnerships also broaden one’s perspective as a researcher and lead to exciting career opportunities, including collaborations and opportunities to present to community leaders. However, Dr. Germo also notes that conducting research out in the community, especially with vulnerable populations, can be slow as community partners may have different timetables and priorities relative to your own. To ensure a productive program of research, Dr. Germo recommends that graduate students and ECPs have multiple projects in the pipeline. That way, if a community projects slows down, you can turn to another project for the time being.

Dr. Germo has already made remarkable contributions to the field of child maltreatment via teaching, mentoring, and research. He is passionate about his multiple roles, and gives students and trainees opportunities to benefit from his knowledge. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and thank him for his insights to our students and ECPs!

Introducing the 2017 Student Advisory Board

Grace Jhe Bai & Jonathan Reader
Section Student Representatives

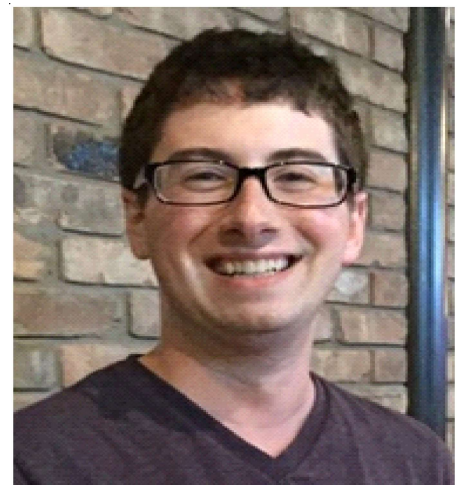
The Student Advisory Board (SAB) is excited to welcome and introduce its new officers. Over the course of this year the SAB will be working to provide opportunities and resources for students in the field. The SAB will also work closely with the section to develop projects benefiting students, professionals, and diverse populations affected by child maltreatment. In this issue of the *Insider* we hope to not only alert the field to the accomplishments and aspirations of the student officers, but to encourage other students with their self-care tips.



Grace Jhe Bai (Student Co-Representative) is a fifth year doctoral student in the child clinical psychology program at Loyola University Chicago. Her research interests include protective factors that promote resilience and better mental health outcomes among youth in foster care as well as coping behaviors of maltreated children. Grace is currently conducting program evaluation research to improve the well-being outcomes of children and families with child welfare involvement. Grace plans to continue her work with youth and families with a history of maltreatment as she pursues a research and clinical career focused on promoting resilience among youth in foster care.

Self-care tips: Being mindful about all of my work, personal life, and my vision has kept me calm, grounded, and motivated to keep going. I enjoy cooking, trying out new coffee shops, volunteering for local NGOs, and taking my camera with me to photograph and cherish each meaningful moment.

Jonathan Reader (Student Co-Representative) is a doctoral student in the Human Development and Family Studies program at The Pennsylvania State University. His research interests include innovative prevention methods (e.g., human-centered design, multiphase optimization strategy), the prevention of child sexual abuse, and public policy. Jonathan is currently working as part of a team on a statewide prevention project that aims to reduce new cases of child sexual abuse through the dissemination of three prevention programs as part of a collaborative and



multipronged approach. He hopes to continue this line of research to better inform public policies surrounding the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Self-care tips: A combination of leisure activities and time management. I try not to work too late so I have time for going to the gym, doing yoga, or going for walks when the sun is out. I also like cooking and try to find a new recipe each week to try out. Finally, I've been getting into mindfulness and try to spend some time doing breathing exercises in the morning and at night before I go to sleep. Spending time with supportive friends and not thinking about work is always helpful too!

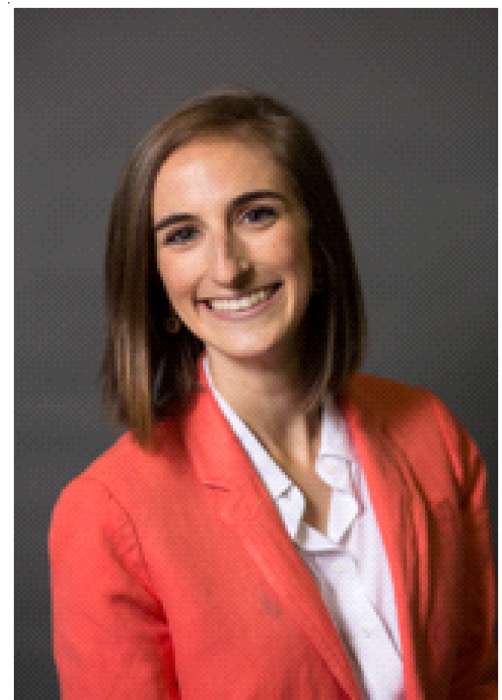


Ciera Schoonover (Communications Officer) is a graduate student in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program at Central Michigan University. Her research interests include child maltreatment prevention and treatment, program evaluation, as well as factors associated with mechanisms of change in behavioral parent training interventions. Ciera is currently working on projects evaluating mechanisms of change in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, and dissemination of PCIT services to underserved populations. She hopes to continue her research efforts to make evidence-based interventions accessible to underserved populations, and families at risk for child maltreatment.

Self-care tips: When you have very little time engage in it as a busy graduate student (and mom), you have to find creative ways to make it work. I like to make time to go for walks, read for pleasure, and try out new recipes. However, these days, my biggest source of self-care is getting on the floor and playing with my 6 month old son. Those nights when I can put writing aside

and focus all of my attention on him are the most rewarding. When I've spent all week trying to pour from an empty cup, playing with him truly helps to refill it!

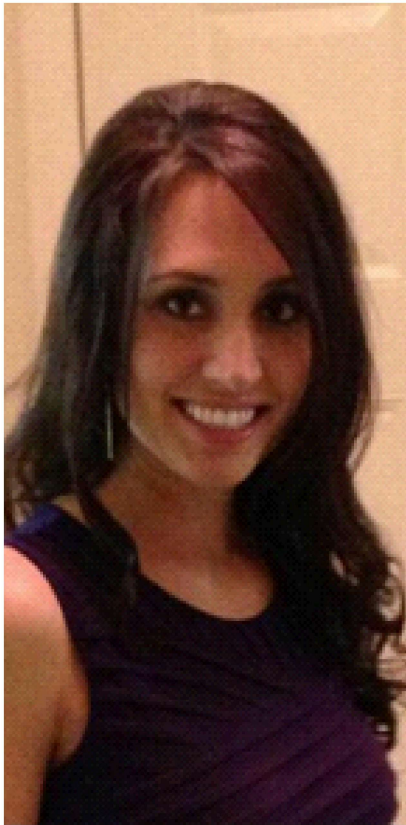
Amanda J. Hasselle (Diversity Officer) is a graduate student in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program at the University of Memphis, with a focus in Child & Family Studies. Her research interests include risk and resilience factors in the face of childhood adversity with the goal of understanding the interplay of factors within a social ecological framework that result in pathways to adaptive and maladaptive functioning. Amanda is currently working on projects examining the effects of childhood bereavement and family functioning and developing and evaluating an empowerment intervention for pregnant women who have recently experienced intimate partner violence. Her thesis examines coping profiles among individuals' responses to their self-selected most traumatic lifetime event, linking these coping typologies to posttraumatic stress symptoms and resilience during emerging adulthood.



She hopes to continue exploring modifiable factors that enhance children's potential for adaptive functioning and resilience, using this knowledge to inform children, caregivers, clinicians, and policy makers, resulting in improved outcomes for youth affected by adversity. Amanda aspires to develop and evaluate accessible, community-based interventions that serve youth with limited access to essential developmental resources.

Self-care tips: I reserve one weeknight and every Saturday morning for myself and dedicate those times to self-care (e.g., cooking, doing puzzles, journaling, taking pictures, going on walks, etc.). Other self-care tips include exercising (e.g., yoga, Zumba with friends), being involved with church, volunteering with the youth group from church, asking for help/extension when needed, and reminding myself of how much I have accomplished and remind myself that I deserve breaks.

Desiree Walisky (Public Policy Officer) is completing her graduate studies in the Educational Psychology Department - Research, Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics doctoral program at Texas Tech University. Her research interests include the social and emotional development of foster youth, foster parent training, as well as evidence-based mental health assessment and treatment implementation. Currently, Desiree is leading a study involving mental health screening in a pediatric specialist setting. Additionally, she is part of a team working to implement evidence-based interventions for the biological parents of children in foster care in Lubbock, Texas. Desiree plans to continue her research as a pathway to increase the communication among mental health professionals, policy makers, and families involved in the child welfare system.



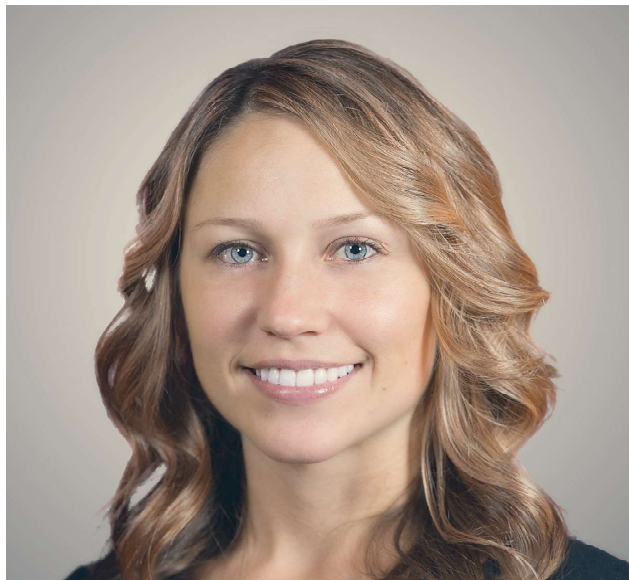
Self-care tips: I wholeheartedly believe in self-care efforts that are varied in time and energy. I use 4 words to get me there, *daily*, *weekly*, *monthly* and *unplug*. For example, on a daily basis I will take a few minutes and either think about something I did well that day, or something that a colleague did well that day and share it with them; learning to be compassionate towards yourself and others in the trenches alongside you is not only uplifting but it will bring out the best in your team! On a weekly basis, I try to build in some form of exercise or outside activity into my schedule 3-4 days per week (sweat, fresh air, and sunshine can work miracles). At least once per month I carve out time to enjoy an old hobby or pursue a new one; and finally, I plan for time to completely unplug from electronic communication.

Division 37 Interview

Interview with Dr. Samantha Brown

Ciera Schoonover
Communication Officer

Samantha Brown, PhD, is a post-doctoral fellow in the Stress, Early Experiences, and Development Research Center in the Department of Psychology at the University of Denver. She completed her doctorate in philosophy at the University of Denver in the



Graduate School of Social Work after earning her masters in psychology, also at the University of Denver. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified Social Caseworker in the state of Colorado. Her research interests include understanding the developmental and behavioral health trajectories of children, youth, and families exposed to early adversity and translating this knowledge into the development, testing, and evaluation of family-based

programs. Further she aims to understand how protective factors shape health outcomes among children and families exposed to early adversity.

Currently she is continuing the development of a mindfulness-based program aimed at improving the lives of families in the child welfare system. She hopes to use this intervention as a method to enhance family well-being and reduce child maltreatment. What began as her dissertation project entitled “A Mindfulness-Based Intervention to Improve Family Functioning Among Child Welfare-Involved Families with Substance Abuse,” Dr. Brown continues to investigate the impacts of this program on families in the child welfare system in the community.

Dr. Brown describes her work as interdisciplinary in nature. Initially, she was drawn to psychology because of her interest in doing clinical work. Her training in social work complements her psychology training, and allows her to integrate her clinical practice with community-based work.

She has extensive experience in working with children exposed to trauma and has worked closely with families court-ordered to treatment and those within the child welfare system. Throughout her work in the field, she realized these families face a number of barriers to attending and completing treatment. Engaging with families,

she says, is a key first step in overcoming those barriers. This involves understanding the systems with which families are involved, and building rapport early on. Further, asking “what are the needs of the family?” is important in reaching families in this system. Dr. Brown puts this approach to practice in the development of her Mindfulness intervention. This program is individualized to each family it serves. Further, because it takes place in the home, it reduces logistical barriers and allows for the opportunity to engage one-on-one as opposed to a group setting where you may not be able to focus on a family’s unique needs. She looks forward to continuing implementation and dissemination of this intervention to help reach other families in need.

As a post-doctoral fellow, this year has been predominantly focused on research. Dr. Brown has publications on risk and protective factors affecting behavioral health outcomes on children and youth. Currently, she is working with her post-doctoral mentor to examine coping mechanisms and responses to stress at a more physiological level (e.g., examining cortisol levels).

Following her post-doctoral fellowship, Dr. Brown hopes to continue her interdisciplinary work in a tenure track faculty position, where she can integrate clinical work, research, and teaching. Her training provides her with unique opportunities for a career in social work, developmental psychology, or human development and family studies.

In giving advice to students, Dr. Brown explains that the most important thing is finding something that you are passionate about. She adds that in academia it is easy to be uncertain about your interests, as you frequently have professors and advisors suggesting different directions for your work. Find your passion, and getting through the inevitable difficult and stressful times will be made easier if you can bring it back to why you are doing it. Dr. Brown recommends that you take advantage of the amazing mentors



available to you. She shares that obtaining multiple mentors is also important because it allows you to get multiple perspectives in your training, which can in turn, inform your work.

Dr. Brown shares that this area of work can sometimes be challenging, and self-care is crucial to success. Her self-care strategy is hiking and running. She shares that it is important for her to schedule time to do those things, just like she would schedule time for writing in her day. She advises students to make self-care strategies a priority.

Dr. Brown has already made impressive contributions to the field of child maltreatment through her clinical service and research. She is passionate about her multiple roles, interdisciplinary approach, and community-based work. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors and thank her for her insights to our students and ECOs!

Relationships between Childhood Victimization and Suicidality among Sexual Minority Youth

Amanda Hasselle

Section Diversity Officer

Section members, please let us know of any recent research we might be able to highlight in this new diversity spotlight column! Send articles or suggestions for topics to Amanda at hasselle@memphis.edu

In 2015, 43% of lesbian, gay, or bisexual students reported seriously considering suicide compared to 15% of heterosexual youth nationwide (CDC, 2016). About 29% of lesbian, gay, or bisexual youth attempted suicide in the past year, compared to about 6% of heterosexual youth (CDC, 2016). These statistics illustrate a clear need for research identifying the factors that place sexual minority youth at increased risk for suicide. Findings from two recent studies suggest that child maltreatment is one factor contributing to increased suicidality among sexual minority youth.

One group of researchers (Flynn, Johnson, Bolton, & Mojtabai, 2016) examined the impact of childhood physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect on individuals' likelihood of having attempted suicide by asking adults to retrospectively report on their exposure to these childhood maltreatment variables, as well as their lifetime history of suicide attempts. They found that a greater percentage of sexual minority youth, compared to heterosexual youth, experienced sexual abuse during childhood. This increased exposure to sexual victimization was associated with higher prevalence of suicide attempts among sexual minority youth. Female sexual minority youth exposed to childhood physical abuse were also more likely to have attempted suicide, compared to heterosexual females.

A second group of researchers (Bouris, Everett, Heath, Elsaesser, & Neilands, 2016) focused on peer victimization experiences at school and online as correlates of suicidality. Their findings indicated that, compared to heterosexual youth, sexual minority youth were more likely to endorse being threatened or injured with a weapon at school and were more likely to experience harassment based on perceived sexual orientation or gender activity. Both experiences were associated with higher levels of suicidality among sexual minority youth.

If policymakers, clinicians, school administrators, and parents understand the prevalence of both childhood victimization and suicidality among sexual minority youth, they will be better prepared to reduce childhood abuse, familial rejection, and peer

victimization experiences. Helping sexual minority youth to feel safe and accepted at home and school may improve their sense of well-being and impact long-term trajectories. Importantly, factors included in these studies account for a *portion* of the association between sexual identity and suicidality—additional factors potentially impacting this relationship include: prejudice, discrimination, internalized homophobia, substance abuse, and mental disorders. Additional research and theory development are necessary to understand the suicidality disparity between sexual minority youth and heterosexual youth.

References

- Bouris, A., Everett, B. G., Heath, R. D., Elsaesser, C. E., & Neilands, T. B. (2016). Effects of victimization and violence on suicidal ideation and behaviors among sexual minority and heterosexual adolescents. *LGBT Health, 3*(2), 153-161.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2016). Sexual identity, sex of sexual contacts, and health-related behaviors among students in grades 9-12—United States and selected sites. *Surveillance Summaries, 65*(9).
- Flynn, A. B., Johnson, R. M., Bolton, S. L., & Mojtabai, R. (2016). Victimization of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in childhood: Associations with attempted suicide. *Suicide and life-threatening behavior*.



Section Awards

Application materials for the Early Career Award & Dissertation Grant Award are due May 1st! Email materials to Dr. Jennifer Kaminski, Past President, Section on Child Maltreatment at jkaminski@cdc.gov

Applications will be reviewed by the Section Awards Committee. Applicants will be notified of a decision in late May. The award will be presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in Denver, Colorado (August, 2016).

2017 Early Career Award

The Section on Child Maltreatment (Section 1 of Division 37, APA) is seeking nominations for its 2017 Early Career Awards. The Awards Committee is accepting nominations in either category (Outstanding Contributions to *Research*, or Outstanding Contributions to *Practice*), with each category being judged separately. Nominees should be professionals within eight years of receiving their terminal degree. They need not be a member of the Section prior to the nomination. Self-nominations are welcome.

Nominations should include an electronic copy of the following:

- 1) A summary of the nominee's accomplishments to date and anticipated future contributions. This summary should describe the nominee's major accomplishments related to the field of child maltreatment and how the nominee's work has had an impact on the field;
- 2) The nominee's current curriculum vitae;
- 3) At least one letter of support; and
- 4) Other relevant supporting material, as appropriate.

2016 Dissertation Grant Award

The Section on Child Maltreatment (Section 1 of Division 37, APA) announces its annual dissertation grant award. A \$400 grant will be awarded to one successful graduate student applicant to assist with expenses in conducting dissertation research on the topic of child maltreatment. The award includes a one-year free membership in the Section on Child Maltreatment.

Applicants are requested to submit:

- 1) A letter of interest, indicating how the applicant would use the award funds toward the completion of the dissertation research;
- 2) A 100-word abstract; and
- 3) A proposal the research to be conducted, not to exceed five double-spaced pages (inclusive of tables, references, etc.)

Publications & Resources Corner

We'd love to know more about what Section members are working on! Throughout the year, please share your blog posts, newsletters, reports, journal articles, books, or other publications or resources that might be of interest to our members. To include your resources in the next newsletter, please email Barbara at: boudek1@gmail.com

Journal articles:

- Baroni, B.A., Day, A.G., Somers, C.L., Crosby, S., & Pennefather, M. (2016). The adoption of the Monarch Room as an alternative to suspension and expulsion in addressing school discipline issues among court-involved youth. *Urban Education*. DOI: 10.1177/0042085916651321
- Crosby, S., Somers, C., Day, A., & Baroni, B. (2016). Working with traumatized students: Measures to assess school staff perceptions, awareness, and instructional responses. *Journal of Therapeutic Schools and Programs*, 8. 59-70. Retrieved from http://natsap.org/pdf_files/journals/JTSP_VOL8.1.pdf
- Seita, S., Day, A., Carrellas, A., & Pugh, G. (2016). An Assessment of Behavioral Orientation of Foster Care Alumni within Their Own Social Networks. *Journal of Sociology and Social Work*, 4 (2), 1-9. doi: 10.15640/jssw.v4n2a1
- Somers, C.L., Day, A., Decker, L.E., Saleh, A.B., & Baroni, B.A. (2016). Adolescent girls in out-of-home care: Associations between substance use and sexual risk behavior. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse*, 25 (5). 409-416. DOI: 10.1080/1067828X.2015.1056865
- Tashjian, S. M., Goldfarb, D., Goodman, G. S., Quas, J. A. & Edelstein, R. (2016). Delay in disclosure of non-parental child sexual abuse in the context of emotional and physical maltreatment: A pilot study. *Journal of Abuse and Neglect*, 58, 149-159. DOI: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.06.020
- Weber, N. M., Somers, C. L., Day, A., & Baroni, B. A. (2016). Predictors and outcomes of school attachment and school involvement in a sample of girls in residential treatment. *Residential Treatment for Children and Youth*, 33 (2), 155-74. DOI: 10.1080/0886571X.2016.1188034

Books:

- Cohen, J. A., Mannarino, A.P., Deblinger, E. (2017). Treating trauma and traumatic grief in children and adolescents, 2nd edition. New York: The Guilford Press.

Blog Posts & Newsletters:

Goodman, G. (2017, March 1). Why positive parenting trumps physical punishment when it comes to disciplining kids [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://psychologybenefits.org/2017/03/01/positive-parenting-physical-punishment-disciplining-kids/>.

Virginia Child Protection Newsletter, sponsored by the Child Protective Services Unit of the Virginia Department of Social Services is available at: <https://psychweb.chbs.jmu.edu/Graysojh/>

Note: You can obtain a hard copy of the newsletter by emailing Joann Grayson at graysojh@jmu.edu

Reports:

Billings, K., Bishop-Josef, S., Janik, H., Potler, E., & Galloway, M. (2017). Preventing crime through voluntary home visiting. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Council for a Strong America Report. Available online at: <https://www.strongnation.org/articles/349-preventing-crime-through-voluntary-home-visiting>

Find the Section on LinkedIn!

Did you know that the Section now has a LinkedIn page?

Please join us in using the page to build our network and strengthen our connections! Make full use of this resource to:

- Get to know others who are working in prevention and treatment related child maltreatment
- Introduce yourself
- See others' connections, their bios, and their smiling faces
- Start or respond to discussions
- Post news of interest, jobs, convention and conference information, or
- Survey your peers

To join, simply search for APA Division 37, Section on Child Maltreatment under LinkedIn Groups. (Or, you can search <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12000665>) and request to join. Alternatively, you can link with and message Cheryl MoonEagle Arndt and ask to be invited.

Not on LinkedIn yet? Now's the perfect time to join! LinkedIn provides work-related social networking, and a basic account is free.

Section Executive Committee

To email a board member, click on their name!

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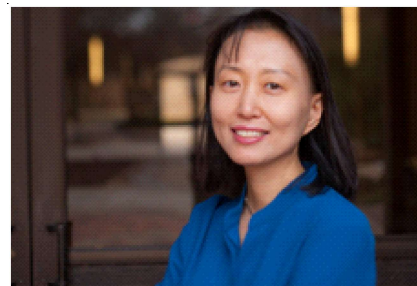
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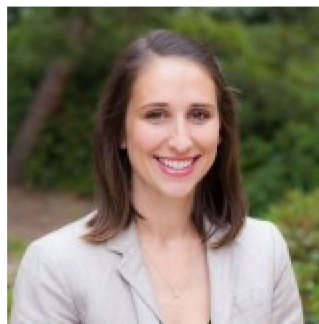
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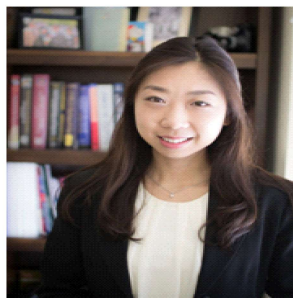
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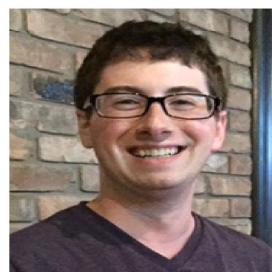
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MISSION STATEMENT

The Section on Child Maltreatment of the Division of Child, Youth, and Family Services supports and promotes scientific inquiry, training, professional practice, and advocacy in the area of child maltreatment.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Section on Child Maltreatment is to promote the general objectives of the American Psychological Association and the Division of Child, Youth, and Family Services; to support and encourage the development of the scientific study of child maltreatment and of sound professional practice relevant to child maltreatment; to provide up-to-date information about maltreatment; to encourage networking across Divisions/Sections in the area of maltreatment; and to advance scientific inquiry, training, and professional practice in the area of child maltreatment as a means of promoting the well-being, health, and mental health of children, youth, and families.

Interested in joining the Division or have a friend who may be interested? Go to <http://www.apadivisions.org/division-37/sections/index.aspx> and click the *Online Application* link.

