

**Center for Child Well-Being  
Arizona State University  
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**child-wellbeing.asu.edu**

**ASU** college of public service  
& community solutions

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



**Center for Child Well-Being  
Annual Report 2015-2016**

**School of Social Work  
College of Public Service  
and Community Solutions  
Arizona State University**

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## Director's Welcome

The ASU Center for Child Well-Being (CCWB) was established in 2015. As we close the cover on this first year we have much to be proud of, much to look forward to, and a sense of urgency for the work that lies ahead. Many of our efforts have focused on the safe reduction of children in out

of home care.<sup>1</sup> We ended this first year with a new four-year contract with the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to evaluate Arizona's Title IV-E waiver that is aimed at safely reducing the number of children living in congregate care.

Other efforts included facilitation of the Arizona Citizen Review Panel Program<sup>2</sup> as well as a leadership role in a broad-based community collaboration referred to as the Safe Reduction Workgroup.<sup>3</sup> A second theme in our work has been combatting youth sex trafficking. We teamed with the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research on a 5-year Children's Bureau grant to educate the child welfare workforce on how to identify sex trafficking victims, and partnered with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Families to develop guidelines for responding to youth sex trafficking across Arizona.<sup>4</sup>

A close partnership with the Mary Lou Fulton School of Education led to the release of four, high quality 60-minute training modules that are available free to the community.<sup>5</sup> Whereas the training modules have been used for teacher preparation and teacher training in the past, the partnership with the CCWB has seen an expansion in utilization to include DCS and its community partners.

Our training component created 76 hours of training targeted at new DCS Child Safety Specialists as well as specialized curriculum for experienced staff. Examples of training topics include the effects of abuse and neglect on child development, family engagement, case planning, and compliance with court orders.

In addition to creating new training, the CCWB contracted with experts in the community to deliver

forensic interviewing training and the Certified Public Manager course to DCS staff and managers.

Consultation on IV-E reimbursement on the ASU/ DCS partnership has resulted in the inclusion of nearly \$2M in ASU eligible expenditures in the state's federal claim. A percentage of these expenditures return to the state of Arizona, making additional funds available. A statewide survey of training conducted with over 100 human service providers shows great promise for further identification of eligible activities that may continue to increase Arizona's state claim to the federal government, thereby reducing overall state and local costs for training related to the care and support of Arizona's children and families.

Our role as a new Center also includes that of convener. The establishment of the Center has given our work increased visibility, and we meet regularly with community partners and researchers to provide support and to foster connections. We welcome research partners from within and outside of ASU and are pleased to be the new home of the ASU Family Communication Consortium, which brings together faculty with a focus on children and families from across ASU and other partner institutions.

We were honored to act as host to the 2016 National Citizen Review Panel conference<sup>6</sup>, and are in the process of planning to host the national Title IV-E Roundtable conference in 2017, as well as our first annual Child Well-Being conference in 2018 focused on children of incarcerated parents.

Not only do we have the pleasure of working with a dedicated team of staff<sup>7</sup>, we were also fortunate to have recruited the participation of a wonderful group of community advisors<sup>8</sup>, aptly chaired by Dr. Marilyn Seymann, founder of the Arizona Foundation for Women. We look forward to the guidance of our Advisory board members and thank them for their commitment to the children and families of Arizona.

What will next year bring? Please visit our new web site for regular updates and to share your ideas with us.

With gratitude,

Judy Krysik

1 <https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/home>; <https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/content/maricopa-county-safe-reduction-initiative>

2 <https://sites.google.com/site/arizonacitizenreviewpanels/>

3 <https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/home>; <https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/content/maricopa-county-safe-reduction-initiative>

4 <https://asunow.asu.edu/content/124m-grant-help-child-sex-trafficking-victims>

5 <http://ktar.com/story/1183882/teacher-training-modules-can-help-traumatized-students/>

6 <http://theshow.kjzz.org/content/316064/foster-care-numbers-rising-child-safety-citizen-panels-convene-valley>

7 <https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/content/people-1>

8 <https://child-wellbeing.asu.edu/content/community-advisory-board>

## Mission

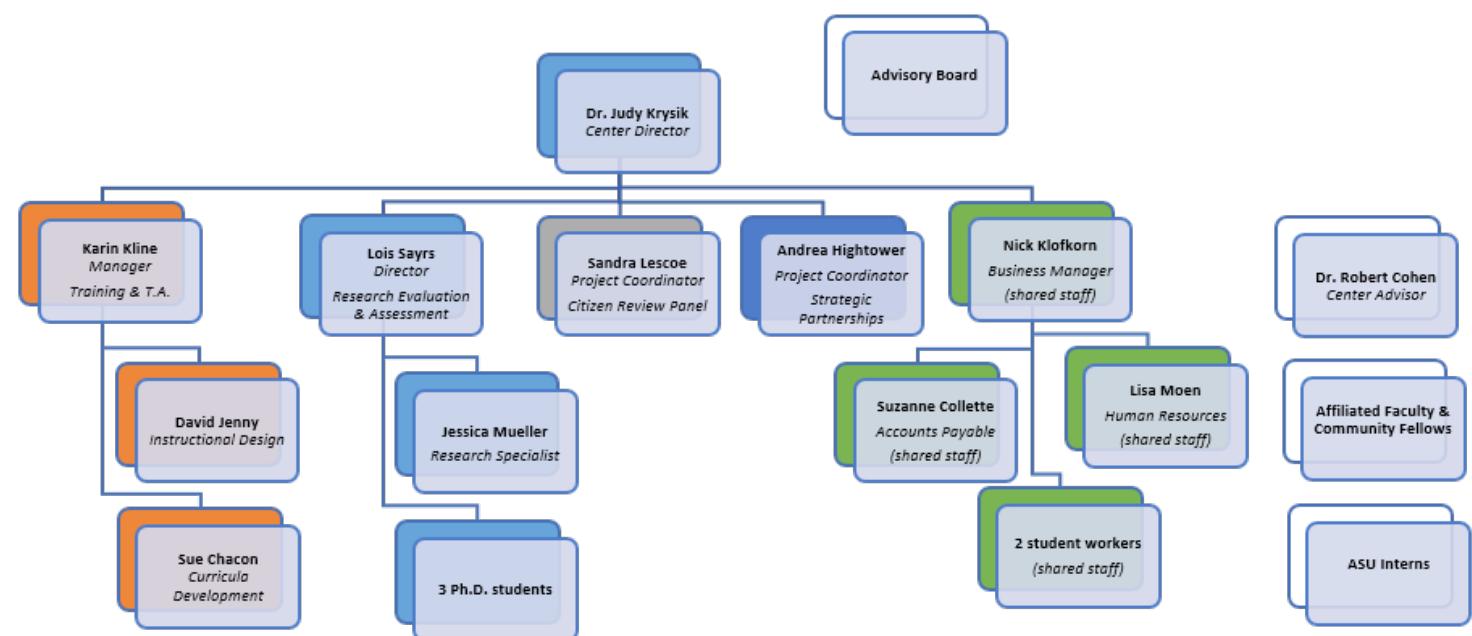
The mission of the ASU Center for Child Well-Being (ASU) is to advance child and family well-being by enhancing the resilience of families and building safer and more vibrant communities. Working in collaboration with public and private entities, CCWB draws upon the expertise of faculty and students across ASU to support, sustain, and improve community-based services and care for children and families. The Center promotes the use of data driven and evidence-informed strategies to guide policy and practice through:

- Furthering cutting-edge research and evaluation
- Designing and delivering state-of-the-art training and education
- Engaging the community through strategic partnerships to enhance collective impact



## People

The Center is comprised of a small core of faculty and staff who manage and support CCWB's basic programs and functions. As community needs are identified, CCWB draws upon faculty with pertinent expertise. CCWB has established Community and Faculty Fellow positions to acknowledge the contribution of individuals from the university and community who are involved with and contribute to the work of the Center. The chart below depicts the organizational structure of CCWB. Business and Operations staff are shared with another ASU Center.





## Facilitating collaborative approaches to providing care for vulnerable children and families



## Supporting strength-based approaches that empower children and families



## Promoting data driven policy and evidence-informed practice

# CCWB Community Advisory Board

The Community Advisory Board reflects the perspectives of key community stakeholder groups.

## Board Members

### Dr. Marilyn Seymann

Chair

### Nancy Baldwin

Executive Director  
Hickey Family Foundation

### David K. Byers

Director of the Administrative Office  
Arizona Supreme Court

### Dean Conrood, M.D.

Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology  
District Medical Group

### Bahney Dedolph

Policy Analyst  
Arizona Council of Human Service Providers

### Chuck Fitzgerald

Executive Director  
Vineyard Community Charities

### Raquel Gearing

Child Safety Specialist  
Arizona Department of Child Safety

### Rebecca Ruffner

Executive Director  
Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

### Lynda Wilson

Nurse Consultant  
Founder and Administrator  
Discount Tire Executive Health Program

# Training and Technical Assistance

- Providing training that is job relevant, accessible, and responsive to agency needs
- Working in partnership with the Department of Child Safety (DCS) to update current training and develop advanced and specialized training content for new and existing DCS employees to create a highly skilled, stable workforce
- Incorporating current best practices and research into systems assessment, technical assistance, and training aligned with state and federal law and agency policy

## Highlights for 2015-2016

- 59 Department of Child Safety assistant program managers, central office managers and supervisors completed the ASU Certified Public Manager course
- 76 hours of new specialist and specialized curriculum development to address staff requests for in-depth training including:
  1. Effects of abuse and neglect on child development
  2. Family engagement
  3. Child behavioral health
  4. Case planning
  5. Hotline assessment tool
  6. In-home services
- Delivered training in subjects including engaging families, supporting foster families, supervision, in-home services and sex trafficking
- Provided 20 basic forensic interviewing classes and trained 101 individuals in advanced forensic interviewing through a subcontract with Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
- Provided access to ASU's specialized training and meeting technology to partners and system stakeholders

# Research and Evaluation

- Identifying emerging best practices and system improvement strategies
- Conducting and disseminating research and program evaluation in collaboration with community partners in order to inform policymakers and practitioners involved with enhancing the well-being of children and families
- Providing research experience and opportunities to students and the next generation of child well-being researchers under the support and mentorship of leading researchers in the field
- Utilizing research as a mechanism to advance public debate on the most serious issues in child well-being and promote evidence-informed policy making in child welfare at the local, state, and national levels

## Highlights for 2015-2016

- Participated in evaluation planning for IV-E Waiver on reduction of children in congregate care
- Completed an annual evaluation of the Maricopa County Juvenile Court Cradle to Crayons program
- Administered a statewide survey of foster parents in collaboration with DCS for the purpose of gaining a better understanding the needs of foster parents and reasons for foster parent attrition
- Produced a report on perceived benefits of endorsement for the Infant Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona
- Funded by Arizona Children's Action Alliance, the Center provided updated child well-being data for 73 indicators that are tracked in the National KIDS COUNT database



# Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships

- Promoting and participating in collaborative efforts with key stakeholders designed to enhance child and family well-being
- Providing expertise in research, training, and technical assistance to bolster new and existing services and programs that serve vulnerable youth and families
- Serving as a facilitator and convener of planning and educational events

## Highlights for 2015-2016

- Facilitated the Arizona Citizen Review Panel program (CRP), a federally mandated program with the purpose of evaluating and determining the extent to which state and local child protection systems effectively discharge their responsibilities
- Created and disseminated reference materials on Title IV-E, including a white paper, a 20 minute video presentation and five step decision tree to gauge eligibility and steps necessary to develop Title IV-E training partnerships
- Inclusion of nearly \$2M in ASU eligible expenditures in Arizona's federal Title IV-E claim. A percentage of these expenditures return to the state of Arizona, making additional funds available which previously had not been recognized
- Provided technical assistance to Delaware, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Nebraska to assess the potential to develop new, or enhance existing, Title IV-E partnerships within their public child welfare systems
- Planned and hosted the 2016 National CRP Conference which was attended by over 180 individuals from 27 states/districts



# Organizational Affiliations and Strategic Partnerships

**Arizona Council of Human Service Providers**

**Ashoka Changemakers Child Wellbeing Initiative**

**Casey Family Programs**

**Children's Action Alliance**

**City of Phoenix, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team**

**Department of Child Safety**

**Head Start**

**Jewish Family and Children's Services**

**Maricopa County Public Health: Preventive Health Collaborative**

**Maricopa County Safe Reduction Initiative**

**Maricopa Family Support Alliance**

**Pima Prevention Partnership**

**Prevent Child Abuse Arizona**

**Project Jigsaw: Connecting Every Child to a Loving Family**

**Trinity Opportunity Alliance**

