

Brian Leidy

Web Bio

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Biography

Biographical Statement

Brian D. Leidy, Ph.D. is the Principal Investigator for the Military Projects in the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research. This work is funded primarily through grants from USDA/NIFA. He began working at the Center in 1995 as the Evaluation Manager for the Military Projects. Prior to this, he worked as a managerial consultant for social service agencies and educational institutions evaluating training, social service programs, and policy initiatives. He has also held the position of Senior Extension Associate at Cornell University doing training in supervision and administration with adult protective service supervisors and adult home administrators throughout New York State. Prior to coming to Cornell, he worked in public child welfare and mental health programs for children and adolescents. He has held positions as a child protective service caseworker, child protective supervisor, and director of child welfare services. He has also administered children and youth day treatment programs and two psychiatric partial hospitalization programs, one for children and one for adolescents. He is a member of Pi Alpha Alpha, Honorary Society for Public Affairs and Administration, and the American Evaluation Association.

Department Website Summary

<http://www.bctr.cornell.edu/>

Teaching

Professional

Current Professional Activities

Dr. Leidy is the Principal Investigator and Director of the Military Projects in the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research in the New York State College of Human Ecology. Since 1991, the Military Projects have been engaged in many extension and research activities for the United States Army Family Advocacy Program and the Army G9 Family Programs, the United States Marine Corps Community Services Programs, the Army Reserve Family Programs, the United States Air Force Family Advocacy Program, and Military Family and Community

Policy and Health Affairs programs in the Department of Defense. The Military Projects have developed outreach and public awareness materials, identified evidence based resources for programs and services, developed training and educational materials for professional development, and conducted needs assessment and program evaluation during the 24 years they have been working with military family support programs.

Currently the Military Projects are conducting three studies for the Army Family Advocacy Program. The studies include efficacy studies of the services provided to victims of domestic abuse through the Victim Advocacy Program and child abuse and neglect services provided by MEDCOM SWS. The third study is of the role of Command support in child and spouse abuse cases. They continue their work with the Army Reserve Family Programs on needs assessment and program evaluation. In 2015, the Military Projects will complete their work with the Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs involving the development of a set of standardized process and outcome metrics to be used by each branch of the military to monitor and evaluate the performance of their Exceptional Family Member Programs and report to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This work is being carried out in partnership with Cornell's Office for Research on Evaluation. They will also complete work in 2015 with the University of Minnesota developing and evaluating a staff development curriculum for Military Community & Family Policy at the Department of Defense. Also slated for completion 2015 will be the Healthy Base Initiative evaluation which is being done for Military Community & Family Policy and Health Affairs at the Department of Defense. New this year will be a meta evaluation of the Army Ready and Resilient programs and portfolios of programs.

Research

Current Research Activities

US Army Reserve Headquarters Family Programs - Developing process and outcome metrics for Army Reserve Family Programs to evaluate the reach and effectiveness of their Family Support programs. This project is conducted in partnership with the [Cornell Office for Research on Evaluation](#) (CORE).

US Army Family Advocacy Program – Conducting three research studies on 1) the impact of the Army Victim Advocate Program; 2) Command influence on completion of treatment and reduced recidivism in child and domestic maltreatment and 3) the impact of a risk assessment protocol used by the clinical social work staff to predict recidivism and drive treatment strategies in child maltreatment cases. Previous work involved research reviews of family violence prevention practice and policy, the development of multiple on-line training for professional staff, and outcome evaluations of ongoing programs.

Department of Defense Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Benchmark Study – Partnering with Cornell Office for Research on Evaluation (CORE) to develop a common set of process and outcome metrics and build the evaluation

capacity among EFMP leadership at the Department of Defense and in each of the four Services. This is an ongoing project that started with a 2012 benchmark study of DoD policies and programs that support all military families with individuals with special needs.

US Army Ready and Resilient Campaign Evaluation – In 2011, the Army developed a plan to evaluate programs and portfolios of programs that support overall health promotion and risk-reduction behaviors for all Soldiers and Family members. This plan was implemented in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. As part of an outside review and validation of the evaluation plan, Cornell's Military Projects staff will review the evaluation reports to assess whether changes need to be made in either the evaluation plan or its execution.

Department of Defense Healthy Base Initiative (HBI) Measurement and Evaluation Strategy – Assisting the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy Healthy Base Initiative Team with evaluating the implementation of a set of initiatives at 14 installations that promote healthy eating, increased physical activity, and reducing the use of tobacco products. Activities include reviewing measurement and evaluation plans (existing logic models, selected metrics, and data collection methods) and developing and conducting the main feedback survey at the end of the 12 month project. This is the third partnership with CORE and the BCTR Military Projects.

Superstar Practitioner: This is a three year Hatch award that began October 1, 2012 which looks at the common dimensions of practitioners' interpersonal practices and skills that promote high quality program implementation and positive client outcomes. This work is being carried out across five different human service fields of practice, child care, residential child care, perinatal home visitation, agencies that provide support to people with disabilities and their families, and agencies that provide parent education. The intent is to develop an observational tool that can be used for teaching and assessing good practice.

Extension

Current Extension Activities

Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Along with two other members of the Military Projects staff, Dr. Leidy services on the Family Advocacy Research Subcommittee which oversees all the research conducted in the Army Family Advocacy Program. This year's activities include the development of a DoD wide conference on responding to out of home child sexual abuse in child care settings with the product being revision and updating of the Family Advocacy Program manual that serves as a guide to the management of such incidents that was originally prepared for the Army by staff at the BCTR Military Projects and published in 1996.

Department of Defense Military and Family Support Training System (MFSTS) - The Department of Defense is in the process of developing an online common core curriculum for use by Family Support service providers in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. In partnership with the University of Arizona, Kansas State University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign, and the University of North Carolina, the BCTR-MP conducted the gap analysis on the service provider training materials. The Military Projects wrote the EFMP curriculum module and will be responsible for evaluating the piloting of the entire common core curriculum.

Army Reserve Headquarters Family Programs: This two year project was continued for another two years as of 1 September 2014 and is being done in partnership with CORE. It includes assisting the Army Reserve Family Programs in developing a needs assessment instrument to be used by local Commands to conduct needs assessment in preparation for accreditation.

Education

Education

1991 Ph.D., Human Service Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
1985 Master of Public Administration, Marywood College, Scranton, PA.
1972 Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Mansfield State University, Mansfield, PA.

Courses

Websites

Related Websites

Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research

www.bctr.cornell.edu

<http://www.bctr.cornell.edu/projects/project-title-5/>

Administration

Administrative Responsibilities

As the Principal Investigator and Director for the Military Projects in the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Dr. Leidy has the overall administrative responsibility for the Military Projects including proposal and grant preparation, fiscal management, hiring and supervising staff, and administrative oversight of all the project work. He provides the primary supervision for all the projects' program evaluation and research activities which are currently carried out for the Army Reserve Family Programs, Army Family Advocacy Program, Department of Defense Exceptional Family Member Program, the Department of Defense Military Family Support Training System, and the Department of Defense Healthy Base Initiative. Dr. Leidy also speaks frequently at conferences and workshops about military families and military family support programs.

New Funding Awarded in 2014: \$1,623,362

Publications

Selected Publications

Command Support Study: This study summarizes findings from the most recently completed iteration of the Command Support Study (2010) and compares the latest findings with those from the original study completed in 2005. Both studies strongly validated the Command Support Model which postulates that if Commanders are appropriately briefed by the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Manager, they will be more likely to attend the Case Review Committee (CRC) meeting that is held when an incident of child or domestic abuse occurs involving a Soldier under their command. The logic model further hypothesizes that if the Commander attends the CRC, he or she is more likely to endorse the victim and offender treatment plans, and if the Commander endorses the treatment plans it is more likely that Soldiers and Families will complete treatment and will not experience subsequent incidents of abuse. This study is currently underway for a third time with completion anticipated in 2015.

DoD Exceptional Family Member Program Benchmark Report: This study summarizes findings from an extensive literature review, a series of interviews with staff of family support programs for families with special needs within the military and civilian sectors, and focus groups and individual interviews with service members, family members, and service providers at eight installation, two from each military service. This work was carried out in 2011 and 2012.