

Brian Leidy

Web Bio

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Biography

Biographical Statement

Brian D. Leidy, Ph.D. is a Senior Extension Associate for the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research in the New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University. He is the Co-Principal Investigator and Director of the Military Projects at the Center where he has worked for the last 16 years doing research and program evaluation. Before coming to BCTR he worked for four years at the DSS Project at Cornell developing curricula and providing training to adult protective services supervisors and adult care facility administrators. Prior to coming to Cornell, he worked extensively in public child welfare and mental health programs. His current areas of interests include program evaluation and violence prevention in family, community, and institutional settings.

Department Website Summary

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

Professional

Current Professional Activities

I am 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 primarily for the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps, but also for the Department of Defense, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. In recent years, the main focus of the Military Projects has been to provide support to staff at the G9 Family Programs, Installation Management Command (IMCOM) for the United States Army. G9 Family Programs provides administrative oversight and direction to the prevention, education, and treatment programs available to soldiers and their families through the Army Community Service (ACS) Centers at Army installations worldwide. ACS provides financial management, employment, relocation, and deployment support assistance to soldiers and families, services for exceptional family members, child abuse prevention and response services, domestic abuse prevention and response services, sexual assault prevention and response services, and volunteer programs. In recent year, ACS has expanded its

programming to include services to soldiers who are in transition because of war related injuries and services to the survivors of fallen soldiers.

The Military Projects at Cornell support ACS programs in the selection, implementation, and administration of evidence-based programs in the many areas in which they serve soldiers and families. The specific tasks we engage in include ongoing literature reviews in a variety of substantive areas, the development of performance metrics and their incorporation into information management and reporting systems, program evaluation and outcomes management, and needs assessment activities. We also conduct large Army wide studies, the two most recent examples being studies of the way in which family service programs support soldiers and families before, during, and after deployment and how family service program providers build partnerships across Army components and the civilian sector to better serve soldiers and families, especially those who are geographically dispersed. In the past we have developed and produced a variety of information resources for ACS programs such as pamphlets, brochures, manuals, curricula, etc, which we periodically update, edit, and revise to keep current. These materials are used Armywide. We have also provided training in a variety of subject areas to Army family service personnel and frequently speak at their professional conferences and meetings.

Currently we are conducting a study, in partnership with the University of Kansas, of the Exceptional Family Member Programs across the military for the Department of Defense. This project entails the review of policy documents from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the four military services, a needs assessment of all four branches of the military which includes service member and family member input, a review of comparable civilian services, and recommendations for policy development across the military. For more information see Current Research Activities.

Research

Current Research Activities

During the last year, I provided leadership for the team conducting an evaluation of the integrated family services network initiative in the US Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve. This initiative is known as *Army One Source* and is designed to assure that soldiers and families receive the services they need when they need them regardless of their component or geographic location. The evaluation plan focuses first on the implementation process looking at the way in which both military and civilian family service providers partner and how those partnerships affect the family service delivery systems. This year we have begun the outcome evaluation phase and are looking at the impact of the initiative on soldiers and their families.

We have also done considerable work on the DoD EFMP Benchmark Study. This study is being conducted for the Office of Community Support for Military Family With Special Needs within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This study will provide the foundation for an effective family support policy across the four Services. The work which is being done in conjunction with the University of Kansas is being carried out in two phases. In the first phase, existing military and civilian programs that assist families with individuals with special needs is being

reviewed to determine which programs, or aspects of programs, have been most effective in meeting the needs of service members and their families in each branch of the military. This entails a comprehensive analysis of headquarters and policy perspectives, relying chiefly on existing symposia papers and in-depth analysis of other policy documents detailing support for families with special needs. The second phase considers how existing programs may be expanded to military populations by gathering service member and family member input about their needs, which programs they are using to meet their needs, and what needs are going unmet. Information is also being gathered from the family services professionals in each of the Services who support families with special needs individuals. The study which is very near completion will produce staffing guidelines and recommended training programs for personnel developed from the policy analysis phase. The second phase will produce evaluation metrics, including a family satisfaction scale.

This year we began work on the DoD Military Family Readiness System project funded through the NIFA/USDA. This Military Family Readiness System project will be conducted in three phases over a two year period from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2013. The three phases include:

- Phase I –conduct a scan and gap analysis of existing Family Center / Family Readiness training curricula from all four Branches of the Military.
- Phase II - develop staff development training modules/curricula to address a ‘social services delivery system’ approach to the provision of Family Center / Family Readiness services, and
- Phase III - pilot the training system, evaluate results, and make recommendation for incorporating the training in staff development materials.

This work was not started until late in the year and we anticipate more activity on this project in 2012.

Extension

Current Extension Activities

In addition to the research activities described above, I have headed the team providing guidance and technical assistance to ACS personnel in the development of monitoring and evaluation systems. We have also been active conducting surveys and focus groups of staff to gather input on how programs and services are working in various locations throughout the Army. Other extension activities include providing oversight and direction for project staff who are providing technical support and assistance to local installations in the completion of their needs assessment survey. These surveys are part of the accreditation process for Army Community Service Centers which gather community input regarding the need for services, the use of services, and the barriers to using services. The survey also asks questions about the level of community cohesion experienced by respondents and their engagement in the local community. A sampling plan is prepared for each installation that includes guidance for distributing the survey in paper and electronic format. When the installation has completed the data collection process, their data is analyzed and a report is prepared for use in service planning.

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

www.human.cornell.edu/fldc/

Administration

Administrative Responsibilities

As Co-P.I. and Director of the Military Projects, I over see the staff, budgets, and deliverables for four ongoing awards from NIFA/USDA. The ongoing awards include the Army Community Services (ACS) Evidence-Based Programming project, Family Advocacy Program project, the Relocation Readiness project, and the DoD EFMP Benchmark Study. The DoD EFMP Benchmark Study is being carried out in partnership with the Beach Center at the University of Kansas. The ACS Evidence-Based Programming project and Family Advocacy Program project have been continued into 2012 with renewed funding and the Relocation Readiness project and the DoD EFMP Benchmark Study have received no cost extension. A new award, Military Family Support Training System, began in 2011 and is funded until September 2013. This award is a 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.

New Funding Awarded in 2011: \$902,014

Publications
