

Martha Holden

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

Martha J. Holden is a Senior Extension Associate with the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research and the director of the Residential Child Care Project. As project director, she provides technical assistance to implement CARE, a best practice model for residential child caring agencies, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention System to residential organizations, training programs in violence prevention, and a program in the Investigation of Institutional Maltreatment, throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, and Israel. In 1975 Ms. Holden received her M.S. in Mental Health Counseling from Wright State University. She was the lead editor and writer in the 2009 re-development of the Center's Therapeutic Crisis Intervention curriculum, Edition 6, in use from 1982 and the author of the book, Children and Residential Experiences (CARE): Creating Conditions for Change, a best practice model for residential care organizations.

Ms Holden has published in the Children and Youth Services Review, Child Abuse and Neglect: An International Journal, Child Welfare, Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Problems, Residential Treatment for Children & Youth, and the Journal of Child And Youth Care Work. She has co-authored a chapter in the book Understanding Abusive Families and For Your Own Safety: Examining the Safety of High Risk Interventions for Children and Young People. In addition to her extensive experience in training and curriculum development, Ms Holden served as an administrator of a residential child care facility overseeing the day to day operation of a residential treatment facility for children, including its education resources from 1979 - 1988. Throughout her career, Ms. Holden has been studying ways to prevent the occurrence of institutional abuse of children through training, investigating and influencing organizational culture.

Professional

Current Professional Activities

Martha J. Holden is a Senior Extension Associate with the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research and the director of the Residential Child Care Project. As project director, she provides technical assistance to residential child caring agencies in implementing CARE, a residential care program model, the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention System, a crisis prevention and management system for residential care organizations, training programs in violence prevention, and a program in the Investigation of Institutional Maltreatment, throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia,

Israel, and Russia.

As director of the RCCP, Ms Holden seeks to maintain a leadership role in developing innovative programs to enable child caring agencies to serve children, youth, and families more effectively by building strong linkages among research, outreach activities, and evaluation efforts. These relationships are viewed as cyclical: research leads to the development of innovative and effective outreach programs, which are carefully evaluated. Evaluation activities contribute directly to the adaptation and improvement of outreach programs and may also contribute to new research. In 2007, the RCCP was awarded the Human Ecology Extension, Outreach, and Public Service Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Extension/Outreach.

The Therapeutic Crisis Intervention System (TCI), Child And Residential Experiences (CARE), and the Institutional Abuse (IAB) components are the main components of the project. The RCCP's TCI component works directly with child caring and educational organizations seeking to lower rates of aggressive incidents and high-risk physical interventions. The RCCP's CARE component is a multi-level practice model that involves providing residential child care personnel with the capacity to implement a set of core practice principles that are solidly grounded in current social science literature and best practices standards and facilitating organizational changes to support and sustain the implementation of those core principles at all levels of the organization. In addition CARE is in the process of being evaluated using a sophisticated quasi-experimental design in North and South Carolina. The RCCP's IAB component works with state and local authorities to train child protection professionals to prevent and remediate institutional maltreatment.

Research

Current Research Activities

Ms Holden is currently a co-principal investigator of a research funded project to evaluate the CARE program model. This model takes a comprehensive strategy to advance evidence-based practice in residential care. There are three avenues through which the evidence can inform residential care practice: a) developing practices that are guided by a sound theory of change that reflects state-of-the-art research on factors that facilitate healthy child development and promote healing, b) studying the CARE model of residential care with a rigorous evaluation that allows for sound conclusions about its impact on children's well-being, and (c) systematically reporting evaluation findings back to practitioners and administrators to guide program improvement efforts and refinements to the theory of change.

In the states of North and South Carolina (US) a specially funded research project, supported by both The Duke Endowment and Cornell University, uses a quasi-experimental design in which seven agencies implementing CARE will be compared to seven matched non-implementing agencies. Cornell will collect data on implementation, organizational functioning, and staff and child outcomes. The study agencies have the potential to provide multiple waves of high-quality quantitative outcome data on children through the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Child Outcomes Study, as well as, qualitative findings from a separate grounded theory study seeking to inform the process of agency

organizational change. Together, these unique data resources, offer an opportunity to conduct a robust evaluation of the CARE model that can have implications for residential care nationally and internationally, as well as to qualify the model as an evidence-based program for residential child care.

Extension

Current Extension Activities

Martha J. Holden as co-principal investigator and project director provides technical assistance to residential child caring agencies in implementing CARE, a residential care program model, the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention System, a crisis prevention and management system for residential care organizations, training programs in violence prevention, and a program in the Investigation of Institutional Maltreatment, throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Israel, and Russia.

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Education

Courses

Websites

Administration

Publications

Selected Publications

Holden, M.J., Izzo, C., Nunno, M., Smith, E., Endres, T., Holden, J.C., & Kuhn, F. (2010). Children and residential experiences: A comprehensive strategy for implementing a researched-informed program model for residential care. *Child Welfare*, 89(2), 131-149.

Holden, M.J. (2009). Children and residential experiences: Creating the conditions for change. Washington, D.C.: Child Welfare League of America.

Holden, M. J., & Curry, D. (2008). Learning from the research. In M.A. Nuuno, D.M. Day, & L.B. Bullard (Eds.), *For our own safety: Examining the safety of high risk interventions for children and young people* (pp. 107-126). Arlington, VA: Child

Welfare League of America.

Nunno, M.A., Holden, M. J., & Tollar, A. (2006). Learning from tragedy: A survey of child and adolescent restraint fatalities. *Child Abuse & Neglect: An International Journal*, 30 (12), 1333-1342.

Nunno, M. A., Holden, M. J., & Leidy, B. (2003). Evaluating and monitoring the impact of a crisis intervention system on a residential child care facility, *Children and Youth Services Review*, 25(4). 295-315.