

Improving the Quality of Care for the Most Vulnerable Children, Youth, and Their Families

Finding Consensus

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C W L A P R E S S

Washington, DC

CWLA Press is an imprint of the Child Welfare League of America. The Child Welfare League of America is the nation's oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization. We are committed to engaging people everywhere in promoting the well-being of children, youth, and their families, and protecting every child from harm.

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CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

HEADQUARTERS

440 First Street, NW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20001-2085

E-mail: books@cwla.org

CURRENT PRINTING (last digit)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

Acknowledgments v

CHAPTER 1

Introduction 1

CHAPTER 2

Literature Review 5

CHAPTER 3

Where Child Welfare and Substance Abuse Intersect:
 Changing Organizational Cultures 27

CHAPTER 4

Responsive Communities to Heal and Support
 Vulnerable Children and Families 41

CHAPTER 5

Collaboration for Family-Driven Systems and Services 51

CHAPTER 6

Conclusion 63

Acknowledgments

This monograph, the foundation for a series of summits convened by the Child Welfare League of America, (CWLA) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) on improving the quality of care for the most vulnerable children, youth, and families in America would never have been conceived of or implemented without the vision and commitment of the CWLA leadership, especially Shay Bilchik, President/CEO.

We extend much appreciation to Norah Lovato, Carrie McVicker Seth, Courtney Swartz, and the rest of the staff at CWLA's National Center for Program Leadership for their assistance, practical wisdom, and insights. Special thanks also goes to Julie Collins, Director of Mental Health, who helped throughout, always asking the critical questions and working tirelessly to develop viable answers. The scope of this monograph was broadened by three papers written by Sid Gardner and Nancy Young, Nancy Gannon, and Trina Osher. We thank each of you for helping chart the course for our work.

Kate Kraft, Senior Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, deserves special recognition for her guidance and unwavering demands for a true action agenda. This effort benefited enormously from her deep knowledge and her ability to engage as an active participant in overcoming obstacles to improve the health and well-being of America's children, youth, and families. She has the rare gift of never losing sight of the children and their families, while understanding the human ser-

vice workforce issues and the community circumstances that affect everyone.

Finally, to all the children, youth, and families receiving or in need of services and supports from the child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, or substance abuse systems. Although thousands of you are helped every day by these systems, literally millions of other Americans do not have available, accessible, or appropriate care, and suffer the consequences. Therefore, CWLA and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation made sure at least 20% of summit participants were youth and family members from across the four systems. Your collective voices and experiences enhanced the perspectives and augmented the professionals' expertise captured in this publication. Thank you for your trust, courage, and willingness to be involved so others may not suffer.

Tragically, too often, the difference between what we know to be effective and what we actually do with our nation's most vulnerable population of children, youth, and families is insufficient and even lethal. Everyone involved in this project is recognized for their foresight and determination to change these circumstances and make all children a national priority.

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