



Celebrating 100 Years of Leadership in Child Welfare Policy, Practice, and Advocacy

Reflections on Child Welfare Areas of Practice, Issues, and Service Populations: Sociological Autobiographies

“It must not for a moment be forgotten that the core of any social plan must be the child.”
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt¹

Proposed Publication Description

I. Background and Purpose

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA): A Brief Historical Perspective

In 2020, CWLA will celebrate 100 years of leadership in creating and advancing standards of practice, advocacy, and information sharing to enhance the well-being of families, children and youth.

In recognition of this significant milestone, CWLA will publish a series of essays that will include personal reflections on child welfare practice and policy by leaders in the field. The essays, in the form of sociological autobiographies, will offer insights and discuss major policy developments, reflections on changes in practice over the years, and where we are today related to selected child welfare areas of practice, program, policy, issues, and services to selected populations.

II. Proposed Publication Areas of Focus/Content

Each of the sociological autobiographies will address issues, controversies, trends, and progress made over time, and will include—but not be limited to—topics such as changes in the external environment or in family structure that contribute to children entering the child welfare system; changes/increase in knowledge, policies, and funding

¹ The sociologist Robert K. Merton (1988) defined this concept as personal reflections that make use of ideas, research findings, theoretical concepts, and analytical procedures to construct and interpret a narrative that purports to tell a person’s own history within the context of the larger history of the times.

that impact how children and families are served, such as understanding the impact of trauma, the role of race and culture, the importance of home and community, and the need to work with other systems.

Reflections will identify and address, for example, one or more of the key past and current issues related to the selected area of focus:

- Definitions of key terms and impact on practice and policy
- Influences on and from legislation
- Clinical issues such as separation, trauma, and loss
- Family role definition
- Family support and resources
- Permanency options for children
- Engagement of parents and all family members
- Caregiver and parent relationships
- Configuration of the area of focus within the child welfare system

The essays will examine the history of the issue with the primary goal of taking the remembered past and transforming the recollections into a series of hypotheses that are checked, so far as they can be, by aggregated experiences and written testimonies of the contributor/s.

Completed essays will be shared in electronic form throughout 2020. Select essays will be produced in 2021 as a “coffee table” book, *Child Welfare: Reflections on the Past for Excellence in the Future*.

III. Requirements and Process

- The essay submission may be completed by one contributing author or by an organized group of authors writing about one specific topic, population, or issue.
- As applicable, the evolution of themes should include references to CWLA’s *National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare, Standards of Excellence: Raising the Bar for Children, Youth, Families, and Communities*:²
 - rights of children
 - shared responsibility and leadership
 - engagement/participation
 - supports and services
 - quality improvement
 - workforce
 - race, ethnicity, and culture
 - funding and resources
- Submit an abstract (approximately 800 words) for the proposed essay to CWLA editor, Rachel Adams, at radams@cwla.org, by one of the following due dates. Completed essays will be published in the quarter following the due date. In

² CWLA. (2013). *National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare: Standards of Excellence, Raising the Bar for Children, Families, and Communities*. Washington, DC: Author.

selecting the due date, you should consider whether there is a specific reason, in addition to your workload, for the essay to be published during that specific quarter: August 16 or October 1, 2019; or January 3 or March 2, 2020.

When submitting, please include:

- Name and contact information of submitting author
- Practice area, child welfare issue, or target population that will be discussed, and rationale
- Personal and professional experience relating to the practice area, child welfare issue, or target population, and how this intersects with theory, policy, and/or practice.
- The timeframe within which your completed essay will be ready for final editing and publication: the first, second, third, or fourth quarter of 2020?

IV. Timeframe

- August 16, 2019: Submission of abstracts by contributing authors
- October 1, 2019: Submission of full and completed essays for 1st quarter 2020 publication

- October 1, 2019: Submission of abstracts by contributing authors
- November 8, 2019: Submission of full and completed essays for 2nd quarter 2020 publication

- January 3, 2020: Submission of abstracts by contributing authors
- February 14, 2020: Submission of full and completed essays for 3rd quarter 2020 publication

- March 2, 2020: Submission of abstracts by contributing authors
- April 10, 2020: Submission of full and completed essays for 4th quarter 2020 publication

Thank you for your interest! We look forward to the possibility of collaborating to celebrate our 100 years of focus on child and family safety and well-being.