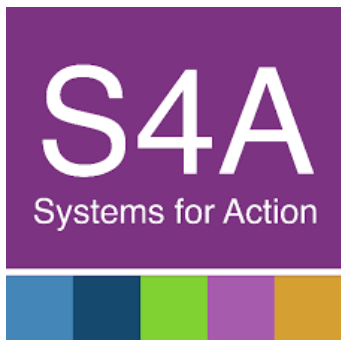


# Investigating Systems Alignment of Multi-Sector Agencies to Address Child Maltreatment in St. Louis

*Strategies to Achieve Alignment, Collaboration, and Synergy Across Delivery and Financing Systems*



Research-In-Progress Webinar  
August 5, 2020  
12-1pm ET

colorado school of  
**public health**

**Welcome:** **Chris Lyttle, JD**  
*Deputy Director for Systems for Action*

**Presenters:** **Melissa Jonson-Reid, PhD, Patricia Kohl, PhD**  
*Washington University in St. Louis*

**Sanaria Sulaiman, MA**  
*Vision for Children at Risk*

**Q&A:** **Chris Lyttle, JD**



**Melissa Jonson-Reid, PhD**



**Melissa Jonson-Reid's** work focuses on understanding how to improve the behavioral, educational and health outcomes associated with childhood exposure to trauma, particularly abuse and neglect. Her work responds to child maltreatment as a serious, prevalent public health concern. Jonson-Reid has practice experience in both domestic violence counseling and program administration as a school social worker in California; she currently provides evaluation consultation for state and community organizations.

At the Brown School, Jonson-Reid is the chair of the Violence and Injury Prevention concentration in the Master of Social Work program and supervises an interdisciplinary Violence and Injury certificate, which involves collaboration with the [Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies](#). She also teaches the foundation statistics course in the PhD program, co-teaches a Transdisciplinary Problem-Solving course on child maltreatment, and serves as chair or member of several doctoral student committees.



**Patricia Kohl, PhD**



**Patricia Kohl, PhD**'s scholarship is focused on strengthening, implementing, and sustaining evidence-based interventions that improve the quality of care for vulnerable families. Through her research, which is informed by years of clinical practice with children and families, she seeks to close the gap between research and community-based practice.

Kohl is affiliated with two research centers at the Brown School: the [Center for Mental Health Services Research](#) and the [Center for Injury and Violence Prevention](#). She is also affiliated with the National Institute of Mental Health's Implementation Research Institute.



**Sanaria Sulaiman, MA**

**Sanaria Sulaiman, MA** is the Executive Director for Vision for Children at Risk. Prior to her current position, she served as the Project Director of Project LAUNCH, a federally funded initiative focused on coordination and collaboration across family and child serving systems to improve child wellbeing. She currently serves on the board of the statewide legislative advocacy group Kids Win Missouri. She holds a master's degree in management and leadership.



- Overview of the PACT-STL project
- Introduction and Rationale for our S4A research and evaluation project
  - The Team
  - AIMS
  - Planned Activities by AIMS
  - Deliverables
- Brief Commentary and Questions

- PACT-STL is funded by ACF through the *Community Collaboration to Strengthen Families and Prevent Child Maltreatment* mechanism
  - Vision for Children at Risk: Grantee
  - CICM: Limited evaluation
- RWJF Systems for Action funds allows us to also
  - Evaluate how the Collaborative works to improve child and family level outcomes
  - Conduct more advanced statistical analysis of data collected in the parent project

- Over 6 million children are reported to child protective services (CPS) annually, these children have much higher rates of negative health and behavioral outcomes.
- But CPS lacks resources to serve lower risk referrals--the majority of reports
- Families reported to CPS often present with complex behavioral, health, and concrete needs and existing services are often fragmented and difficult to access.
- Collaboration among community stakeholders shows promise in addressing these service gaps.
- PACT-STL aligns services and funding and implements parent empowerment and public health strategies to prevent maltreatment and promote healthy development.



- To develop, implement, and evaluate strategies that prevent child maltreatment, reduce entry into the public child welfare system, and enhance overall well-being outcomes of children and families.
- Key strategies:
  - Increase the capacity of the St. Louis community to provide evidence-based services
  - Reduce barriers to existing community services by better aligning funding with the needs of families and influencing policy and practice changes.

- Vision for Children at Risk
- Families
- Missouri Children's Division
- St. Louis Housing Authority
- Family Court of St. Louis City
- Family Court of St. Louis County
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
- St. Louis City Department of Health
- Missouri Children's Trust Fund
- Affinia Health Care
- Child and Family Serving Agencies
  - Family Forward;
  - Almost Home;
  - Epworth;
  - One Hope United;
  - Annie Malone
- Washington University – Brown School Evaluation Center

MISSION

Vision Risk (VCR) promotes the well-being of children, youth, and their families, with a primary focus on those impacted by socioeconomic risk and racial inequity

VISION

A community that values and supports the well-being of children, youth, and families, where the neighborhood they live in does not determine their future.



## Core Focus Areas:

- Advocacy
- Collaboration
- Data and Research
- Family and Community Engagement

- St. Louis Child Abuse and Neglect Network: long standing multi-system collaborative dedicated to child abuse prevention and safety
- Executive Committee
  - co-chairs STL-CANN,
  - co-chairs of the Family First Act4: the Family First Regional Implementation Team,
  - VCR ED,
  - Project Director,
  - Evaluator,
  - Representative from all required partners.
- Parent Advisory Council: will be comprised of 20 members and have representation on STL-CANN

- 1) Identify and address service gaps through consistent review of shared data
- 2) Streamline funding and identify new or redirected funding streams**
- 3) Make policy recommendations
- 4) Share information from their individual sectors
- 5) Help with the public awareness campaign



PACT-STL will focus on providing preventive services in a two county St. Louis Region, including St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

Core components:

- Parent engagement
- Parent empowerment
- Parenting education

**PACT-STL**  
Parents and  
Children Together-  
St. Louis

- Parent Cafés
- Vitality Cafés
- Triple P
- Nurturing Parent
- Family Mentors

- Increased connection of families to appropriate, effective services
- Increased number of families with resiliency
- Reduction of new referrals to the public child welfare agency
- Reduction of entries into the foster care system
- Increased racial equity in short and intermediate outcomes



- Organizations trained to host parent, vitality, or community cafes
- Providers trained to facilitate evidence-based parenting programs
- Organizations trained in cultural competency
- Assessment of current funding streams and alignment of funding
- Collaborative meetings
- Joint strategic planning process

- Funds redirected to better meet needs identified
- Policy and protocol changes to address barriers to accessing services/basic needs
- Increased community capacity to provide evidence-based services and programs to strengthen families
- Increased collaboration among council members
- Increased capacity of providers to address parenting education needs of parents in the target community
- Children's Division strategic plan developed

- While collaboration among community stakeholders shows promise in addressing service gaps for this population, little is known about the effectiveness of such approaches .
- Funds for evaluation in the PACT-STL implementation grant were severely limited – beyond the initial needs assessment process funded to inform implementation.
- The S4A funding allows us to collect the additional data and conduct advanced qualitative and quantitative analyses needed to build science to identify models that can remove service disparities for vulnerable populations and inform the Systems for Action initiative.

# Our Multidisciplinary Team

- **Melissa Jonson-Reid, MSW, Ph.D. (PI)** is Ralph & Muriel Pumphrey Professor of Social Work Research, PI of the Center for Innovation in Child Maltreatment Research, Policy and Training (P50HD096719) and a nationally known researcher in child maltreatment and cross-sector services research.
- **Patricia Kohl, MSW, Ph.D. (Co-PI)** is Associate Professor, Lead Evaluator for PACT-STL, and a leading expert in strengthening, implementing, and sustaining evidence-based interventions that improve the quality of care for children with behavioral health needs and/or CPS involvement.
- **Adrienne Atzemis, MD, (INV)** is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine at the School of Medicine. Dr. Atzemis is board certified in child abuse pediatrics and helps lead the state education for health care providers in the area of child maltreatment.
- **Ellis Ballard, MSW & MPH (INV)**, is Director of the Social System Design Lab at the Brown School. He has extensive expertise in the use of group model building and related analytic software
- **Derek S. Brown, Ph.D. (INV)**, is a health economist and Associate Professor in the Public Health Program. Dr. Brown is a leading expert on the economics of child maltreatment and health as well as health care financing, access and quality for Medicaid populations.
- **John N. Constantino, M.D. (INV)** is Blanche F. Ittleson Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and a nationally known expert in child behavioral health and development.
- **Barry Rosenberg, MSW (INV)**, is Professor of Practice at the Brown School with over 37 years of leadership experience in the non-profit sector prior to joining the faculty.
- **Sanaria Sulaiman, CEO of Vision for Children at Risk (Consultant)**, is the head of the lead agency and convener for PACT-STL.
- **Nancy Weaver, MPH, PhD (Consultant)** is Professor and Associate Dean of Public Health at Saint Louis University and is an expert in pediatric injury and public health messaging and dissemination.

- The team has long history of collaboration with the stakeholders involved and each other which enhances feasibility
- Data agreements were part of the original PACT-STL design allowing us to draw on administrative data across sectors as well as survey and interview data from stakeholders and participating families, and agency documents
- Examples of partners and types of administrative data to be shared
  - Administrative data
    - Children's Division
    - Public Housing Authority
    - Medicaid
    - Juvenile and family court data
    - Community-based family support services

- Examine alignment of services and funding through content analyses of documents and group model building and network analyses with agencies triangulated with parent stakeholder data.
- Understand community level change in child outcomes, controlling for degree of alignment, and program intensity using geospatial analyses.
- Model outcomes and cost effectiveness by service use using linked administrative data supplemented with interviews with families in areas of high or low PACT-STL intensity.

- Questions were added to the planned engaged stakeholder survey to collect data on collaborations to inform pre and post Social Network Analysis
  - Added value: We have also incorporated questions related to changes in service due to COVID
- Will conduct a systems science Group Model Building to assess qualitative understanding of stakeholder service collaboration and outcome relationships (Year 1 and 3)
- In addition to engaged stakeholder alliance assessment (*The Strategic Alliance Formative Assessment Rubric* (SAFAR) and pre/post cultural literacy survey, we will interview regional providers not participating in PACT-STL to try to assess differences in collaboration patterns
- Formal content analysis of agency and collaborative documents/minutes related to PACT-STL activities. Although not part of the content analysis, per se, we will also collect data at baseline and follow-up on partner agencies funding streams related and how that aligns with the services they provide. We will use this information to explore the ways in which the strategic work around funding has impacted the collaborative.
- Parent focus groups (Year 1 and 3)

- Community level impacts on child maltreatment, foster care placement and select child health indicators are assessed through merging administrative data from Children's Division and State level health services data with census information.
- Comparison data from zip codes outside the target area will provide comparison pre and post.
- Spatial analysis will allow us to understand whether select health conditions and CM reporting rates differ in target regions, controlling for level of collaboration achieved and comparing areas targeted for more intensive services to other areas.



- Merge administrative data from participating stakeholder agencies for PACT-STL engaged families to examine service use across sectors, select health outcomes and CPS re-reports. Agency administrative data provided for families enrolled in basic need (~500) and parent mentoring services (~200) are available from all partner agencies and will be submitted via a Redcap database as part of PACT-STL.
- Interview 125 families participating in PACT-STL and 75 families outside the target area with similar CPS contact history- perceived child health related quality of life, services satisfaction, maternal ACES and social support linked to state CPS records.
- Conduct cost effectiveness analyses based on administrative service data supplemented by agency budget documentation and outcomes assessed.

- The S4A study adds additional peer review and conference dissemination not included in the PACT-STL funding.
- Funds provide the opportunity to create additional tailored reports for Parent Cafes to support community capacity.
- Funds provide capacity for policy maker briefs.
- Participation in S4A opportunities like today's webinar and other website exposure for products provides additional national dissemination capacity.
- Design for replication of the model based on findings if PACT-STL is successful.

- Project staff hired
- Received IRB approval for AIM 1 and 2; Planned second IRB for AIM 3 due to COVID conditions and the timing of implementation
- State level administrative data has been requested for AIM 2 and is in process
- The baseline stakeholder survey is prepared and about to be disseminated (with additional COVID questions)

**Sanaria Sulaiman, MA**

**Executive Director of Vision for Children at Risk**

- The title of the funding: Community Collaboration to Strengthen Families and Prevent Child Maltreatment
- The purpose of PACT-STL is to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies that prevent child abuse and neglect
- First step was to invite all partners to discuss the opportunity and decide how to move forward
- Second step was selecting the evaluation team
- Third step was to set the goals for the project

**Goal 1.** Reduce entry into foster care by intentionally linking families to local, community based services early (before coming to the attention of the Children's Division, or when they are brought to the Children's Division's attention through a family assessment).

## **Objectives**

- 1.1 Increase parent/caregiver protective factors
- 1.2 Increase parent/caregiver knowledge of nurturing behaviors
- 1.3 Increase families' connection to community services and supports
- 1.4 Increase parent knowledge of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards.

## **Strategies**

Parent Cafés, Community Cafés, Vitality Cafés, CLAS training, one-on one support with parent mentors and family support partners, enhanced case management, community awareness campaign

**Goal 2.** Support the overall well-being outcomes for children, youth, and families, including changes in risk and protective factors, by using data to inform and align strategies across sectors

## **Objectives**

- 2.1 Increase the community capacity to provide evidence-based services and programs to strengthen families
- 2.2 Increase provider awareness and use of providing culturally competent services
- 2.3 Increase the capacity of providers to meet parenting needs by providing evidence-based parenting programs
- 2.4 Identify service gaps contributing to risk, and design strategies to mitigate these

## **Strategies**

Train Parent Café Community Café hosts, provide CLAS training, train partners to provide evidence-based parenting programs, collect data on unmet needs and barriers to service

**Goal 3.** Develop strategic collaborations with all partners and coordinate, monitor and report on strategies and outcomes across multi-sector partners

### **Objectives**

3.1 Increase sustainability by identifying potential funding streams and better aligning them to meet the needs of families

3.2 Develop recommendations to change State and local policies and procedures that contribute to the risk of abuse/neglect or are barriers to healthy functioning

3.3 Increase collaboration among Council members and other partners

### **Strategies**

Community Cafés, generate and utilize input from a Parent Advisory Council, PACT-STL Executive Committee and Council (the Collaborative), utilize data and input from evaluation efforts to shape direction, share project learnings through white papers, briefs or other formats, monitor growth in collaboration through SAFAR and other collective impact questions in periodic surveys



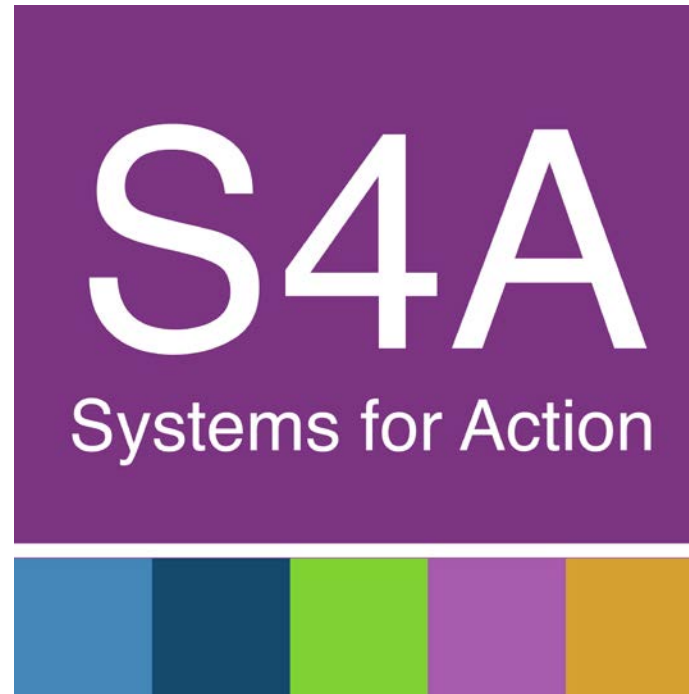
# Evaluation Components:

- Needs assessment
- Process evaluation
- Outcome evaluation
- Quality improvement assessment -- “data-driven decision-making”

# Outcomes

- System
  - Increase capacity of services
  - Increase cross-system collaboration
- Families
  - Increase protective factors
  - Decrease risk factors
  - Decrease child maltreatment reports
  - Decrease foster care entry/re-entry

# Questions?



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 [@Systems4Action](https://twitter.com/Systems4Action)

If you would like to receive a **certificate of completion** for today's ResProg webinar, please complete the survey at the end of the session.

One will be emailed to you.

**August 19<sup>th</sup> | 12pm ET**

## **How Multi-sector Community Networks Are Shaping COVID-19 Pandemic Trajectories and Outcomes Across the U.S.**

*Glen P. Mays, PhD, MPH and Deena Brosi, PhD (c), Systems for Action Intramural Research Team, Colorado School of Public Health*

**September 2<sup>nd</sup> | 12pm ET**

## **Testing the Impact of a Referral Program to Link Probationers to Primary Care**

*Daniel J. O'Connell, PhD, University of Delaware*

# Acknowledgements

***Systems for Action*** is a National Program Office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a collaborative effort of the Colorado School of Public Health, administered by the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO.



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