



THE IDEAS CENTER

The Center for the Implementation and Dissemination of Evidence-Based Practices among States

Our Big IDEAS start with you!

Welcome to the IDEAS Center!

IDEAS is an new and exciting collaborative research endeavor, undertaken during a transformative time in children's mental healthcare service delivery in state systems.

We are eager to work with this talented and transdisciplinary team to tackle the tough challenges to delivering high-quality child mental health services in state systems. Each of you plays a vital role in our efforts to better integrate research evidence into the state policymaking process and improve the quality of care for youth with serious mental health disorders.

This newsletter outlines the dynamic, transdisciplinary research getting underway at IDEAS. A faculty and staff directory, organized by Center Cores and Research Projects, is also attached to serve as a guide for this national virtual team.

Welcome all!

Kimberly and Mary,
IDEAS Center Co-Directors



National Partnerships, Expanded Training Platform, and Innovative Methods to Accelerate the Delivery of Quality Mental Health Care Services for Children & Families in State Healthcare Systems

Welcome to IDEAS, an NIMH-funded ALACRITY research center. The IDEAS Center builds on two decades of research to improve the implementation of evidence-based practices in state systems. Our work ahead is laser-focused on understanding how to better integrate research evidence into the state policymaking process. Little research has been done in this area, and by focusing squarely on this piece of the puzzle, we aim to more quickly close the research–practice gap.

Our first research project, **Research Project 1: National Survey of State Policy Decision-making and Simulation (McKay and Purtle, Co-PIs)**, focuses on better understanding state policymaker decision-making processes, nationally, in the child health and mental health policy arenas.

This research project combines classic survey techniques with cutting-edge systems science to build a prototype agent-based model to identify modifiable targets – levers that states can “push and pull” – to enhance the use of children’s mental health research evidence in state policymaking. Importantly, these innovative methods will be disseminated to all Center investigators, via the Methods Core–led by Sally Horwitz, Robert Gibbons and Larry Palinkas—and through our Center’s training platform.



Dr. Horwitz Awarded DCAP Mentor of Year

Sally Horwitz, Ph.D., was awarded Mentor of the Year by the NYU Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (DCAP) and Bellevue Hospital.

The award recognizes the significant contributions Dr. Horwitz has made in mentoring numerous researchers and research associates in the department and Bellevue Hospital.

Dr. Jenny Havens, MD, Vice Chair for Clinical Integration and Mentoring, and Dr. Helen Egger, Chair, DCAP, presented the award to Dr. Horwitz.

Congratulations Sally!

Results from this research project are a critical to improve our understanding of how to better disseminate research evidence in the policy arena. The findings will also be used to tailor the dissemination of our findings from Research Projects 2 and 3, which are both focused on the high-need and high-cost youth served in state systems, including suicidal youth being served in Emergency Departments (Research Project 2), and youth with first-episode psychosis (Research Project 3).

Research Project 2 | A Brief Diagnostic Tool (K-CAT) for use in Emergency Departments (Horwitz and Gerson, Co-PIs), is aimed at improving the mental health screening of youth presenting to emergency departments (ED's), and their referral to services in the community. The project will not only test this new tablet-based personalized screening tool, the K-CAT, but will also test a disposition protocol to increase ED providers' *confidence* in making mental health diagnoses, and *managing* suicidal thoughts and behaviors and severe depression — all with the goal of facilitating the early identification of serious mental health problems in youth, and more quickly referring and linking them to services in the community.

Research Project 3 | Use of Parent Connectors in First Episode Psychosis (Hoagwood, Lindsey, Dixon, Co-PIs). The study will adapt an evidence-based peer parent navigator (PPN) intervention, called Parent Connectors, in which trained and supervised PPNs deliver weekly telephone-based support for six to nine months to parents or caregivers of all newly-enrolled youth or young adults in first episode psychosis (FEP) services. This PPN model will be used to enhance the delivery of Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) for youth in New York State's program for FEP, called OnTrackNY (OTNY). This research project tests whether this *low-burden* PPN intervention improves family participation in services, as well as youth outcomes; research has shown that *reducing the duration of untreated psychosis* for individuals experiencing FEP and providing specialized, comprehensive, early intervention services has been shown to improve youth outcomes.

Expanded Training Platform: The IRI at Washington University

IDEAS training and career development efforts will be led by Drs. Enola Proctor and John Landsverk, who have, together, trained a large group of early career dissemination and implementation scientists over the last decade through the Implementation Research Institute (IRI), housed at the Brown School at Washington University. Through this platform, the Center will train an additional cadre of diverse, early career researchers who can help improve the delivery of mental health services in state systems, nationwide.

