Penn State’s NIH Center for Child Maltreatment Research and Training

Principal Investigator: Jennie Noll, PhD
Co-Investigators: 12 Penn State Faculty Members of the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network

$7.7M NIH Award (Plus $3.4M in University Matching)

1. To conduct cutting-edge research
   o Discerning the mechanisms of health disparities for abused and neglected children
     ▪ Health screening, monitoring, referrals, and education for 1200 children
       • Mental health
       • Physical health
       • Brain health
       • Behavioral health
   o Improving screening for abusive head trauma in pediatric intensive care settings
     ▪ Clinical trial in 8 PICU hospital setting around the country

2. To addresses relevant questions of interest to the child welfare system
   --Examples of demonstrations projects:
   o Use of administrative data to understand predictive models and predictive analytics demonstrating:
     • The economic impact of maltreatment
     • Outcomes for dual/multi system involved children
     • Wellness for children in foster care placement
       o Models of stability
       o Successful out-of-care transitions
   o Telehealth solutions for forensic interviewing in rural counties
   o Impact of recent legislation on the workforce
     ▪ Reports
     ▪ Referrals / screenings / investigations
     ▪ Caseloads
   o The impact of universal prevention efforts on rates of sexual abuse
   o More projects as indicated by PA’s DHS/OCYF

3. To translate research findings into
   o Novel, optimized, and targeted interventions to improve health outcomes for maltreated children
   o Messages that resonate with legislators thereby
     ▪ Imploring larger investment in prevention and treatment
     ▪ Right-resourcing the child welfare system

4. To inspire and train the next generation of researchers and advocates
   o Child Maltreatment and Advocacy (CMAS) minor
     ▪ Core curriculum for CAST certification
     ▪ Research, Advocacy, and Policy Internships

5. To become a national resource for
   o Growing new science through administrative data hub and data repositories
   o Translating research into useful solutions and practice
   o Bridging research and policy