



FORUM FOR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING

Promoting Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health for Children and Youth

AN ACTIVITY OF THE BOARD ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

2018

YEAR IN REVIEW

Background

The Forum for Children's Well-Being (the Forum) was established in fall of 2013 as an outgrowth of the 2009 National Research Council-Institute of Medicine report, *Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities*, which called on the nation to make the prevention of such disorders and the promotion of mental health of young people a high priority. The Forum engages in dialogue and discussion to connect the prevention, treatment, and implementation sciences with settings where children are seen and cared for, including health care settings, schools, social service and child welfare agencies, and the juvenile justice system, and to create systems that are effective and affordable

in addressing children's needs. The Forum aims to inform a forward-looking agenda for building a stronger research and practice base around the development and implementation of programs, practices, and policies to promote all children's cognitive, affective, and behavioral (CAB) health, including those with disabilities. Through public workshops, commissioned papers, and other activities, members of the Forum connect with decision makers and practitioners at multiple levels, translating research to practice and informing practice with research. More information on the Forum and the work we do can be found on our [website](#).

Publications

- Perspectives Discussion Paper: *Redesigning Provider Payments to Reduce Long-Term Costs by Promoting Healthy Development* | [Read here](#).
- Perspectives Discussion Paper: *The Interdependence of Families, Communities, and Children's Health: Public Investments that Strengthen Families and Communities, and Promote Children's Healthy Development and Societal Prosperity* | [Read here](#).
- Perspectives Commentary: *Investing in Children to Promote America's Prosperity* | [Read here](#).
- Perspectives Commentary: *A Call to Strengthen Mental Health Supports for Refugee Children and Youth* | [Read here](#).
- Perspectives Commentary: *Business Engagement to Promote Healthy Communities Through Child and Family Well-Being* | [Read here](#).

Events

February 9, 2018

DC Public Health Case Challenge: Stakeholder Dialogue The DC Public Health Case Challenge aims to promote interdisciplinary, problem-based learning around public health issue that faces the local Washington, DC community. The 2017 case focused on the neurological and behavioral consequences of lead poisoning and adverse childhood experiences for youth in DC. The winners of the challenge were announced at the 2017 NAM Annual Meeting. The follow-up event for this challenge was held in 2018, and

featured teams from Howard University and American University. Forum member Debbie Chang, Nemours Children's Health System, gave the keynote address. Forum member Deborah Klein Walker, Family Voices, moderated a panel discussion on Informing Policy to Prevent and Mitigate the Harm of Lead Exposure and ACEs. Additionally, Forum director Wendy Keenan moderated a panel discussion on Early Childhood Care and Education as a Site for Intervention.

April 5-6, 2018

Behavioral and Mental Health Stakeholder Meeting: Preparing Future Pediatricians to Meet the Behavioral and Mental Health Needs of Children The Forum, in collaboration with the American Board of Pediatrics, held a stakeholder meeting on Preparing Future Pediatricians to Meet the Behavioral and Mental Health Needs of Children. The meeting discussion focused on ways to improve outcomes for children and families through advancing pediatric education and training in behavioral and mental health. Topics included strategies to: raise awareness about children's

behavioral and mental health and the need for a focused effort to improve general and subspecialty pediatric education and training; bring together pediatric chairs and program directors as dyads to engage with other critical stakeholders; identify facilitators and barriers for improving training from perspectives of a variety of stakeholders, including academic programs, families, trainees, funders, and non-pediatric behavioral and mental health providers from other disciplines; and decide on actionable next steps.

May 1, 2018

Roundtable Discussion on Strengthening Partnerships for Improving the Behavioral Health and Wellbeing of Children and Families The overarching aim of this roundtable discussion was to improve behavioral health and wellbeing of children and families through academic, public, and private sector opportunities. Specifically, Forum members sought to establish

partnerships to more effectively promote the behavioral health and wellbeing of children and families; articulate the unique contributions each sector can bring to the partnerships, such as sharing research, innovations, and recommendations for public policy; and identify specific opportunities for collaboration.

June 25, 2018

Vital Signs Webinar Launch The Forum established the Collaborative on Vital Signs for the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Families. This activity builds on the National

Academy of Medicine Vital Signs initiative and provides child and family expertise for developing metrics.

December 11, 2018

Roundtable Discussion on Improving Children's Mental Health and Well-Being through Private Sector Investments This roundtable focused on the business community and its unique platform for addressing many behavioral health conditions experienced by children, adolescents, young adults, and their families. Discussions throughout the day explored opportunities that exist for businesses to invest in community health through

child and family well-being. The event focused on bringing together researchers and business leaders, identifying opportunities for businesses to support child and family well-being, and fostering a dialogue on the relationship between the business community and the mental and behavioral health of children.

New Partners

The Forum is excited to welcome several new partners:

- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Children's Hospital Association
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
- National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
- ZERO TO THREE

We look forward to the work we will be able to accomplish together.

Forum Fellows

In 2018, the Forum was proud to host two fellows:

- Michelle Burbage, PhD, University of Cincinnati
- Clarissa Sanchez, MPH candidate, University of Texas

Members of the Forum thank them for their thoughtful contributions and for helping shape the future of the field.

Communications

Name Change

In an effort to communicate our messages to different audiences and effectively engage new partners, the Forum officially changed its name to the Forum for Children's Wellbeing: Promoting the Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health of Children and Youth. It can also be referred to as the *Forum for Children's Wellbeing*.

Newsletter

The Forum launched a biweekly newsletter to communicate activities, publications, and news from both the Forum and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. To sign up for our newsletter click [here](#). The newsletter archives can be found [here](#).

Forum Staff

After six years of leadership, Wendy Keenan has stepped down in her role as director of the Forum. Suzanne Le Menestrel, PhD was named new Director of the Forum. Suzanne is a Senior Program Officer and a developmental psychologist with expertise in child and youth development, senior-level leadership, research and program evaluation, partnership building, and developing and leading collaborative initiatives. At the National Academies,

Suzanne's responsibilities have included directing four consensus studies focused on children and adolescents birth to age 21. She will undoubtedly provide expert guidance for the Forum, with continued support from Erin Kellogg and Margie Kelly.