

# IDEAS CENTER



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

## The IDEAS Center

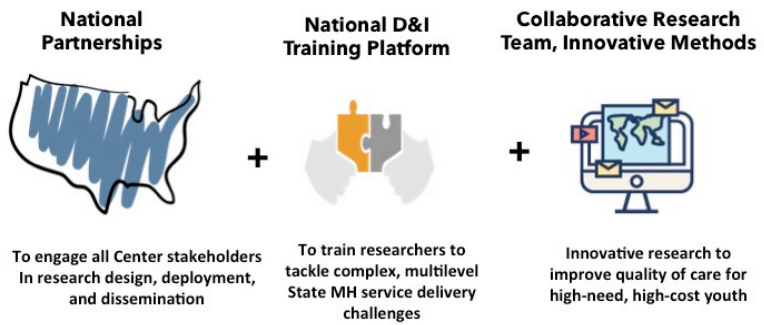
An NIMH ALACRITY Research Center

Welcome to the IDEAS Center! For over two decades, the IDEAS team has developed and tested innovative interventions to overcome some of the toughest challenges to disseminating evidence-based practices (EBPs) in state systems serving children and families.

Our new transdisciplinary research team combines the diverse talents at New York University, Washington University, The University of Chicago, The University of Southern California, Columbia University, and Drexel University.

New NIMH funding (May 2019) accelerates the work of this *unique* Center: IDEAS is the only NIMH-funded ALACRITY Center singularly focused on improving the delivery of evidence-based care in **state systems serving children and families**. Our focus: better integrating scientific evidence into the state policymaking process to truly transform state-delivered children’s mental health care.

Kimberly Hoagwood, PhD, and Mary McKay, PhD, IDEAS Co-Directors



## Accelerating the Delivery of Quality Mental Health Services to Children & Families Served in State Systems

IDEAS, an NIMH-funded ALACRITY Research Center, builds on two decades of research to improve the implementation of evidence-based practices in state child mental health service systems. Our work ahead is laser-focused on better understanding how children’s mental health policy is made at the state level, and developing tools to better integrate research evidence into the policymaking process. By focusing squarely on this piece of the puzzle, we aim to more quickly close the research-to-policy 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 – or levers that states can “push and pull” – to enhance the use of children’s mental health research evidence in state policymaking. This fall, three groups of Center stakeholders, including policymakers, state providers of mental healthcare and parent advocates, will consult with the project’s co-investigators to provide feedback on the draft survey instrument and ways to insure a robust survey response rate.



Results from Research Project 1 will improve our understanding of state mental health policymaking processes, and how to better disseminate research evidence in the policymaking arena. The findings will also be used to tailor the dissemination of our findings from Research Projects 2 and 3, both focused on the high-need and high-cost youth served in state health and mental health systems.

### Research Project 2 | A Brief Diagnostic Tool (Kiddie-CAT) for use in Emergency Departments (Horwitz and



Gerson, Co-PIs). This study 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 in youth. The goal: facilitating the early identification of serious mental health problems in youth, and more quickly linking them to available services in the community.

### Research Project 3 | Use of Parent Connectors in First Episode Psychosis (Hoagwood, Lindsey, Dixon, Co-

PIs). This study will adapt an evidence-based peer parent navigator (PPN) intervention (Parent Connectors), in which trained and supervised PPNs deliver weekly telephone-based support (6-9 months) to parents/caregivers of youth newly-enrolled in NYS' first episode psychosis (FEP) services, called OnTrackNY. The study will test whether this **low-burden** 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 **improves** youth outcomes.



### Training a Cadre of Diverse, Early Career Children's Mental Health Services Researchers

All three of the Center's research studies have, as co-leads, early career investigators: Drs. Purtle, Gerson, and Lindsey. The IDEAS Center is firmly committed to training the next generation of children's mental health services researchers. The complex, multilevel nature of the delivery of children's mental health services in state systems requires the on-the-ground training of a racially and ethnically diverse set of translational scientists. Drs. Enola Proctor and John Landsverk will co-direct the Center's training efforts; collectively, they have trained a large cohort of early career dissemination and implementation scientists, now working nationwide. They will leverage both the lessons learned and resources of the Implementation Research Institute (IRI) as well as a new NIMH-funded training grant (McKay, PI; R25MH118935), both housed at the Brown School at Washington University, to train an additional cohort of diverse, early career researchers who can help accelerate the delivery of quality child mental health services in state systems.

### IDEAS Pilot Research Program to Launch

Interested in collaborating with the IDEAS Center? In early winter 2020, IDEAS will issue a request for proposals for our planned pilot research projects.

We welcome all collaborators to our transdisciplinary research team, which includes investigators from six universities and our IDEAS Center stakeholders—policymakers, providers, and parents. Stay tuned for more details, and follow us on Twitter @IDEAS4kidsMH for updates!

