Child Welfare Administrative Data Knowledge Exchange Meeting

February 10th and 11th, 2020
Mount Royal Room
Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec
3535 Rue Saint-Denis, Montréal, QC

*This data knowledge exchange meeting is a follow up to the highly constructive child welfare administrative data panel held at the 2017 International Society for Child Indictors conference. A growing number of initiatives using case-level provincial, territorial, and Indigenous child welfare administrative data are providing insights on the needs of children and families with promising applications for longitudinal research and policy implications. This data exchange meeting provides an opportunity to: (1**) share new results from these initiatives; (2) examine the methodological issues linked to the extraction, cleaning, and analysis of these data; (3) discuss governance, ethical, and partnership dimensions of these initiatives; and, (4) explore possibilities for collaborations and comparison across jurisdictions.***

This meeting is supported through Professor Tonino Esposito's Canada Research Chair in Social Services for Vulnerable Children, Professor Nico Trocmé's SSHRC partnership grant, and Professor Barbara Fallon's Canada Research Chair in Child Welfare. The Public Health Agency of Canada is also generously supporting this meeting. A report summarizing the presentations and discussions will be prepared and a range of publication possibilities will be explored. However, given the exploratory nature of some of these data, presenters will determine what aspects of their material can be shared beyond the confidence of the meeting.

Your meeting facilitators are:
Ashleigh Delaye, MA, MSW
Hanna Caldwell, MSW
Melanie Doucet, PhD candidate

In addition to helping to keep the meeting running smoothly, the facilitators will be simultaneously taking detailed notes throughout the two days to capture common themes and discussion points related to the four objectives (above) of this meeting. We will also be attempting to document the discussions held by participants in areas related to: data access and processing, analytic complexity, and ethical issues.

INSTRUCTIONS AND GENERAL REMARKS:
Q&As: Please take note of the time allotted for your presentation and for the time allowed for questions at the end of each presentation are as follows: 20 minute presentations include a 5 minute Q&A; 30 minute presentations include a 10 minute Q&A; 1 hour presentations include a 15 minute Q&A. *The agenda also includes time for discussion to allow for follow up questions.*

Presentation materials: If you are planning to use visual materials (e.g. PowerPoint) in your presentation, please send the electronic files to ashleigh.delaye@mail.mcgill.ca by February 7th so that we can prepare presentation materials in advance. Please also bring a backup copy of your presentation on a USB drive.

Dietary restrictions/allergies: If you have not already, please be sure to inform us of any allergies or dietary restrictions by February 5th at the latest. **Reimbursement:** For those who have reimbursement agreements with either McGill or U-of-T please retain your receipts, paper boarding passes, and credit card statements. We will be following up with instructions for reimbursement from our respective institutions.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 10th

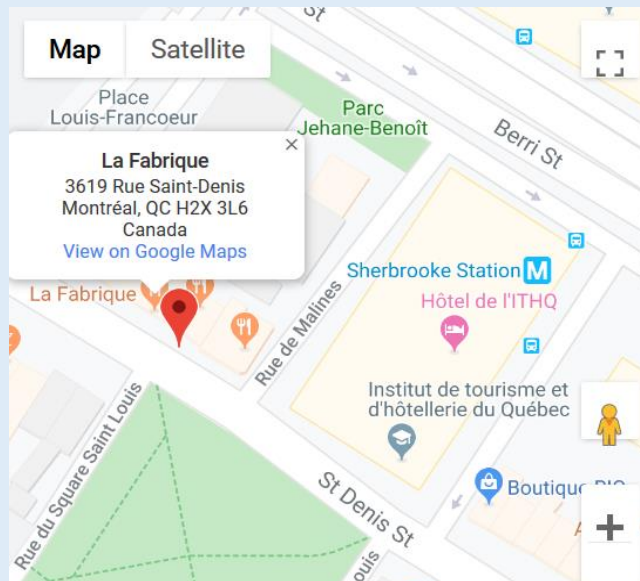PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER AT LA FABRIQUE ANNEX* 5:30PM

(Dinner served at 6pm)

Meet us in the lobby of the hotel at 5:15 to arrive at the private dining room at La Fabrique with your colleagues at 5:30, or join us at your leisure at the restaurant before 6pm

3619 rue St-Denis

*La Fabrique Annex is next door to the main restaurant

https://bistrotlafabrique.com

This data knowledge exchange meeting is supported by the following agencies

Day 1: February 10, 2020

Theme: Provincial/territorial child welfare administrative data systems. Provincial/territorial delegates are asked to present information related to their child welfare data collection system. In addition to presenting results of longitudinal analyses, presenters will describe: **(1)** describe the structure of the administrative data the agency uses, **(2)** discuss issues arising from their data analysis efforts, and **(3)** describe the governance, ethics, and access mechanisms related to the data.

MORNING

8:00 – 8:30: continental breakfast served in the Mount Royal room

8:30 – 9:00: Nico Trocmé and Tonino Esposito welcome and overview

9:00 – 10:30: Quebec administrative data

1) **9 – 9:30: Tonino Esposito, CRC in Social Services for Vulnerable Children, Université de Montréal.** *Focusing in on disparities in socioeconomic disadvantages and child protection services: Exploring the use of Quebec's child protection administrative data. This presentation focuses on the extraction and manipulation of Quebec's clinical administrative child protection data while providing examples of the extent to which regional variations in poverty and health and social services spending impact the risk of placement and regional latent differences in delivery of child protection services.*

2) **9:30 – 9:50: Sonia Hélie, Institut Universitaire Jeunes en Difficulté.** *Cumulative time-in-care and permanency for Quebec's children placed in substitute care. This presentation focuses on the use of Quebec clinical administrative data to monitor changes in placement trajectories following the child protection policy reform in 2007. Time to permanency and permanency outcomes will be presented along with the challenges of working with said data.*

3) **9:50 – 10:10: Derek Montour, Blair Armstrong, and Dr. Colleen Fuller, Kahnawake Shakotiia'takehnhas Community Services (KSCS).** *Penelope data system and longitudinal analysis of KSCS child welfare data. This presentation will describe the child welfare administrative data program used by KSCS known as Penelope and its capacity for longitudinal analysis.*

4) **10:10 – 10:30: Nancy Gros-Louis McHugh and Patricia Montambault, Commission de la santé et des services sociaux des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador / First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission.** *This presentation provides information on research initiatives that were developed based on federal and provincial administrative data in collaboration with McGill University and Université de Montréal. We will briefly describe the research projects carried out since 2008, the issues related to access to databases, and the desired perspective to better understand the trajectories of First Nations youth and their living environment. The goal is to direct decision-makers towards renewed strategies governed by First Nations.*

───────────── **10:30 – 10:45 Break** ─────────────

10:45 – 12:00: Ontario administrative data

1) **10:45 – 11:15: Barb Fallon, Tara Black, and Bryn King, University of Toronto.** *Ontario Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (OCANDS). OCANDS extracts administrative data from participating child protection agencies across Ontario. We have individual data sharing agreements with each participating agency. Methodological issues encountered with data*

extraction, cleaning, and analysis will be discussed. Ethics for the project are held with the University of Toronto; privacy and data security are also monitored by departments of the University of Toronto. OCANDS has developed tools for participating agencies, which include the calculation of indicators as well as the "Top Ten." The research team has developed an entry cohort, which included all families investigated in consenting participating agencies, and used results to generate a generalized linear model. Past and present partnerships as well as future possible collaborations will be discussed.

2) **11:15 – 11:45: Tanya Morton, Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto.** *Longitudinal Analysis: Major Considerations from Catholic Children's Aid Society. At the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, we have extracted longitudinal child welfare data from our administrative data system. The question posed to the data is if children first come into contact with the agency though an investigation, what is the likelihood that they will become progressively more known to the agency based on race. Are children more likely to be verified, transferred, or admitted within one year based on race? Previous results at the agency demonstrated disproportionate representation and disparity at certain child welfare decision points. The methodological considerations related to extraction, cleaning, and analysis of these data are discussed.*

11:45 – 12:15 Debrief and open discussion

12:15 – 1:00 Lunch served in Mount Royal Room

AFTERNOON

1:00 -2:00: Marni Brownell, University of Manitoba. *Manitoba's cross-over kids: examining the overlap between child welfare and youth justice system involvement using linked administrative data. Using population-wide data available in the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository, we linked together information on child welfare services, justice contacts, health service use, and education services and outcomes to examine the overlap between child welfare and youth criminal justice involvement. We also identified factors associated with involvement in both systems.*

2:00 – 3:00: Steven Yong, **Executive Director Modelling, Analysis and Information Management Branch, British Columbia**. *Tracking interactions and outcomes with child welfare services in British Columbia. Using caseload information to learn about the flow of client interactions with British Columbia's child welfare services. Our ability to use this information to describe the experience of children and youth in care and their outcomes provides opportunities to understanding more about our clients.*

--- Break: 3:00 – 3:15 ---

3:15 – 4:15: Alanah Jansen, Cheuk Pan, Bryn King, John Fluke, Adam Filleul, and Lil Tonmyr, Government of Northwest Territories, Pan-Northern Project. *The development of a northern administrative data system and its implications for longitudinal child welfare research. The Pan-Northern Child Welfare Administrative Data Development Project is a collaborative initiative across the territorial governments, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and external researchers. The social services divisions of the Government of Northwest Territories, the Government of Yukon and the Government of Nunavut have agreed to collaborate on their child welfare information systems to strive for data uniformity across the territories in order to capture a Northern perspective. The development of a recurrence of maltreatment indicator has begun. Methodological issues linked to the development of the recurrence indicator, initial results from analyses, and lessons learned will be shared.*

4:15 – 4:30 Debrief and open discussion

NOTES:

6:00 dinner served at Lafabrique Annex

Day 2, February 11th 2020

Themes: 1) Examples of child welfare administrative data systems and analysis from jurisdictions outside Canada, 2) Canadian national-level initiatives for data collection and longitudinal research in child welfare, and 3) Opening opportunities for ongoing collaboration on national-level child welfare administrative data projects and points of consideration.

MORNING

> **8:00 – 8:30 Continental breakfast served in the Mount Royal room**

8:30 – 9:30: John Fluke and Dana Hollingshead, University of Denver Kempe Centre for the Treatment and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. *How longitudinal analysis of administrative data can inform child welfare policy.*

9:30 – 10:30: Bryn King, University of Toronto. *California's child welfare administrative data system and longitudinal research*. This presentation will describe the development, governance, and use (both public access and research) of California's child welfare administrative data, held by the California Child Welfare Indicators Project at the University of California, Berkeley in partnership with the California Department of Social Services. The linkage of these data to additional administrative data will also be discussed, and results from population-based studies will be described.

──────────────── **10:30 – 11:00 Break** ────────────────

11:00– 12:00: Michael Mackenzie, McGill University. *Building University-Child Welfare Agency Data Partnerships: An example from New Jersey. Public child welfare authorities are under increasing pressure from legislative and public oversight efforts to provide greater data transparency, while simultaneously pursuing efforts to improve their foundation for data-informed decision-making and policy. Partnerships with university-based researchers provide an opportunity for child welfare agencies to gain support and expertise in management and assessment of administrative data, and for researchers to gain opportunity to address questions that can inform future policy and practice. These partnerships, however, are often fraught with challenges stemming from divergent goals and needs of the partners. An example from the state of New Jersey is presented to contribute to discussions on how researchers can better address the direct questions of need for agency partners, and the potential value to agencies of a deeper embrace of research.*

> **12:00 – 1:00 Lunch served in Mount Royal Room**

1:00 – 2:00: Wendy Hovdestad and Yannick Fortin, Public Health Agency of Canada and Statistics Canada. *Presenting the Canadian Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) Methodological challenges inherent in processing cross-jurisdictional administrative data. CCWIS is a Public Health Agency of Canada project aimed at developing a record-level administrative data surveillance system to meet evolving data needs of child welfare stakeholders across Canada. Its development will require ongoing partnerships with Statistics Canada, the Provinces and Territories, as well as Indigenous partners. The objectives of the presentation will be to: 1) describe the CCWIS goals, proposed timeline, key actors and current state; and 2) solicit input from meeting participants to help solve challenging technical questions.*

2:00 – 3:00: Data exchange roundtable

Guiding question: What are the perceived major considerations for accessing and analyzing data cross-jurisdictionally as identified by the presentations?

Points of consideration:

- Data access and processing issues
- Analytic issues
- Ethical issues

3:15 – 4:30: Next Steps and future considerations:

- Possible sources of funding to continue a cross jurisdictional collaboration
- Considerations for next year's meeting
- Who is missing at this table?
- Summary report – deliverable for PHAC
- Possible publications (Child Welfare Research Portal (CWRP), etc.)

NOTES: