



## Second Update on Preparing a Methodology for Assessing the Effectiveness of RCAB Programs for Child Protection and Abuse Prevention

Submitted by:

The Implementation and Oversight Advisory Committee (IOAC),  
Archdiocese of Boston  
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The IOAC Effectiveness Subcommittee, Archdiocese of Boston  
and

The Office of Child Advocacy, Implementation and Oversight (OCAIO)  
Deacon Anthony P. Rizzuto, PhD, Director

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The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston

### **Committee Membership:**

Unchanged except for addition of:

Suzanne Piening, LICSW, PhD, Evaluation Administrator, Office of Child Advocacy, RCAB

### **Meeting Schedule Since Last Update (Sept 30, 2006):**

October 10, 2006

November 7, 2006

January 9, 2007

February 8, 2007

### **Accomplishments since October 1, 2006**

We have made significant progress on the Archdiocese's development of an effectiveness methodology and pilot study in the past six months. These are described below. When completed, the pilot study and associated analyses will describe a methodology that can be used to measure the effectiveness of multi-faceted programs for the protection of children.

The original Principal Investigator had to withdraw from the study in November 2006 due to other professional commitments, so a new study team was formed and the study methodology was finalized with the new team.

- **Pilot study team**

George Madaus, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Research Professor, Center for the Study of Testing Evaluation & Education Policy, Boston College, and Claire Foley, PhD, also from Boston College, are the Co-Principal Investigators of the study.

James McSherry, PhD, a private consultant in performance psychology, and Claire Foley, PhD have assumed responsibility for the data collection and supervision of the data analysis.

- **Independent meta-evaluation**

A meta-evaluation is an independent evaluation of the technical integrity and accuracy of an evaluation methodology, its data collection instruments, procedures, analysis and conclusions. Members of the study team and staff of the OCAIO met on several occasions with representatives of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University to discuss meta-evaluation. The Brandeis team agreed to serve as independent meta-evaluators for the pilot study, and completed a contract and scope-of-work agreement with the study team and the OCAIO. The agreement included definition of the role of the meta-evaluators, the timeline for review of study team documents and procedures, and the objective standards to be used in evaluating the study team's work and products. The principal contact at the Heller School is Professor Lorraine Klerman, Dr. PH.

- **Pilot study methodology**

The study team and evaluators concurred on the methodology for the pilot study. The methodology requires the presence of elements that will evaluate:

- Parish-level experiences with the policies and programs (e.g., participation, implementation, satisfaction, skills learned, behavioral and attitude change);
- Various aspects of the evolution of the policies and procedures for child protection; and
- The structure and organization supporting the policies and procedures that reflect the viability and sustainability of the program.

The unit of analysis for the implementation phase of the study is the parish. One parish has been selected as a “test” site; the interview instrument and process will be tested there. Changes in the instrument and/or the process will be made as indicated by the findings from the “test” parish.

The study team will select a subset of parishes for the next aspect of the pilot study. The parish selection will be based on a set of ten (10) criteria that represent some of the naturally occurring diversity in the Archdiocese in parish size, program implementation method, and the existence of a parish-supported school and/or religious education program. The study team conducted interviews with the staff of the Office of Child Advocacy to determine which criteria to use to select the sample of parishes for the pilot study.

- While the study team collects data from the above sample of parishes about program implementation and impact, other members of the study team will conduct a content analysis (a rigorous strategy for analyzing data that is not strictly quantitative in type) of the materials, data, and documents that have already been developed and collected as part of the Archdiocese’s response to the sexual abuse crisis. This simultaneous “pilot” analysis will ultimately help to describe how organizations can combine multiple types of qualitative and quantitative data to measure the effectiveness of multi-faceted programs for the protection of children.

The study team developed an interview guide with input from the OCAIO staff and the Effectiveness Subcommittee. The guide was submitted to the meta-evaluators for comment and was revised according to their suggestions.

The interviews that will form the basis of the implementation phase of the data collection will be structured as indicated in the following grid (in parishes where there is no school, obviously, the school personnel and school parents will not be interviewed).

Individual in-person interviews	Individual phone interviews	Small focus groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pastor</li> <li>▪ Other parish clergy and religious</li> <li>▪ Principal of school</li> <li>▪ Director of Religious Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parents of children in the school</li> <li>▪ Parents of children in the religious ed. program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parish council members</li> <li>▪ School teachers</li> <li>▪ Religious Ed Teachers</li> <li>▪ CAP Team members</li> <li>▪ Other volunteers and employees</li> </ul>

- Test Parish  
A member of the study team and OCAIO staff met with the pastor of the test parish in February 2007 to discuss the interviewing process and to establish communication

mechanisms for scheduling interviews. Actual interviews with parish and school personnel began in March 2007, and will be completed by mid-April. The remainder of the parish sample will be visited and interviewed by mid-summer. The content analysis will be completed soon after.

- Data Analysis Plan

The parish-based interviews will be transcribed for later analysis. The interviews will undergo multiple types of analysis - both qualitative and quantitative - by the study team. Content analysis will be used to analyze data related to the broader questions regarding the evolution of policies and procedures for child protection and the structures and organization that support them.

### **Plan for Next Effectiveness Assessment Period**

- Meetings Scheduled  
April 12, May 8, June 14, July 10, August 9, September 11, 2007
- Parish visits will be completed and data transcribed.
- Data analysis will be ongoing or near completion.
- Preparation of the final report on the pilot study and methodology will be underway.
- Report of the meta-evaluation team will be near completion.
- Next Effectiveness Update: September 30, 2007.