



Third 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
M.J. Doherty, PhD, Chair

The IOAC Effectiveness Subcommittee, Archdiocese of Boston

and

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

September 30, 2007

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston

Committee Membership:

Unchanged since last report:

Suzin Bartley, LICSW, Executive Director, MA Children's Trust Fund
David Finkelhor, PhD, Director, Crimes Against Children Research Institute, University of New Hampshire
MJ Doherty, PhD, Special Assistant to the President, Regis College; Chair, Implementation and Oversight Advisory Committee
Gary Calhoun, PhD, Assistant Professor, Graduate Department of Social Work, Bridgewater State College
Sherry Jenkins Little, Esq., Assistant General Counsel & Corporate Responsibility (Compliance) Officer, Homesite Insurance Group
George Madaus, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Research Professor, Center for the Study of Testing Evaluation & Education Policy, Boston College
Michelle Montavon, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Teacher Education, Lynch School of Education, Boston College
Paula Stahl, PhD, Executive Director, Children's Charter Inc., Trauma Clinic
Mary Walsh, PhD, Kearns Professor, Department of Counseling and Developmental Psychology, Lynch School of Education, Boston College
Joan Cole Duffell, Director of Partnership Development, Committee for Children
Ted Cross, PhD, Consultant, RTI International
Suzanne Piening, LICSW, PhD, Evaluation Administrator, OCAIO
Deacon Anthony P. Rizzuto, PhD, Director, OCAIO

Affiliates:

Sheila Kelly; Deputy Director, Office of Child and Youth Protection, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Teresa Kettelkamp, Director, Office of Child and Youth Protection, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Staff Support:

Robert Kelley, LICSW, Special Assistant to Deacon Rizzuto

Meetings Held Since Last Update (March 31, 2007):

April 12
June 14
August 9
September 11

Tasks Completed Since March 31, 2007

We have made significant progress on the development and execution of the pilot study in the past six months. This progress is described below.

- Pilot Study Nears Completion

As mentioned in the last report, the Effectiveness Subcommittee of the IOAC and the study team determined that the unit of analysis for the implementation phase of the pilot study is the parish. There will be two distinct sections to the pilot study report.

1. The first section will include two parts – a content analysis of the evolution of the policies and procedures for the protection of children and an analysis designed to answer such questions as “What do we know about how the child safe environment programs were implemented throughout the Archdiocese beginning in 2002-2003?” “What variables are associated with timely and effective implementation?” “What do the findings suggest about methodologies for future effectiveness studies?”

2. The second section of the report will describe the development of a methodology to study the effectiveness of implementation in depth. This section of the study involves in-person interviews conducted with a variety of key players in five (5) parishes (pastors, religious educators, catechists, parish council members, school principal, parents, CAP Team members, etc.).

One parish was selected as a “test” site and the study team tested the interview instrument and processes there from March to May 2007. Subsequently, as indicated by the findings from the “test” parish, suitable changes were made in the instrument and processes. Four additional parishes were then selected to join the “test” parish to constitute the remainder of the pilot sample; a set of ten (10) criteria were used to determine the selection according to a) the naturally occurring diversity in the Archdiocese, b) parish size, c) program implementation method, and d) the existence of a parish-supported school and/or religious education program.

During this reporting period (March to September), visits occurred at three of these parishes for the purpose of conducting interviews. A schedule of visits and interviews is currently being established with the pastor and staff of the fourth parish, which was contacted in August 2007. It is anticipated that these interviews will be completed during October 2007. Questions to be answered in this section of the study include: “What is the state of implementation now?” “What have been some of the barriers to and facilitators of effective implementation?” “What methodological elements have been key to answering the ‘effectiveness’ question?”

- Independent meta-evaluation

During this reporting period, the independent evaluation team at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University received and reviewed the following study components:

1. Original interview instrument—review completed
2. Selection of parishes for study—review completed
3. Revised interview instrument—review completed
4. Data collection plan – sent, review expected by 10/31/07
5. Data analysis plan – under development

- Data Analysis
The data for the first section of the report will be analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods. These will include content analysis of the data related to the broader questions regarding the evolution of policies and procedures for child protection. The parish-based interviews for the second section of the report are being transcribed and will undergo two major types of analysis: 1) a qualitative analysis of the interviews to uncover the major themes and common findings across parishes regarding effective implementation, and 2) a content analysis of the themes that will result in a quantitative report to support the qualitative findings.
- Preparation of Final Report
Preparation of the report has been concurrent with data collection and analysis. The first section of the report will include a review of relevant literature regarding child sexual abuse prevention programs, their evaluation, and consideration of issues in the adoption of new programs and organizational change. As the study has progressed, the researchers are also noting observations and findings related to methodology so that all insights and processes related to methodology will be documented and included in the report.

Plan for Next Effectiveness Assessment Period

- Meetings Scheduled:
October 11, 2007; November 13, 2007; December 13, 2007.
January, February and March 2008 TBD.
- Final Report on Developing a Methodology for Measuring the Effectiveness of Multi-Faceted Programs for Child Protection and Abuse Prevention: March 31, 2008.