



Dana A. Weiner, Ph.D.

Chief Officer for Children's Behavioral Health Transformation

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Dana Weiner, PhD, provides analytic consultation and policy guidance to child-serving systems across the country. Dr. Weiner's research focuses on building evidence for effective interventions, quantifying and improving resource accessibility and analysis and implementation planning to support system transformation. In Illinois, she serves as the Chief Officer for Children's Behavioral Health Transformation, tasked by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker with redesigning the children's mental health system for the state. She is also a Senior Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall and a Commissioner on the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and has taught graduate-level courses in Statistics and Research Methods at both Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and the Crown School of Social Work at the University of Chicago. In her analytic consultation, she uses predictive analytics, latent class analysis, and geospatial approaches to understand the alignment between population needs and service capacity.

Key Qualifications and Expertise

- High-level strategic policy guidance and systems analysis
- Implementation and evaluation of evidence-based practice
- Child welfare and mental health policy
- Data analytics for decision-making
- Juvenile Justice and community-based interventions

Education

Northwestern University
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology

Chicago, IL

Cornell University
B.S., Human Development & Family Studies

Ithaca, NY

Honors & Awards

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| 2025 | Gubernatorial Appointment, Governor's Justice Cabinet |
| 2024 | Heroes for Children Award, Lawrence Hall Center for Children |
| 2023 | Katherine B. Greene Award, United Voices for Children |
| 2023 | Invited Speaker, HC3 Podcast, Transforming Children's Behavioral Health in Illinois |
| 2022 | Gubernatorial Appointment, Chief Officer for Children's Behavioral Health Transformation |
| 2022 | Gubernatorial Appointment, Member, Holistic Mental Health Care for Youth in Care Task Force |
| 2021 | Pandemic HEROES Award, Cornell University College of Human Ecology |
| 2020 | Invited Lecture, National Governor's Association, Using Data to Understand Child Welfare Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic |
| 2020 | Invited Lecture, Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy, Data Integration Network "Family First Preventive Services Act" |
| 2019 | Invited Speaker, Child Welfare Virtual Expo, "Becoming a Workforce of Everyday Scientists" |

- 2019 Good Day Chicago/Fox32 News, Guest Speaker, "Systemic Review of Critical Incidents in Intact Family Services"
- 2017 Invited Lecture, Bronfenbrenner Center on Translational Science, Cornell University, "Data Driven Policy Making in Child Welfare"
- 2016 Invited Lecture, Chicago Humanities Festival, "Making Policy in the Age of Immediacy"
- 2016 Grand Prize Winner, University of Chicago Booth School of Business App Challenge, "ReferMe" application for enhancing service accessibility
- 2016 Invited Lecture, National Council of State Legislators (NCSL), Changes and Trends in Child Welfare
- 2016 Invited Lecture; House Caucus on Foster Care, Using Evidence to Accelerate the Safe and Effective Reduction of Congregate Care for Youth Involved in Child Welfare
- 2015 Invited Lecture; Center for Study of Social Policy, Reductions in Foster Care among Three Child Welfare Administrations
- 2014 Invited Lecture; Southern Illinois University Child Welfare Symposium
- 2014 Invited Lecture: US Administration on Children, Youth, and Families; Implementation and Evaluation of Evidence-Based Interventions
- 2013 Gubernatorial Appointment, Child & Family Services Advisory Council
- 2011 Gubernatorial Appointment, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission
- 2010 Outcomes Champion Award & Keynote Speaker, 5th annual CANS conference, San Francisco
- 2010 CAN-TV "DCFS Dialogue" Guest Speaker, Child Welfare Leadership Summit
- 2008 CAN-TV "DCFS Dialogue" Guest Speaker, Technology in Child Welfare

Professional Positions

Office of Governor JB Pritzker	Chicago, IL
Chief Officer for Children's Behavioral Health Transformation	3/2022 – present
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago	Chicago, IL
Senior Policy Fellow	6/2014 – present
Governor's Justice Cabinet	Chicago, IL
Cabinet Member	4/2025 - present
Administrative Burden Task Force	Chicago, IL
Committee Member	1/2025 – present
Healing Centered Task Force	Chicago, IL
Committee Member	9/2023 – 10/2024
Resilient Schools Certification Steering Committee	Chicago, IL
Committee Member	7/2023 – 12/2023
988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline workgroup	Chicago, IL
Workgroup Member	9/2023 – 12/2023
Well-Being Steering Committee	Chicago, IL
Committee Member	8/2023 - present
University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration	Chicago, IL
Instructor, <i>Data for Policy Analysis and Management</i>	9/2014 – 12/2021

Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission Commissioner	Chicago, IL 5/2011 – present
Child & Family Services Advisory Council Council Member	Chicago, IL 6/2013 – 2015
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services Senior Policy Advisor	Chicago, IL 12/2007 – 5/2014
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine <i>Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences (04/02 – Present)</i> <i>Associate Director Mental Health Services and Policy Program (01/06 – 7/11)</i>	Chicago, IL 04/2002 – Present
Northwestern University Medical School Psycho-Legal Studies Program Researcher	Chicago, IL 09/2001 – 9/2004

Selected Grants and Contracts

2021 – 2022	Principal Investigator, Joint Research Fund, <i>Evaluating REACT: An assessment clinic assessing the impact of community violence</i>
2020 – 2021	Principal Investigator, Impact Area Fund, <i>Quantifying and describing latent demand for child welfare services: Preparing for capacity changes post-COVID19 restrictions</i>
2020 – 2022	Principal Investigator, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, <i>Analytic Support for System Transformation</i>
2019 – 2021	Principal Investigator, Zero-to-Three, <i>Building the Evidence Base for Safe Baby Court Teams</i>
2019 – 2022	Principal Investigator, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, <i>Evaluation of Intact Family Services</i>
2018 – 2022	Principal Investigator, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, <i>Implementation Planning for the Family First Preventive Services Act (FFPSA)</i>
2019 – present	Principal Investigator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, <i>Evaluation of Multi-Systemic Therapy – Emerging Adults (MST-EA) for Youth Exiting the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice</i>
2019 – 2022	Principal Investigator, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, <i>Review of Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol for Front-End Safety Decision-Making</i>
2018 – 2020	Principal Investigator, National Court Appointed Special Advocates, <i>Judicial Perspectives and Building Evidence for Best-Interest Advocacy</i>
2018-2019	Principal Investigator, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, <i>Family Bonding Initiative.</i>
2017 – 2018	Principal Investigator, Joint Research Fund, University of Chicago, <i>Testing Technological Solution for Improving Service Connections Among Youth and Families Involved in Preventive Child Welfare Services</i>
2016 – 2017	Principal Investigator, The Duke Endowment, <i>Review of Ten Years of Grant-Making in Out-of-Home Care</i>

2013 – 2014	Consultant, Harvard University, Social Impact Bonds “Pay for Success” project
2014 – 2016	Principal Investigator, US Health Resources Services Administration, <i>Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Autism Diagnoses</i>
2010 – 2016	Evaluation Liaison, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <i>Permanency Innovation Initiative</i>
2012-2014	Principal Investigator, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, <i>Assessment Training & Infrastructure</i>
2008 - 2011	Principal Investigator, Illinois Department of Children & Family Services, <i>Longitudinal & Cross-Sectional Assessment of Wards of the State</i>

Publications

Selected Publications & Reports

- Weiner, D. (2023). Four principles that will transform youth behavioral health service. *Crains Forum on Child Mental Health*, October 23, 2023. <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/crains-forum-child-mental-health/how-illinois-will-transform-youth-behavioral-care-opinion>
- Weiner, D. (2023). *Blueprint for Transformation: A Vision for Improved Behavioral Healthcare for Illinois Children*. State of Illinois: Springfield, IL.
- Grewal-Kok, Y., Cusick, G., Anderson, C., Weiner, D., Thomas, K., & Heaton, L. (2023). Economic and Concrete Supports: Core Strategies to Promote Family Well-Being and Race Equity. In Briar-Lawson, K., Day, P., & Azzi-Lessing, L., *Child Neglect, Inequity, and Poverty: Contextual Issues and Implication*. Child Welfare League of America: Washington, DC.
- Weiner, D.A., Anderson, C., & Thomas, K. (2021). *System transformation to support child and family well-being: The central role of economic and concrete supports*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Weiner, D. (2020). *Achieving Improved Child and Family Well-Being Through Prevention: A Call for System Adaptation*. American Public Human Services Association Policy & Practice Magazine, October 2020.
- Weiner, D., Heaton, L., Stiehl, M., Chor, B., Kim, K., Heisler, K., Foltz, R. & Farrell, A. (2020). COVID-19 and Child Welfare: Using Data to Understand Trends in Maltreatment and Response. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago: Chicago, IL
- Weiner, D., Thompson, R., & Alexander, M. (2020) Measuring the Impact of Residential Interventions. In (Eds) Caldwell, B., Lieberman, R., Lebel, J. & Blau, G. (2020) *Transforming Residential Interventions: Practice Strategies and Future Directions*, Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group.
- Weiner, D., Farrell, A., Gitlow, E., Small, L., Kim, K., Anderson, C., & Goerge, R (2020). The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program: Judicial Perspectives Survey and the Path to Evidence. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago: Chicago, IL.
- Weiner, D., Navalkha, C., Abramsohn, E., DePumpo, M., Paradise, K., Stiehl, M. & Lindau, S.T. (2019). Mobile resource referral technology for preventive child welfare services: Implementation and feasibility. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 107 (104499), 1-11.
- Weiner, D., & Cull, M (2019). Systemic Review of Critical Incidents in Intact Family Services. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago: Chicago, IL.

- Weiner, D.A., Lieberman, R., Huefner, J., Thompson, R., McCrae, J. & Blau, G. (2018). Feasibility of long-term outcomes measurement by residential providers. *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth*, 35(3), 174-191.
- Chadwick Center and Chapin Hall. (2018). *Making the Most of Predictive Analytics: Responsive and Innovative Uses in Child Welfare Policy and Practice*. San Diego, CA & Chicago, IL: Collaborating at the Intersection of Research and Policy.
- Weiner, D. & Thomas, K. (2017). *Review of Grant-making in Out-of-Home Care: The Duke Endowment*, Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
- Brennen, J., Steiner, L., Weiner, D., & Epstein, R. A. (2017). *Mental Health Services Review of the Cook County Circuit Court's Juvenile Justice Division*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.
- Chadwick Center and Chapin Hall. (2016). *Using evidence to accelerate the safe and effective reduction of congregate care for youth involved with child welfare*, San Diego, CA & Chicago, IL: Collaborating at the Intersection of Research and Policy.
- Chor, K. H. B., McClelland, G. M., Weiner, D. A., Jordan, N., & Lyons, J. S. (2015). Out-of-home placement decision-making and outcomes in child welfare: A longitudinal study. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health*, 42, 70–86.
- Smithgall C. Yang, D. & Weiner, D. (2013) Unmet Mental Health Service Needs in Kinship Care: The Importance of Assessing and Supporting Caregivers, *Journal of Family Social Work*, 16(5), 463-479.
- Chor, K. H. B., McClelland, G. M., Weiner, D. A., & Jordan, N. (2013). Patterns of out-of-home placement decision-making in child welfare. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 37(10), 871-882.
- Chor, K.H., McClelland, G.M., Weiner, D.A., Jordan, N., and Lyons, J.S. (2012). Predicting outcomes of children in residential treatment: a comparison of a decision support algorithm and a multidisciplinary team decision model. *Children & Youth Services Review*, 34(12), 2345-2352.
- Weiner, D.A., Leon, S., & Stiehl, M. (2011) Service Accessibility and Outcomes among Foster Care Youth Receiving Wraparound Services. *Journal of Child & Family Studies*.
- McIntosh, A., Lyons, J.S., Weiner, D., & Jordan, N. (2010). Development of a model for predicting running away from residential treatment among children and adolescents. *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth*, 27(4), 264-276
- Weiner, D.A., Lyons, J.S., & Schneider, A. (2009). Culturally competent evidence based practice for trauma among youth in child welfare. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 31(11), 1199-1205.
- Lyons, J. S., & Weiner, D. A. (Eds.) (2009). *Behavioral health care: Assessment, service planning, and total clinical outcomes management*. Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute.
- Weiner, D. (2009). Mapping CANS Output to Service Profiles. In J. S. Lyons & D. A. Weiner (Eds.) *Behavioral health care: Assessment, service planning, and total clinical outcomes management*. Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute.
- Lyons & Weiner, (2009). An Introduction and Overview of Total Clinical Outcomes Management and Communimetrics. In J. S. Lyons & D. A. Weiner (Eds.) *Behavioral health care: Assessment, service planning, and total clinical outcomes management*. Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute.

Lyons & Weiner, (2009). Evolving Service, Programs, and Systems with Assessment Data. . In J. S.Lyons & D. A. Weiner (Eds.) *Behavioral health care: Assessment, service planning, and total clinical outcomes management*. Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute.

Lyons, Weiner & Lyons (2004). Measurement as Communication in Outcomes Management: The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS). In *The Use of Psychological Testing for Treatment Planning and Outcomes Assessment*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates: Mahwah, NJ.

Teplin, Abram, McClelland, & Weiner (2005). Victimization of Adults with Severe Mental Disorders, *Archives of General Psychiatry*, August, 2005, 911-921.

Swartz, J.A., Weiner, D.A., & Lurigio, A. (2004). Correlates of HIV-Risk Behaviors among Prison Inmates: Implications for Tailored AIDS Prevention Programming. *Prison Journal*, 84, 4, 472-485.

Weiner, D.A., Abraham, M.E., & Lyons, J.S. (2001). Clinical characteristics of children with substance use disorders in residential treatment. *Psychiatric Services*, June, 2001, 793-799.

Weiner, D.A. (1999). Quality of life of adults with severe mental disorders: The impact of race/ethnicity, co-morbidity, housing, and services. Doctoral dissertation, Northwestern University, Evanston.

Software & Exhibits

Weiner, D.A., Stiehl, M.S., NowPow (2017). NowPow Resource Application, Child Welfare version (mobile service referral and communications app)

Weiner, D. A., Isarawong, N., Stiehl, M. (2016). ReferMe application (mobile service referral app)

Weiner, D., Yang, D-H, Goerge, R., Stiehl, M., Grant, S. (2006) Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Geomapping and Statewide Provider Database.

Weiner, D. (2003). Juvenile Resources Database