

January 10, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

As the School of Social Work continues to celebrate 50 years of teaching, research and practice, I am pleased to start 2012 with the announcement of the creation of The Institute for Innovation and Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (The Institute). The faculty and staff of The Institute include individuals formerly with the Innovations Institute at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Michelle Zabel, MSS, is one of these staff and is a newly appointed Clinical Instructor at the School of Social Work and Director of The Institute. The Institute will continue their service as a training, technical assistance, evaluation, policy, systems design, and finance resource for the Maryland Children's Cabinet and its member agencies, along with multiple other states, localities, and private organizations. Their presence in our School will give our work greater breadth and reach and new opportunities for scholarship about successful practice-development regarding the implementation of innovative and evidence-based practices.

The Institute brings with it nationally recognized expertise in the fields of children's behavioral health, systems of care, evidence-based and promising practices, care management, finance, policy, systems design, juvenile justice, and much more. Many of the projects and initiatives that you are familiar with will now be housed at The Institute. These include the project management, training and evaluation for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) System of Care Grants - MD CARES and Rural CARES; project management for the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS); Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA); Quality Demonstration Grant; evidence-based practice evaluation and implementation (i.e., Multi-Systemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care, Brief Strategic Family Therapy; and Wraparound); and a national technical assistance and implementation center for Wraparound and evidence-based practices. The Institute receives funding from the Maryland Governor's Office for Children on behalf of the Children's Cabinet, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Talbot County, Annie E. Casey Foundation, CMS and SAMHSA, as well as states and localities throughout the country.

The Institute will be temporarily located at 525 W. Redwood Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201. Renovations are currently underway at the future home of The Institute, at 307 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, and we expect them to be in their new location by early spring. General questions regarding trainings, webinars, and events and projects can be directed to theinstitute@ssw.umaryland.edu. In the very near future, The Institute will be disseminating additional information related to their individual staff contact information, training and event schedules, website, monthly newsletter and virtual training center.

It is exciting to kick off our next 50 years of innovation at the School of Social Work with the establishment of The Institute. This will ultimately help us to achieve integrated and aligned service delivery for children and families across mental health, education, juvenile justice, health, and child welfare services. The addition of The Institute to our School's existing Centers and the engagement of the School of Social Work's multi-disciplinary scholars working on child and family issues will greatly leverage additional opportunities. We will then, together, accelerate cross-system improvements for children and families.

Please feel free to forward this letter to your colleagues.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Barth', written over a white oval-shaped background.

Richard Barth, PhD
Dean and Professor