

Editorial: New Beginnings

Lisa Schelbe, PhD, MSW

Most can agree that 2020 was filled with crises, chaos, and heartache. The pandemic, increased awareness around racial inequality, and political tension are the top three situations that stand out to me. While a new year brings promises of new beginnings, these problems were not resolved at midnight on January 1st. There are reasons to be optimistic about what 2021 holds for us. For example, there is a vaccine, as well as signs (albeit often small) about commitment and progress in addressing racial inequity that will bring together all people of the United States who have been deeply divided. However, as we all know, we're not yet there.

Many APSAC members are at the frontline of addressing the crises in the United States and meeting the needs of children, families, and communities in this stressful time. Across the multiple disciplines that we represent, APSAC members are making a difference. Active in our communities, we are serving the most vulnerable who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and racial inequity. We are thinking about the big questions and finding innovative solutions as we work together.

Why do I mention the new year and the major issues happening in the United States when the *APSAC Advisor*, a journal for interdisciplinary professionals in child abuse and neglect, seeks to inform readers of the latest development in practice and policy in the field of child maltreatment? I do so because context matters. It

influences our work in a multitude of ways and frames our understanding of the world. With all that is going on in our country, the work in child maltreatment is even more important. Now, more than ever we need to connect with one another and share ideas and knowledge about what work, for whom, and in which circumstances.

I mention the new year because although I am not one to typically make New Year's resolutions, this year, I found myself happily bidding 2020 goodbye and eagerly awaiting a new year and new beginnings. One of my new beginnings—several months in the making—is that this is the first issue that I have overseen since assuming the role of Editor of the *Advisor*. To be clear, this issue is due to the work of many. Dr. Carlo Panlilio, who serves as Associate Editor of the *Advisor*, and Ms. Bri Stormer, who is the Director of Publications and Member Services, were involved in each and every step. APSAC staff, the Publication Committee, and Board of Directors members were helpful during the transition of the editorial team and continue to be a source of information and ideas. I want to recognize the contributions of the reviewers who provided thoughtful feedback to the authors and the authors who make this publication possible.

Dr. Carlo Panlilio and I are thrilled to have the opportunity to assume the leadership of editing the *Advisor*. We are committed to maintain the high quality of articles that inform practice related to child maltreatment prevention and intervention. Our goal is

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to make current knowledge accessible those who need it. We are committed to empirical, practice-focused articles that are written in an accessible way that have the potential to influence practice and policy, and we are also going to (1) prioritize the inclusion of high-quality review articles that highlight the most current research on topics, (2) include information about how to interpret and apply research findings, and (3) develop a policy section that shares innovative ideas and opportunities for advocacy.

One thing that readers can expect is an increased emphasis on racial equity within the *Advisor*. This is consistent with the APSAC Board of Directors' [position statement on eliminating systemic racism and implicit bias in the child maltreatment field](#) and the formation of the APSAC Commission for Racial Justice in Child Maltreatment. Each *Advisor* issue will have an article that focuses explicitly on racial equity. Authors will be encouraged to consider racial equity within their manuscripts.

The editorial team plans to solicit new authors from diverse perspectives. Those new to the child maltreatment field as well as veterans are encouraged to submit manuscripts. We will work with authors with limited experience in publishing. As we seek to

demystify the process, Dr. Panlilio and I are going to share tips about how to write for the *Advisor*. We encourage professionals in all disciplines to consider writing about their successes and insights.

I am looking forward to the new year and all that the *Advisor* will bring to you—this year and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments about the *Advisor* at Lschelbe@fsu.edu. Associate Editor Dr. Carlo Panlilio is also available at ccp15@psu.edu. All submissions should be sent to Ms. Bri Stormer, Director of Publications and Member Services, at info@apsac.org.

About the Editor-in-Chief

Lisa Schelbe, PhD, MSW, is Associate Professor at Florida State University College of Social Work and a Faculty Affiliate at the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. She serves as a Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal. Her research focuses on young people transitioning out of foster care and services to assist with their transition out of care. She is a qualitative methodologist with experience working on interdisciplinary teams. She has published over 30 referred journal articles and co-authored a book titled Intergenerational Transmission of Child Maltreatment (Springer, 2017). Dr. Schelbe received her doctorate in social work from University of Pittsburgh, where she was a Doris Duke Fellow for the Promotion of Child Well-being.

