

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Name	Position Title
Beth Gerlach, Ph.D., LCSW	Associate Director Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing

A. Narrative summary of experience and expertise.

My professional work as a research scientist is influenced and strengthened by my experience as a clinical social worker. Prior to my career as a researcher, I was a community-based practitioner serving children and families. While I found practice fulfilling in many ways, I became frustrated by systemic issues that made it much harder for vulnerable children and families to avoid adversity and heal from dysfunction. I transitioned into the field of social work research precisely to be engaged in action-oriented and practice-relevant research that contributes to system-level change. I wanted to focus my efforts on exploring effective prevention strategies and moving further upstream to protect children from adversity.

I approach all parts of the research process through a social work lens. By this, I mean that I bring a multi-system ecological perspective acknowledging the role of individual, family, community and policy contexts. Most of my research requires (and is benefited by) multidisciplinary efforts, and I have worked with professionals in nursing, public policy, healthcare, law enforcement, public health, psychology and child development. I also focus on the value of relationships between the systems, as well as, between individuals. Although I do think that research on practice effectiveness has an important role in improving services and outcomes, I know that the most essential factor related to facilitating change is strong, supportive and safe relationships. My research work with practitioners and with vulnerable populations honors this. I also consider myself an activist researcher, with the end goal of contributing to social justice always in mind.

My research training and experience includes qualitative and quantitative expertise. Most of the research questions that I explore are best answered through mixed methods approaches, and include a platform for sharing the voices and lived experiences of the research participants. I have served as a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on a number of projects and participate in each part of the research process, including design, methodology, data collection, analysis and reporting. However, I think the most impactful part of the research process is translating the findings into meaningful recommendations for policy and practice.

As part of our institute's research team, I have worked in a number of ways to bridge research to practice and policy. For the past four years, we have provided a free Child Welfare Conference for practitioners to share the latest in best practices and research evidence. We also ask for feedback from practitioners about what training they need for the upcoming year. We have also developed several trainings from identified gaps in service provision, including addressing family violence in child welfare cases and working with caregivers around their own childhood trauma. We have developed an on-line forum for connecting research and practitioners in our community. In each of these endeavors, the feedback from the community has been positive and has built further partnerships to impact the lives of children and families

B. Employment and professional roles.

9/2011 – Current Associate Director (formerly Research Associate)
Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing, University of Texas at Austin

2003 – Current Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 State of Texas

2011 – Current Adjunct Assistant Professor
School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin

2004 – 2011 Graduate Research Assistant, various positions, University of Texas at Austin
*UT Health Behavior Research and Training Institute
 Acculturation and Adolescent Drug Prevention Project
 Children’s Trauma Assessment Project*

2001-2004 School Social Worker
Communities in Schools – Central Texas, Inc.

1999 – 2001 Program Coordinator
 Transitional Living Services for Teen Parent Foster Youth
Marywood Children and Family Services

C. Education and training.

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work	Ph.D.	2011	Social Work Research
Master of Science in Social Work	MSSW	1999	Clinical Social Work
Bachelor of Arts in Humanities	BA	1996	Interdisciplinary Studies

D. Community leadership and service (selected).

- Travis County Child Protective Services Board – board member appointed by County Commissioner to advocate policies and practice for the protection and well-being of Travis County children.
- Children’ Mental Health Plan for Travis County – member of interdisciplinary community collaborative to address mental health needs of children. Member of both Prevention and Data Advisory sub-groups.
- Trauma-informed Care Consortium of Central Texas – member of interdisciplinary professional organization to address trauma needs of children and families.
- Pediatric Trauma-informed Research and Care Collaborative – member of interdisciplinary collaborative addressing trauma-informed care and ACEs in pediatric healthcare.
- Prevention and Early Intervention Research Roundtable – invited member to address statewide research strategies for child maltreatment prevention.
- Mobile Loaves and Fishes – monthly volunteer / team lead for provision of community-based homeless food and resource mobile services.
- Horns Helping Horns – Mentor for UT students formerly in foster care or without family support
- Travis Heights Elementary Campus Advisory Council - board member for governance of Title I elementary school
- Research and Evaluation Think Tank – invited member for statewide think tank to develop logic models for prevention and early intervention programming in state of Texas.

E. Selected peer-reviewed publications

- Chanmugam, A. & Gerlach, B. (2013). A co-teaching model for developing teaching effectiveness. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 24 (1), 110-117.
- Franklin, C. & Gerlach, B. (2006). One hundred years of linking schools with communities: Current models and opportunities. *School Social Work Journal (Special Issue, Summer)*, 44-62.

F. Selected other written work, as applicable (selected).

- Faulkner, M., Jordanova, T., Gerlach, B. & Tennant, P. S. (2016). *Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Intervention: HOPES FY2015 Evaluation Findings*. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin.
- Faulkner, M., Jordanova, T., Gerlach, B. & Sheley, E. (2016). *Cultivating successful transitions: A needs assessment of youth and students with disabilities in Texas*. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin.
- Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B., & LaBrenz, C. (2016). *Structuring policies and practices to support educational resilience of foster youth*. UpBring White Paper. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin.
- Schwab, J., Faulkner, M., Landuyt, M., Fong, R., Scott, J., Gerlach, B. & Ryan, T. (2014). *Texas foster care redesign: Initial insights into foster care reform*. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services & Casey Family Programs. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Child and Family Research Institute.
- Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B., Marra, L., Gomez, R. & Schwab, J. (2014). *SB 44 Needs Assessment: Examining the relinquishment of children with serious emotional disturbances*. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Child and Family Research Institute.
- Gerlach, B., Faulkner, M., Gomez, R., & Chanmugam, A., (2014). *CPS training curricula: permanency, visitation, and trauma-informed workforce*. Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Child and Family Research Institute.
- Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B., & Marra, L. (2013). *Texas TRIO project final evaluation report prepared for the Texas Education Agency, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families*. Austin, TX: Child and Family Research Institute, The University of Texas at Austin.

G. Selected oral and media communication (selected).

- Gerlach, B. (2017). *Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resilience: Measures for screening and outcomes assessment*. Oral presentation for St. David's Foundation. Austin, TX.
- Gerlach, B. (2017) *Social workers can collaborate with physicians to create ACE-informed healthcare*. Clinician's Corner blog: Texas Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing, Austin, TX
- Tennant, P., Faulkner, M. & Gerlach, B. (2017). *Findings from the retrospective data analysis of the Texas Prevention and Early Intervention Project*, Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 21th Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA.
- Gerlach, B., Jordanova, T., Faulkner, M., Eisenbaum, E. (2017). *Supporting students with disabilities in their transition from school to employment*, Poster Presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 21th Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA.
- Eisenbaum, E., Jordanova, T., Faulkner, M. & Gerlach, B. (2017). *Community Barriers to Employment Facing Youth with Disabilities*, Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 21th Annual Meeting and Exposition, New Orleans, LA
- Gerlach, B., (2016) *Multigenerational trauma: Understanding and supporting caregivers who have experienced trauma*. Oral Presentation at the 2016 Texas CASA Conference, Dallas, Texas.
- Gerlach, B., Morris, M., (2016) *Integrating aces prevention into medical practice: A needs assessment of prenatal and pediatric care in Central Texas*. Poster Presentation at Conference on Adverse Childhood Experiences: Awareness to Action, San Francisco, CA.

- Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B., Jordanova, T., McKerlie, K. & Tennant, P. (2016) *Process evaluation of a cross-site child maltreatment primary prevention program*. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association 144th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Denver, CO.
- Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B., Wood, L., (2016) *Understanding & addressing family violence in child maltreatment prevention programs*. Oral Presentation at The DFPS Annual Partners in Prevention Conference, Austin TX.
- Faulkner, M., Jordanova, T., Gerlach, B. & Eisenbaum, E. (2016). *Cultivating-successful-transitions-a-needs-assessment-of-youth-with-disabilities-in-texas*. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association 144th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Denver, CO.
- Gerlach, B., Faulkner, M., Marra, L. & Ryan, T. (2016). *Examining educational needs and outcome of foster youth in Texas*. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.
- Marra, L., Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B. & Schwab, J. (2016). *Role of caregiver strain in child relinquishment: Supporting caregivers of children with serious emotional disturbances*. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.
- Ryan, T., Gerlach, B., Faulkner, M. & Marra, L. (2016). *Education experiences for foster youth with disabilities*. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work and Research 20th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Washington DC.
- Faulkner, M., Gerlach B., Marra, L., Tennant, P., (2016) *Preventing-the-relinquishment-of-children-with-emotional-disturbances*. Poster Presentation The 20th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect, Washington DC
- Tennant, P., Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B., (2016) *Findings-from-the-retrospective-data-analysis-of-the-texas-prevention-and-early-intervention-project*. Poster Presentation at the 20th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect, Washington DC.
- Gerlach, B., & Faulkner, M. (2015). *Multigenerational healing: Understanding and supporting caregivers who have experienced trauma*. Oral Presentation for DFPS Annual Partners in Prevention Conference, Houston, TX.
- Faulkner, M., Gerlach, B. and Marra, L. (2015). *Examining the role of relinquishment of children with serious emotional disturbances*. Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association 143rd Annual Meeting and Exposition, Chicago, IL.
- Gomez, R., Gerlach, B. & Faulkner, M. (2015). *Visitation matters: Assessing the use of evidence based practices in child welfare visitation*. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Gerlach, B., Faulkner, M., Hinson, J., Marra L. & Ryan, T. (2014). *Improving Educational Outcomes for Foster Youth: Findings from a mixed-methods program evaluation of the Texas Trio Project*. Oral Paper at the 19th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN), New Orleans, LA.
- Rivaux, S., Faulkner, M., Marra, L. & Gerlach, B. (2014). *Factors Impacting Effective Use of Medical Evaluations in Child Abuse Cases: Findings From a Multi-Site Study*. Oral paper at the Society for Social Work Research Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

H. Research, project, and/or grant support.

- October 2014-present *Co-Principal Investigator*
Evaluation of the HOPES Program: Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support. A statewide, multi-site, mixed methods evaluation of community-based child maltreatment prevention. Funded by Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.
- June 2017 - present *Principal Investigator*
Integrating ACEs prevention into healthcare: A needs assessment of prenatal and pediatric care. A mixed methods community needs assessment exploring ACE-informed care. Sponsored by the Pediatric Trauma-informed Research and Care Collaborative.
- May 2015-present *Evaluation Lead*
Restorative Discipline Project. State wide evaluation of training and implementation of restorative practices in Texas public schools. Funded by the Texas Education Agency.
- October 2013-October 2016 *Co-Principal Investigator*
Needs Assessment: Exploring experiences of youth transitioning from school to work. Funded by Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.
- December 2013-September 2014 *Co-Principal Investigator*
Listening and learning from the community: Understanding the needs of families with children who have a serious behavioral or emotional disturbance. Mixed methods needs assessment. Funded by Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.
- October 2012-October 2013 *Co-Principal Investigator*
Medical Evaluations Project. Mixed methods project to examine the utilization of medical exams for child abuse victims. Funded by Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas.
- August 2011-December 2014 *Co-Principal Investigator*
Evaluation of the Texas Foster Care Redesign. Process evaluation for initial roll-out of Texas foster care redesign. Funded by Casey Family Programs.