R13 Psychotropic Medication Meeting Outcomes

The NIMH/NICHD funded scientific meeting was held May 12 & 13, 2011 at Boys Town, Nebraska

Work to date:

- Collaborative research. The meeting allowed a group of researchers and practitioners to take collaborative efforts to the next level and plan research to inform pharmacotherapy practice and policy in out-of-home settings. The conference had 21 attendees from across the country and resulted in the organization of research teams to pursue 3 specific research streams.
  1. Describe the use of psychotropic medication among children and youth in out-of-home placements.
  2. Describe how psychotropic medication use relates to the child’s need for psychotropic medication.
     - Publication
     - Under review
  3. Describe the delivery of services to high risk youth.

Progress on the specific analyses proposed during the meeting has been slower than anticipated, but progress is still being made.

- A webpage has been created. Originally a website was planned, using Boys Town resources. Ultimately these resources were unavailable for this project, and outsourcing was prohibitively expensive. While a webpage will be far simpler, we were still able to make the videos from the meeting available.
- Special issue of the Journal of Child and Family Studies. As a direct product of the meeting, Jon Huefner and Annette Griffith were invited to be the editors for a special issue of the Journal of Child and Family Studies focusing on pediatric psychopharmacology. Fourteen manuscripts have been submitted for the special issue, three of which are accepted. Five of the articles are authored by R13 conference attendees.
- An IES grant titled “Describing the relationship between psychotropic medication changes, changes in behavioral characteristics, and behavior intervention plan validity” has been resubmitted. The proposed study will use a functional behavior analysis perspective to examine the impact of psychotropic medications on the effectiveness of behavioral intervention plans for special education youth in the Boys Town specialized treatment group home program. This proposal has received favorable reviews and is in its third review cycle.

Planned next steps:

- Continue research that examines the management of psychotropic medication in clinical practice at Boys Town, Walker, and other similar agencies
- Direct involvement with neurobehavioral research at the Boys Town National Research Hospital using fMRI technology to examine the impact of psychotropic medications on the brain
- Continue to pursue grants supporting psychotropic medication research at Boys Town