

Kimberly A. Williams, MSW

University of Maryland School of Social Work
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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Higher Education

2018–Expected Winter 2023	PhD Social Work University of Maryland
2014–2016	MSW Concentration: Health; Child, Adolescent, & Family Health University of Maryland
2008–2011	BS Psychology & Sociology Minor: Family Studies Towson University

Areas of Scholarly Interest

Child Welfare
Outcomes for Foster Parents
Evidence-Based Implementation
Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM)

Academic and Professional Positions

Academic

2019–2020	Graduate Research Assistant University of Maryland School of Social Work Faculty mentor: Haksoon Ahn, PhD, MSW Topic areas: Child Welfare, Family Welfare, Quality Assurance (QA) and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in child welfare, Family-Centered Practice (FCP), Foster Parents Responsibilities: Conduct qualitative and quantitative data analysis, prepare results for dissemination, assist in review of local jurisdiction in Child and Family Services Review by conducting interviews and evaluating the jurisdictions performance through Federal Onsite Review Tool
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2018–2019 Graduate Research Assistant
University of Maryland School of Social Work
Faculty mentor: Elizabeth Greeno, PhD, MSW
Topic areas: Child Welfare, Trauma, Child Abuse & Neglect, LGBTQIA
Youth in Child Welfare
Responsibilities: Assisted with data collection and management, prepared results for dissemination

Professional

9/2020 – Present Senior Research Analyst
University of Maryland, Institute for Innovation and Implementation
Projects: Child Welfare Accountability (CWA); Maryland Continuous
Quality Improvement (CQI); Integrated Practice Model (IPM) Evaluation
Responsibilities: Provide supervision of research assistants, conduct
qualitative and quantitative data analysis, prepare results for
dissemination, assist in review of local jurisdictions in Child and Family
Services Review by conducting interviews and evaluating the jurisdictions
performance through Federal Onsite Review Tool

2016–2018 Clinical Social Worker II
Therapeutic Foster Care
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Responsibilities: Provide clinical and case management services to
children and youth placed in the Therapeutic Foster Care Program, foster
parents, and biological families. Complete SAFE Home Studies for
potential foster parents, conduct trainings for foster parents, head of
Adoption Committee, member of Events Committee and Professional
Development Committee, present case consultations on a routine basis.

2015–2016 Social Work Intern
Therapeutic Foster Care
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Responsibilities: Provide clinical and case management services to
children and youth placed in the Therapeutic Foster Care Program, present
case consultations routinely.

2014–2015 Social Work Intern
Victims of Human Sex Trafficking (HST)
TurnAround, Inc.
Responsibilities: Provided support for clients of the drop-in center,
conducted psychosocial assessments as needed

Memberships

2019–Present	Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
2018–Present	University of Maryland Graduate Student Association (GSA)
2016-2018	National Association of Social Workers- Maryland Chapter (NASW)

SCHOLARSHIP | [ORCID iD: 0000-0001-6369-4570](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6369-4570)

Funding

Travel Support

January 2021 Presentations: (a) Exploring the Intersection of the Child Welfare System and Court (b) Foster Parent Engagement in the United States: A Scoping Review (c) Quality Parenting Initiative: Engaging Diverse Stakeholders As Champions for Foster Care System Reform.
 Presenters: **Williams, K.A.**, Ahn, Haksoon, Lewis, E., Murugan, V., & Feely, M.
 Funder: University of Maryland School of Social Work
 Type: PhD Travel Award
 Amount: \$200.00

Dissertation Funding

October 2022 Dissertation: Exploring the Therapeutic Foster Parent Experience: A Three-Paper Format Dissertation
 Dissertation Directed by: Bethany Lee, PhD, Director of PhD and Postdoctoral Programs, University of Maryland, School of Social Work
 Funder: University of Maryland, School of Social Work PhD Program
 Type: Dissertation Grant Award
 Amount: \$4,000.00

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Ahn, H., Xu, Y., **Williams, K. A.**, Bourn, K. P., Williams, S., & Conway, D. (2022). Family team decision meetings and child welfare service disparities: The influence of race and income. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 143, 106705, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2022.106705>
2. Becker, T. D., **Leffler, K. A.***, & McCarthy, L. P. (2021). Individual characteristics associated with color-blind racial attitudes in Master of Social Work students. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2021.1942352>
3. **Leffler, K. A.*** & Ahn, H. (2020). Foster parent perspectives and experiences with public child welfare. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 1-16.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2021.1874592>

4. Lewis, E., Murugan, V., **Williams, K. A.**, Barth, R. P., & Lee, B. (2022). Relationships Matter: Exploring the Implementation of the Quality Parenting Initiative and the Foster Parent Experience. *Child and Family Social Work*, 27(4), 593-603, <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12908>
5. Lewis, E. M., Murugan, V., Feely, M., **Williams, K. A.**, Sermon, M. C., & Farooq, S. (2022). Quality Parenting Initiative: Engaging Diverse Stakeholders as Champions for Child Welfare Systems Reform. *Journal of the Society for Social Work & Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1086/722445>
6. Wang, Y., Ahn, H., Rose, R., & **Williams, K. A.** (2023). The mediating effect of school connectedness on the relationship between child maltreatment history and aggressive behavior. *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
7. Williams, K. A., Lewis, E. M., & Feely, M. (2023). Stay just a little bit longer: A scoping review of foster parent engagement in the US. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 106814. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.106814>

Under Review

1. Ahn, H., **Williams, K. A.**, Kolupanowich, N., & James, Z. (Revised and Resubmitted) *Association of family engagement with reunification among children in foster care: A survival analysis.*
2. **Williams, K. A.**, Ahn, H. A., & Moeller, E. (Revised and Resubmitted). *Stakeholders' perspectives on child welfare and court: Identifying challenges and implications to move social work practice forward.*
3. Ahn, H. A., Wang, Y., **Williams, K. A.**, Moeller, E., & James, Z. (Under Review). *Impact of COVID-19 on child welfare practice and implications for future practice: Perspectives from youth, family, frontline workers, and other professionals.*

In Progress

1. Ahn, H. A., Williams, K. A., Kim, J., & Moeller, E. (2023) *Factors impacting the achievement of permanency for youth in foster care: A survival analysis.* Manuscript in progress.
2. **Williams, K. A.** & Cagle, J. (2023). *Characteristics and predictors of legally free children in foster care in Maryland.* Manuscript in progress.

3. **Williams, K. A.**, Ahn, H. & Sacco, P. (2023). *Impact of employment length and caseload on caseworker perceptions of organizational climate*. Manuscript in progress.

Government Reports and Other Publications

1. Ahn, H., Shaw, T., **Williams, K.**, James, Z., Moeller, E., Kolupanowich, N., & Wang, Y. (September, 2022). SFY22 Annual Report of Evaluation of Integrated Practice Model in Maryland, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).
2. Ahn, H., **Williams, K.**, James, Z., Moeller, E., Wang, Y., Kolupanowich, N., Switalski, G., & Friedman, J. (July, 2022). Maryland Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Qualitative Focus Group Report, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).
3. Ahn, H., Shaw, T., **Williams, K.**, James, Z., Moeller, E., Kolupanowich, N., Wang, Y., & Friedman, J. (March, 2022). SFY22 Semi-Annual Report of Evaluation of Integrated Practice Model in Maryland, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).
4. Ahn, H., **Williams, K.**, James, Z., Moeller, E., Wang, Y., McClain, I., Switalski, G., & Friedman, J. (February, 2022). Maryland Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Qualitative Focus Group Report, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).
5. Ahn, H., **Williams, K.**, James, Z., Moeller, E., Shaw, T., & Kolupanowich N. (September, 2021). SFY21 Annual Report of Evaluation of Integrated Practice Model in Maryland, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).
6. Ahn, H., **Williams, K.**, James, Z., Moeller, E., & McLain I. (July, 2021). Maryland Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Qualitative Focus Group Report, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).
7. Ahn, H., **Leffler, K.**, James, Z., Moeller, E., McLain I., & King N. (February, 2021). Maryland Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Qualitative Focus Group Report, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).
8. Ahn, H., Shaw, T., Gilbert, A., **Leffler, K.**, James, Z., Kolupanowich, N., & Moeller, E. McLain I. (February, 2021). SFY21 Semi-Annual Report of Evaluation of Integrated Practice Model in Maryland, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).

9. Ahn, H., Shaw, T., **Leffler, K.**, Gilbert, A., James, Z., Kolupanowich, N., & Moeller, E. (November, 2020). Annual Report of Evaluation of Integrated Practice Model in Maryland, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).
10. Ahn, H., Shaw, T., DeLisle, D., Gilbert, A., James, Z., Kolupanowich, N., **Leffler, K.**, & Moeller, E. (March, 2020). SFY20 Semi-Annual Report of Evaluation of Family Centered Practice in Maryland, Report submitted to the Maryland Department of Human Services, Social Services Administration (MD DHS/SSA).

Conference Posters & Presentations

1. Ahn, H. A., Wang, Y., & **Williams, K. A.** (2023, January). Impacts of COVID-19 on Social Work Practice through Family Team Decision Meetings (FTDM): A Mixed-Metho Study on the perspectives of Stakeholders in Child Welfare System. Poster session presented at the Society for Social Work and Research, 27th Annual Conference, Pheonix, AZ.
2. Lewis, E. M., Murugan, V., Feely, M., & **Leffler, K.** (2022, January). Quality Parenting Initiative: Engaging Diverse Stakeholders As Champions for Foster Care System Reform. Paper accepted for presentation, changed to Poster session at the Society for Social Work and Research 26th Annual Conference, Washington DC.
3. **Williams, K. A.**, & Ahn, H. (2022, January). Exploring the Intersection of the Child Welfare System and Court. Poster session presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 26th Annual Conference, Washington DC.
4. **Williams, K.A.**, Lewis, E. M., & Feely, M. (2022, January). Foster Parent Engagement in the United States: A Scoping Review. Poster session presented at the Society for Social Work and Research 26th Annual Conference, Washington DC.
5. **Leffler, K. A.** (2020, March). *Individual characteristics associated with colorblind racial attitudes*. Poster session presented at University of Maryland Graduate Research Conference, Baltimore, MD.
6. Brylske, P., Ross, N., & **Leffler, K. A.** (2018, October). *Barriers to implementing TCOM tools*. Presented at the Annual Transformational Outcomes Management (TCOM) Conference, Chicago, IL.
7. Brylske, P., Ross, N., & **Leffler, K. A.** (2017, October). *Implementation of CANS/ARC mapping in intervention planning*. Presented at the Annual Transformational Outcomes Management (TCOM) Conference, San Antonio, TX.
8. St. Jean, N. & **Leffler, K. A.** (2017, July). *Meaningful use of the CANS/ARC mapping tool in treatment of complex trauma*. Presented at the Annual Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) Conference, Chicago, IL.

SERVICE

Profession

Fall 2021 PhD Student Member of Academic Search Committee

Guest Reviewer (Journal)

2021 - Present *Journal of Public Child Welfare*

2022 *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth*

LICENSURE

Maryland

2018 – 2022 Licensed Clinical Social Worker, LCSW-C (#21747)