

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Academic Background

2015 **Ph.D.**, Applied Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, College of Arts & Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
External Concentration: Child Welfare/Mental Health Program Evaluation
Dissertation: *“It Takes Time to Shift Historical Paradigms”: Changes in Structure, Governance, Perception, and Practice During a Decade of Child Welfare Policy Reform in Florida”*

2000 - 2015

**DEPT. OF CHILD & FAMILY STUDIES, LOUIS DE LA PARTE
FLORIDA METAL HEALTH INSTITUTE, TAMPA, FLORIDA.**

Assistant in Research. Principal Investigator and Co- Principal
Investigator roles specific to Florida's IV-

Funded Research

Evaluation of C.A.R.E.S. Program

2024 Role: PI \$100,000.00

In partnership with the Brevard Family Partnership and the Department of Child and Family

Evaluation of the Title IV-E Waiver in Florida, which enables federal funds to be more flexibly spent on preventing children who come into contact with Florida's child welfare system from being placed in out-of-home care. Funded through the Department of Children and Families for the evaluation of Florida's second Waiver term. The evaluation is comprised of four related

role definitions and expectations, and level of physical and behavioral health service integration are in place that are necessary to achieve successful implementation.

Child Welfare Technical Assistance Implementation Center Evaluation

12/15/08 – 9/30/13 Role: Co-PI of Evaluation

Subcontract with American Institutes of Research (AIR) via award from Administration for Children and Families

The Western and Pacific Child Welfare Implementation Center is designed to assist States, Tribes, and Territories to institutionalize principles, policies, and proven or promising practices that they have adopted. The Implementation Center will support child welfare systems in moving from vision and values to changes in organizational culture and practice that are likely to result in sustainable improvements in outcomes for children and families.

Evaluation of Florida's Title IV-E Waiver.

07/01/06 – 03/30/12 Role: PI

Contracted through the Florida Department of Children and Families.

This five year study includes an implementation analysis that will track both the planning process for waiver implementation (Phase One) and the impact of waiver implementation on the state, Community-Based Care lead agencies, provider networks, and local communities (Pittman BT 4.3 ET -4.6 (.91

administrative, and programmatic oversight responsibilities held by the Department of Children and Families to independent entities.

Evaluation of Community-Based Care.

11/21/05 – 06/30/09 Role: PI

Contracted through the Florida Department of Children and Families.

The goal of this three-year study is to provide midcourse policy recommendations to key stakeholders and local communities in order to improve services for children in Florida's child welfare system. This evaluation incorporates a mixed-method approach to investigate the legislatively mandated areas of cost, quality, and outcomes, in addition an organizational analysis of lead agencies and implementation analyses of systemic reform efforts.

Evaluation of Florida's Residential Group Care Programs and Model Comprehensive Residential Services Programs.

11/21/05 – 06/30/09 Role: PI

Cichoki, B. (June, 2023). Evaluation of Implementation to Fidelity of Evidence-Based Services: Final Outcome and Fidelity Evaluation Report. University of South Florida.

Wheeler, C., Forehand, G., **Vargo, A.**, Hardy-Jones, P., Coy, L., Newton-Curtis, L., Yampolskaya, S., Sowell, C., Isvan, N., Hervey, K., Walker, C., Gerber, R., Drobisz, J. & Cichocki, B. (June 2023). Evaluation of Implementation to Fidelity of Evidence-Based Services: Technical Review of Coordination, Advocacy, Resources, Education, and Support (C.A.R.E.S.). University of South Florida.

Wheeler, C., Forehand, G., **Vargo, A.**, Hardy-Jones, P., Coy, L., Newton-Curtis, L., Yampolskaya, S., Sowell, C., Isvan, N., Hervey, K., Walker, C., Gerber, R., Drobisz, J. & Cichocki, B. (June 2023). Evaluation of Implementation to Fidelity of Evidence-Based

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Yampolskaya, S., Newton-Curtis, L., Wheeler, C., Isvan, N., Cichocki, B., Gerber, R. & Hervey, K. (September, 2022). Evaluation of Implementation to Fidelity of Evidence-Based Services: Activity Report #1. University of South Florida.

Vargo, A., Menendez, P., Johnson, M., Coy, L., Shockley, C., Sowell, C., Walker, C., Yampolskaya, S., Newton-Curtis, L., Wheeler, C., Isvan, N., Cichocki, B., Gerber, R. & Hervey, K. (December, 2022). Evaluation of Implementation to Fidelity of Evidence-Based Services: Activity Report #2. University of South Florida.

Abella, A., **Vargo, A.,** Cruz, A., Johnson, M., Massey, O. & von der Embse, N. (2021). *Cross-Site Analysis and Case Study of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation: Semi-Annual Report 1*. University of South Florida.

Vargo, A. (2020). *Implicit Racial Bias in Child Welfare: Identifying, Understanding, and Intervening*. University of South Florida.

Vargo, A., Abella, A. & Cruz, A. (2020). *E-professionalism, Social Media Use, and Technology Standards in Child Welfare: Understanding and Applying NASW's Technology Standards in Day to Day Practice*. University of South Florida.

Vargo, A., Menendez, P., Abella, A., Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. & Dharmasena (2019). *Evaluation of the Florida Child Welfare Pre-Service Training Quarterly Report for the Period 12/21/18 – 3/29/19*. University of South Florida.

Vargo, A., Menendez, P., Abella, A., Coy, L., Thomas, C., Landers, M. & Dharmasena (2019). *Evaluation of the Florida Child Welfare Pre-Service Training Quarterly Report for the Period*

(2017). *Phase 5- Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report Three (10/2016-03/2017)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/Datareports/IVERReport.shtml>

Vargo, A., Armstrong, M., Cruz, A., Johnson, M., Landers, M., Robst, J, & Yampolskaya, S. (2017). *Phase 6- Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report Four (04/2017-09/2017)*. Retrieved from Florida's Center for Child Welfare Website: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/Datareports/IVERReport.shtml>

Davis, Tanana, Vanderloo, West, O'Conner, Hopkins, Armstrong, **Vargo**, Sowell, Johnson, Fluke, Fowles & Poulson (April 2016). *Utah Child Welfare Demonstration Project Semi-Annual Evaluation Report October 1, 2016 to March 30, 2017*. University of Utah.

Study. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

Armstrong, **Vargo**, Sharrock, Robst, Yampolskaya, Johnson & Jordan (April 2015) *Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report One*. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

Davis, Tanana, Vanderloo, West, O'Conner, Hopkins, Harris, Armstrong, **Vargo**, Sowell, Johnson, Fluke, Fowles & Poulson (April 2015). *Utah Child Welfare Demonstration Project Semi-Annual Evaluation Report October 1, 2014 to March 30, 2015*. University of Utah.

Armstrong, **Vargo**, Sharrock, Johnson, Robst, Yampolskaya, Jordan & Landers (May 2015) *Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project Extension Final Evaluation Plan*. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

Sowell, C., Yampolskaya, S., Teague, G., Greeson, M., Hanson, A., McNeish, R. & **Vargo, A.** (June 2015). *Project 19: Child Welfare Specialty Plan Implementation Study*. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

Vargo, Armstrong, Landers, Robst, Yampolskaya, Johnson & Jordan (October 2015) *Florida Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report One*. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

Davis, Tanana, Vanderloo, West, O'Conner, Hopkins, Harris, Armstrong, **Vargo**, Sowell, Johnson, Fluke, Fowles & Poulson (October 2015). *Utah Child Welfare Demonstration Project Semi-Annual Evaluation Report April 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015*. University of Utah.

Vargo, A., Armstrong, M.I., Johnson, M. & Sowell, C. (2014) *Western and Pacific Child Welfare Implementation Center Cross-Implementation Project Synthesis Evaluation Report*. Tampa, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

Armstrong, Johnson, **Vargo**, Landers, Dollard, Haynes & Anderson (2014) *Evaluation of Florida's Children's Mental Health System of Care Expansion Project: Summary Report on Data Colle*6.9 (s) -2.3 ()10.9 (C) sdr9 (C) -6.9 (ar) -2.3 (e) 319 (i) -3 46 0 0 46 342 -1 17. (R) 2.3 (e) 9.2 (por) -2.3

- R., & Yampolskaya, S. (2003, January). *Evaluation of the Florida Department of Children and Families Community-Based Care Initiative*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Armstrong, M., Paulson, R., Brown, E., Jordan, N., Kershaw, M.A., **Vargo, A.**, Whitlock, R., & Yampolskaya, S. (2002, December). *Evaluation Plan of Community-Based Care*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Berson, I. R., **Vargo, A. C.**, Powell, D., Dailey, K., Zheng, Z., & Armstrong, M. (2002, June). *Infant and Toddler Medicaid-Funded Mental Health Services*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Berson, I. R., **Vargo, A. C.**, Roggenbaum, S., & Baker, D. (2002, June). *Mental Health Care for Child Welfare Clients: Final Report*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Paulson, R., Armstrong, M., Brown, E., Jordan, N., Kershaw, M. A., **Vargo, A. C.**, & Yampolskaya, S. (2002, June). *Submission to the Florida Legislature: Evaluation of the Florida Department of Children and Families Community-Based Care Initiative in Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas and Pasco Counties*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Kershaw, M. A., Armstrong, M., **Vargo, A. C.**, & Styles, M. (2002, April). *Quality Service Review (QSR) Implementation Plan*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Berson, I. R., Kershaw, M. A., & **Vargo, A. C.** (2001, December). *Hillsborough Partners Final Report*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Paulson, R., Armstrong, M., **Vargo, A.**, Brown, E., Jordan, N., & Kershaw, M.A. (2001, November). *Evaluation Plan of Community-Based Care*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Yampolskaya, S., & **Vargo, A. C.** (2001, September). *Outcomes for female students enrolled in teen pregnancy prevention programs in Hillsborough County, Florida*. Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.

International & National Presentations

- Vargo, A.** (July, 2023). *It Takes time to Shift Historical Paradigms: Changes in Structure, Governance, Perception, and Practice During a Decade of Child Welfare Reform in the United States*. Paper presentation at the 18th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, England.
- Vargo, A.**, Abella, A., Cruz, A., Johnson, M., Massey, O. & von der Embse, N. (June, 2023). *Implementing School Safety and Mental Health Initiatives During Covid 19: Insights on Trauma and Perseverance*. Poster presentation at the 17th European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies conference, Belfast, Ireland.
- Abella, A., **Vargo, A.** (June, 2023). *Cross Site Analysis of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation*. Virtual presentation for Grantees via the National Center for School Safety at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

- Abella, A., **Vargo, A.**, Cruz, A., Coy, L. Johnson, M., Massey, O. & von der Embse, N. (September, 2023). The Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act of 2018: A Narrated Presentation of Findings. [Research Report | Review 360 articulate.com](#). University of South Florida.
- Abella, A., **Vargo, A.** Johnson, M, Cruz, A., Massey, O. & von der Embse, N. (2022, June). *STOP Program Cross-Site Study Year 1 Survey Results*. Virtual presentation for Grantees via the National Center for School Safety at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.
- Abella, A. & Vargo, A. (2021, June). *Cross-site Analysis of STOP Program Grantee Perspectives on Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program Implementation*. Virtual presentation for Grantees via the National Center for School Safety at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.
- Sharrock, P. & Vargo, A. (2010, June). *Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Youth in Foster Care: Lessons Learned from Foster Parents and Providers*. Paper presentation at APSAC 18th Annual Colloquium, New Orleans, LA.
- Vargo, A. & Sharrock, P. (2009, June). *Coordinating and Integrating Behavioral Health with Child Welfare in Florida: Process and Impact*.

Care Indicators for the Evaluation of Children's Mental Health Services. Paper presentation at the American Evaluation Association National Conference, Denver, C.O.

Yampolskaya, S., Armstrong, M., & Vargo, A. C. (2006, June). *Improving Child Well-Being in*

Orlando, FL

- Vargo, A., Sharrock, P., Robinson, P., Boothroyd, R., Reyes, F., Lardieri, S., Ort, R. & Armstrong, M. (2008, November). *Evaluation of Florida's Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Plan: Rationale, Implementation and Initial Findings*. Poster presentation USF Research One Symposium, Tampa, FL.
- Vargo, A., Sharrock, P., Robinson, P. & Boothroyd, R. (2008, September). *Evaluation of Florida's Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Plan: Year 2 Findings*. Presentation at Annual Agency for Health Care Briefing Session, Tallahassee, FL.
- Romney, S., King-Miller, T., Vargo, A., Armstrong, M., Jordan, N. & Yampolskaya, S. (2007, January). *Implementation and Evaluation of the IV-E Waiver: A Participatory Approach*. Presentation for the Southeastern Evaluators Association (SEA), Tallahassee, FL.
- Yampolskaya, S., King-Miller-T., Romney, S., Vargo, A., Armstrong, M., & Jordan, N. (2007, January). *Report to the Legislature: Evaluation of the Department of Children and Families: Community-Based Care Initiative Fiscal Year 2005-2006*. Presentation for the Southeastern Evaluators Association (SEA), Tallahassee, FL
- Vargo, A. C., Armstrong, M., Jordan, N., Kershaw, M. A., Pedraza, J. & Yampolskaya, S. (2006, January). *Report to the Legislature Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Evaluation of the Department of Children and Families Community-Based Care Initiative*. Presentation for Department of Children and Families and Legislative stakeholders, Tallahassee, FL.
- Vargo, A. C. & Sharrock, P. (2006, September). 2005-2006 Children's Quality of Care Study Briefing. Presentation for Agency for Health Care Administration, Tallahassee, FL
- Armstrong, M. I., Vargo, A. C., Kershaw, M. A., Sharrock, P., Wallace, F. & Yampolskaya, S. (2005, February). *Looking Back and Moving Forward: Critical Factors in Community-Based Care*. Presentation for Juvenile Welfare Board, Clearwater, FL.
- Vargo, A. C. (2005, February). *Foster Care Child Resiliency Study Update*. Presentation for USF Collaborative and local community, Florida Mental Health Institute, Tampa, FL.
- Vargo, A. C. & Sharrock, P. (2005, February).

(2004, January). *Not Just Privatization: Florida's Child Welfare System and Community-Based Care*. Presentation for the 16th Annual Conference of the Southeast Evaluation Association, Tallahassee, FL.

Armstrong, M., Kershaw, M. A., Vargo, A. C., Yampolskaya, S., Paulson, R., & Jordan, N. (2003, November). *Evaluation of the Privatization of Child Welfare in Florida: The Community-Based Care Initiative*. Presentation for the Educational Foundation for the Advancement of Child Welfare Annual Conference: It's in Our Hands: Shaping the Future for Florida's Children, Orlando, FL.

Paulson, R., Armstrong, M., Jordan, N., Yampolskaya, S., Kershaw, M. A., & Vargo, A. C. (2003, November). *Evaluation of the Privatization of Child Welfare in Florida: The Community-Based Care Initiative*. Presentation for the Walker National Center for Professional Development and the National Council on Research in Child Welfare Annual Conference: Tools That Work: Improving Child Welfare Services Through Research, Performance Measurement, and Information Technology, Miami, FL.

Paulson, R., Armstrong, M., Jordan, N., Kershaw, M. A., Vargo, A., & Yampolskaya, S. (2003,

Berson, I. R., Vargo, A. C., Dailey, K., Zheng, Z., & Powell, D. (2003, March). *Medicaid and Part C Services: Funding Mechanisms to Support Interventions for Young Children*. Presentation for the 16th Annual Research Conference: A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base, Tampa, FL.

Berson, I. R., Vargo, A. C., Roggenbaum, S., & Baker, D. (2003, March). *Mental Health Care for Child Welfare Clients*. Poster Presentation for the 16th Annual Research Conference: A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base, Tampa, FL.