

SAMUEL A. STEPHENS, Ph.D.

PROFILE SUMMARY

Senior policy analyst with more than thirty years experience in quantitative and qualitative research, program evaluation, policy and program development and project management. Particular substantive expertise in design and evaluation of early childhood community-based services and community-state system reform strategies; the use of theory of change models and data on services and outcomes to guide program planning and policy development; and strategic planning for program design and governance with community-based and state-level organizations and collaborative groups.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN IN POVERTY, Columbia University
Director, Child Care & Early Education Research Connections 2014 - Present

CENTER FOR ASSESSMENT AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT 1991 - Present
Vice President, Senior Policy Analyst

Project evaluator for the Talk/Read/Succeed!, a family-oriented early literacy initiative in Springfield, Massachusetts, focusing on success in developing community-school partnerships, family engagement, and implementation of successful programs for children, parents, and families.

Evaluation partner with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for its Accelerate Success initiative, with Patricia Patrizi and Bernard McMullan.

Consultant for assessment of stakeholder perceptions and feedback for family foundation in Massachusetts.

Evaluator for the United Way of Pioneer Valley (Massachusetts) for its Community Impact grants in education.

Evaluation consultant to Childspace Community Development Inc., assisting in the development of outcome measures for its work mobilizing and developing leadership among child care providers in Philadelphia.

Consultant and facilitator to the QRIS Committee of Connecticut's Early Childhood Cabinet on the development of indicators of quality in early care and education programs.

Developer and analyst for a tool to measure state legislative interest and support for early childhood policy in Connecticut.

Project director for independent Environmental Rating Scale and CLASS assessments in the New York State quality rating and improvement system, QUALITYstarsNY.

Lead evaluator for retrospective assessment of the ten-year investment by a major national funder in early childhood education advocacy.

BUILD Initiative evaluator for New Jersey and New York State, providing state-specific information on the development of early childhood systems within a multi-state initiative.

Project evaluator for PlayNet, a project of the Brooklyn Children's Museum to strengthen the understanding of the critical role of play in young children's development and how to enhance children's play opportunities among Museum staff, family visitors, and community partners.

Project director and co-principal investigator for the evaluation of the field test of New York State's quality rating and improvement system (QUALITYstarsNY), including assessment of the validity and reliability of the QRIS standards and rating procedures, implementation procedures, and cost implications at full-scale.

Project director and principal investigator for an evaluation of a multi-community, multi-year initiative in Connecticut intended to improve child care and early education infrastructure and children's school readiness and early school success.

Strategic planning consultant and facilitator for the New York City Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium, the New York State Early Care and Learning Council (formerly the Child Care Coordinating Council), and the Winning Beginning New York advocacy coalition.

Strategic planning consultant and evaluator for Quality New York, a multi-organization project providing accreditation facilitation support to early care and education programs in New York City.

Program development consultant and evaluator for Independent School District 518 in Worthington MN on its 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool programs and its parent education and involvement strategies.

Co-evaluator of Philadelphia's KidZone, a comprehensive community initiative currently based in northwest Philadelphia.

Project director for a results-oriented evaluation of a multi-funder initiative to improve the supply and quality of child care and early education in New York City, with particular emphasis on system and policy change.

Consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation on early child development and school readiness.

Technical consultant on outcomes measurement for the United Way of America and its Success by Six communities.

Consultant and facilitator to the Results Work Group of the Maryland Systems Reform Initiative Transition Team, assisting in the identification and recommendation of an initial set of outcome indicators for children, families and communities. Later, facilitator for the State of Maryland in developing Results

indicators in the areas of communities supporting family life and youth development in preparation for adulthood.

Planner for Philadelphia School Readiness Project, with specific responsibility for developing the conceptual framework and measurement strategy, and co-author of general community guide for assessing and improving school readiness outcomes.

Consultant to the DataCONNECTIONS Project in Connecticut on identifying measures and data sources for developing state-level indicators and a research agenda around early childhood issues, and on the development of data, including survey data, on child care supply and demand.

Consultant to the New Hampshire Kids Cabinet on the evaluability of two comprehensive early education programs in the state.

Consultant to the William Penn Foundation on strategic planning and investment strategies in the area of early childhood development, with particular emphasis on child care supply and quality and family support, including home visiting.

Evaluation consultant to the Nobles County Family Connections Collaborative on various family support projects.

Member of team developing tools and resources to support evaluation of community collaboratives pursuing strategies to achieve racial justice and equity. (See www.racialequitytools.org.)

Member of evaluation team assessing progress and success and compiling lessons learned from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's States Initiative for family support.

Consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation in support of the Neighborhood Transformation/Family Development Making Connections Initiative in several areas: strategic planning for work in Providence RI; development of family strengthening technical assistance; community guide for documenting school readiness indicators and selecting effective early childhood strategies; operations manual for second phase of Initiative; review of other foundations interested in early childhood issues; researching the links between foster care and early childhood development.

Director of an opportunity study for the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, inventorying various state-wide and local community efforts in Connecticut collecting data on child outcomes and analyzing the experiences in other states for lessons learned that might be applied to Connecticut. Consultant on the development of community and state-level indicators of school readiness and other children and family outcomes in the communities participating in the Memorial Fund's Children First Initiative.

Consultant to various groups and organizations on using a "theory of change" approach to planning and evaluation, including community collaboratives and initiatives in Connecticut, Minnesota, New York City, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and West Virginia.

Senior consultant for CAPD's evaluation technical assistance to Counseling for Caregivers, a program of the Philadelphia Geriatric Center, assisting family members providing care for infirm or disabled elderly

persons; CAPD's evaluation of Philadelphia's Crisis Nursery Center, looking at benefits to children and families, and the larger service community; and CAPD's evaluation of Philadelphia's Community Services Network, a pilot program using the Internet to link community-based service providers in support of improved family information and access to services.

Director of project to assist the Office of Community Family Centers, City of Philadelphia, in developing infrastructure and staff capacity to design, implement and use evaluation as a tool in policy development and program planning, and to conduct an evaluation of family center/family service system reform work.

Team leader for intermediary work with sites on community-foundation collaborative design work for the W. K. Kellogg Pre-birth through Age Three Initiative, a major multi-year effort to strengthen community capacity to promote the health and development of young children in nine sites in the Midwest Great Lakes Region.

Consultant on community collaborative strategic planning and evaluation with Cass County/Leech Lake Reservation (MN) Children's Initiative and Nobles County and Rock County (MN) Family Service Collaboratives.

Director of two evaluations of Maryland's family support centers, one to identify benefits to children and families participating in the centers and the other to determine the organizational and operational issues related to providing a home-based parent education program through family centers.

Project director for School-Based Initiative for Adolescent Parents and Their Young Children, a multi-site effort to assist communities implementing broad-scale comprehensive school-based programs for teen parents and their children.

Director of project to develop research- and practice-based strategies for youth violence and crime prevention in a mid-sized northeastern city.

Technical assistance provider to planning teams to facilitate development of community strategies for adolescent pregnancy prevention efforts in several communities in Colorado and to teams in various communities in Minnesota on comprehensive services for children and their families.

Project manager and site liaison for foundation-supported initiative designed to implement a comprehensive system of services for children and their families through the reconfiguration of state and local funding streams, policies and programs in five states.

MATHEMATICA POLICY RESEARCH, INC.

1980 - 1991

Senior Survey Researcher

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, Bloomington IN

1976 - 1980

Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan – MA, PhD, Sociology, 1977

Reed College, Portland, Oregon – BA, Sociology and Psychology, 1970

REPORTS, PAPERS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Available upon Request

REPORTS, PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Supporting Parent Engagement in Linguistically Diverse Families to Promote Young Children’s Learning: Implications for Early Care and Education Policy.” With Sandra Barrueco and Sheila Smith. Child Care and Early Education Research Connections, National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University. July 2015.

“Community-Level Challenges in Implementing a Mixed-Delivery Prekindergarten System: A Brief Review of Research and Field Experience.” Center for Children’s Initiatives. June 2014. See <http://www.centerforchildrensinitiatives.org/images/2014/FINAL%20SAM%20PAPER%208-7-14.pdf>

“Research Rationale and Supporting Evidence for Standards Typically Included in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems.” May 2014.

“Community Collaboration And Family Engagement As Transformative Factors In An Early Literacy Initiative: Evaluation Of Initial Phase Of Talk/Read/Succeed!, Mid-2010 To Mid-2012.” 2012.

“Supporting Young Children’s Play: PlayNet at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, 2010-2012, Phases III & IV, Evaluation Report.” 2012.

“Supplemental Report to 2008 Child Care Needs Assessment: Immigration.” NYC Child Care Resource & Referral Consortium. 2012.

“QUALITYstarsNY: Field Test Evaluation Report.” New York State Early Childhood Advisory Council. With J. Lee Kreader, Sheila Smith, and Lisa McCabe. April 2011. Also available: “Field Test Evaluation Report Executive Summary” and “Report Appendices A-N.” See www.qualitystarsny.org/index.php?pg=fieldTest.

“The Discovery Initiative: 2004-2009, Final Summative Report.” With Donna Studdiford. 2011. See <http://discovery.wcgmf.org/resources/discovery-initiative-2004-2009-final-summative-evaluation-report>.

“Discovery Initiative Contributions to State Policy Change.” With Donna Studdiford. 2011. See

“Kindergarten Transition Practices: Changing “The Way We Do Things Here” in Discovery Communities.” With Donna Studdiford. 2011. See <http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/FINAL%20KT%20Report.pdf>.

“Navigating the “Perfect Storm”: Moving From Plan to Action during an Economic Downturn, The Experiences of Four Discovery Communities That Received 2008-2009 Partnership Planning Grants.” With Donna Studdiford. 2011. See http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/Planning_Community_Paper_final%20to%20post.pdf.

“Supporting Community Change: Lessons from the Discovery Initiative on the Role and Contributions of Community Liaisons.” 2011. See <http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/Liaison%20Evaluation%20Paper%20final%20to%20post.pdf>.

“Collaborative Groups, Collaborative Chairs, and Community Coordinators in the Discovery Initiative as of Mid-2007.” 2011. See <http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/COLLABORATIVE%20STUDY%20%20Final%20to%20post.pdf>.

“Quality New York: Assessment of Contributions to Program Improvement in Early Care and Education Programs in New York City.” August 2009.

“The Discovery Initiative: 2004-2007, Interim Summative Evaluation Report.” With Donna Studdiford. March 2009. See http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/sps_resource_1224.pdf,

“Supporting Improvement in Early Childhood Programs: QNY’s Approach.” Summer 2008.

“Summary of Evaluation Findings to Date, Linked with the Discovery Initiative Theory of Change.” 2008. See http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/sps_resource_1157.pdf.

“Community Use of Capacity-Building Supports as of Mid-2007.” April 2008. See http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/sps_resource_1158.pdf.

“Collaborative Agents in the Discovery Initiative.” February 2008. See http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/sps_resource_1159.pdf.

“Community Reports of Changes in Discovery Objectives: Preliminary Observations on ‘The 50th Community’.” June 2007. See http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/sps_resource_1162.pdf,

“Collaborative Infrastructure, Collaboration, & Parent Participation in Discovery Communities.” February 2007. See <http://discovery.wcgmf.org/sites/default/files/resources/COLLABORATIVE%20STUDY%20%20Final%20to%20post.pdf>.

“Quality Preschool: Quality Rating System, Establishment of a Quality Rating System for Connecticut’s Early Care and Education Programs and Providers.” Policy Brief Prepared For the Connecticut Early Childhood Research & Policy Council. November 5, 2006.

“Evaluation Findings: Focus on 2005-2006, Worthington, Minnesota 21st Century Community Learning Center.” November 13, 2006.

“Outcomes for Children, Families And Community: Trends, Opportunities, Challenges, Best Practices.” Report for the Nobles County Minnesota Family Connections Collaborative. May 2006.

“Making the Case for Supporting Accreditation as a Strategy for Improving the Success of NYC’s Young Children as They Prepare for and Enter School.” May 2006.

“An Evaluation of the Child Care and Early Education Fund of New York City, Mid-2004 through 2005: Summative Report.” February 2006.

“Observation Tools: Classroom Environment and Practices Related to Educational Achievement and Equity.” 2005-2006.

“Evaluation Findings: Worthington MN 21st Century Community Learning Center, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.” December 2005.

“An Evaluation of the Child Care and Early Education Fund of New York City: Mid-2004 through 2005.” December 2005.

“An Assessment of the Family Advocate Program during the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 School Years, Nobles County MN Family Service Collaborative.” September 2005.

“Brief Review of Research Evidence related to Effectiveness of Parent-Child Programs in Improving Child Outcomes.” Prepared for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. July 2005.

“Assessment of the Family Advocate Program during the 2003-2004 School Year, Nobles County MN Family Service Collaborative.” June 2005.

“Evaluation Tools for Racial Equity” web site (www.evaluationtoolsforracialequity.org). Site launched in April 2005.

“Evaluation Findings: Worthington MN 21st Century Community Learning Center, 2003-2004.” December 2004.

“An Evaluation of the Child Care and Early Education Fund of New York City: Mid-2003 through Mid-2004.” October 2004.

“Final Assessment of Family Support America’s STATES Initiative.” With Davido Dupree and others. The University of Pennsylvania. January 2004.

“An Evaluation of the Child Care and Early Education Fund of New York City: 2001-2003.” September 2003.

“Connecticut Child Outcomes Opportunity Study: Findings, Inventory of Current Connecticut Projects and Summary of Outcomes Work in Eleven Other States.” With Laura Downs, Cornerstone Consulting Group. January 2001.

“Evaluation of the Sally Watson Crisis Nursery and Respite Care Center.” November 2000 (with Jennifer Zapf).

“Getting Results -- 2000 and Beyond: Local Planning and Evaluation,” a presentation at the Annual Conference for the West Virginia Family Resource Networks. Charleston WVA, March 6, 2000.

“Given the Nature of Family Centers, How Can We Craft a Meaningful Evaluation?” (Issue Brief). February 2000.

“Applying CAPD’s School Readiness Approach in Work with Communities in Connecticut” (Issue Brief). Bala Cynwyd, PA. Center for Assessment and Policy Development, December 1999.

“Some Emerging Lessons on Child Assessment in Early Education” (Issue Brief). November 30, 1999.

“New Models of Community-Foundation Partnerships: Lessons from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Pre-Birth Through Age Three Initiative.” With S. Leiderman. September 1999.

“Some Issues to Consider in Results-Based Contracting with Service Providers” (Issue Brief). September 1999.

“Improving Outcomes for Teen Parents and Their Young Children by Strengthening School-Based Programs: Challenges, Solutions and Policy Implications.” With W. C. Wolf and S. T. Batten. April 1999.

“The Results-Oriented Evaluation of Maryland’s Family Support Centers: Final Report.” With Salvatore Saporito, Maria Boccuti and Bonita Stowell. May 1998

“Evaluation of the PAT Home Visiting Program: Final Report.” With Peter York, Maria Boccuti, Salvatore Saporito, Bonita Stowell and Raj Thadani. April 6, 1998.

- “Recommended Results Indicators of Child and Family Well-Being of the Systems Reform Results Workgroup.” With J. A. Zapf. To be published by the State of Maryland. April 1998.
- “Learnings from the 1996-97 Outcome-Based Initiatives of the Philadelphia Family Centers: A Reflection on the Work.” With D. Dupree and E. Gill. March 1998.
- “Making the Case for School Readiness: A Report to The Mayor’s Cabinet on Children and Families” (draft). Philadelphia, PA: The Philadelphia School Readiness Project, October 1996 (sections on current indicators prepared as consultant to the project).
- “Measuring and Tracking School Readiness Indicators, with an Example: Investigation and Recommendations for Initial Indicators in Philadelphia” (Issue Brief) January 1996.
- “Fostering School Readiness: Recommendations to the Philadelphia School Readiness Project.” With S. Batten and S. Leiderman. 1996.
- “CAPD’s Approach to Defining and Measuring School Readiness” (Issue Brief). Fall 1995.
- “Where Students with Emotional or Behavior Problems Go to School.” With K. C. Lakin. Chapter in Issues in the Educational Placement of Pupils with Emotional or Behavioral Disorders, edited by James M. Kauffman and John Wills Lloyd, Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1995.
- “Building Capacity for System Reform.” With S. Leiderman, W. C. Wolf, and P T. McCarthy. 1994.
- “School-Based Programs for Adolescent Parents and Their Young Children: Overcoming Barriers and Challenges to Implementing Comprehensive School-Based Services.” With C. L. Sipe, S. T. Batten, and W. C. Wolf. 1994.
- “Evaluation Challenges in the Assessment of Long-Term Saturation Initiatives: The Children's Initiative.” With W. C. Wolf. Presented at the 1993 APPAM annual meetings in Washington, DC. Bala Cynwyd, PA: Center for Assessment and Policy Development, 1993.
- “The Children's Initiative: Making Systems Work, A Design Document for the Pew Charitable Trusts.” With S. Leiderman, E. Reveal, A. Rosewater, and W. C. Wolf. November 1991.
- “Designing a National Survey of Persons with Developmental Disabilities.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Lancaster, PA, May 1990.
- “Final Report for the Study of Programs of Instruction for Handicapped Children and Youth in Day and Residential Facilities: Volume I (Overview), Volume II (Current Status and Changes in separate Facilities for Students with Handicaps), Volume III (State Education Agency Procedures and Educational Practice at Separate Facilities for Students with Handicaps), Volume IV (Survey Instruments and Materials), and Volume V (Editing, Coding, and Data Tape Specifications).” With K. C. Lakin, M. Braun, Fran O’Reilly, and others. Mathematica Policy Research, January 31, 1990.