



**Social Welfare Coordinating Group (SWCG)
Report to the Steering Group
October 2008**

Status of Reviews, Protocols, and Titles (see attached report for details)

To date, the SWCG has entertained 82 distinct titles for C2 reviews in the fields of social welfare. We have received multiple documents for most of these titles. 27 reviews are complete, and 12 are underway. 17 protocols are in progress, as are 9 new titles. 17 titles are inactive. (Titles and author lines are attached.)

The Cochrane/Campbell Developmental, Psychosocial, and Learning Problems Group (CDPLPG) is responsible for editorial work on 25 of the completed titles, 6 approved protocols, and 7 approved titles. While most of these (38) reviews were initiated in Cochrane by CDPLPG on behalf of both Collaborations, 7 originated in C2 and were referred to CDPLPG.

Three SWCG reviews were co-registered with other Cochrane groups (EPOC, Drugs and Alcohol, Dementia) and one SWCG review will soon be co-registered with the Cochrane Public Health Group. In addition, we share several titles with the C2 Education and/or Crime and Justice groups.

Sources of Support

Initial requests for C2 funding were received from five review teams. To date, only one of these teams made a full application for (and received) C2 funds. It is our sense that other review teams need funding to complete their reviews, but have competing obligations. The authors' lack of time appears to be a major hurdle for these reviews.

The Nordic Campbell Center (NC2) provides small grants and in-kind support (research assistance) to C2 review teams. NC2 have supported 11 completed SWCG reviews, 9 approved protocols, and 7 approved titles). NC2 also hosts the SWCG Coordinator.

Norwegian Knowledge Center for the Health Services has supported 4 SWCG reviews and hosts the SWCG Trial Search Coordinator

University of Toronto is supporting 4 registered SWCG reviews.

IMS Sweden is supporting 2 SWCG reviews.

In July 2008 Julia Littell met with the Director and staff of the U.S. National Institutes for Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR). In 2006 OBSSR set aside \$250,000 in funding for C2, but this was never delivered. We are hoping to get some C2-related project into the OBSSR budget for 2009. OBSSR is interested in rapid evidence assessment and the SWCG would be happy to pilot test a rapid C2 review; that is, a review that adheres to all steps and policies related to C2 reviews, has the full support of the C2 editorial staff, is fully staffed and fully funded at the outset, and is produced in a 6-month period. (NICE are interested in the idea of rapid Cochrane/C2 reviews as well.)

Other News

After the adoption of the C2 Plan of Governance, we drafted and distributed a Governance Plan for the SWCG. This aims to insure that the group functions in accordance with the larger C2 plan and it incorporates decisions made by the SWCG on membership, elections, editorial processes, and the editorial board. The draft SWCG Plan has been out for comments since late July. We will soon ask our members to approve/amend the Plan.

We will soon hold an electronic election for new Co-chair. We think that geographic diversity is an important consideration in this respect. Since the incoming Co-chair will work with Aron Shlonsky, who is based in Canada, we hope that she will represent a continent other than North America.

The Editorial Board initiated an awards program. The first award will be named for Leonard Gibbs. It will be awarded to the first author of a systematic review that contributes to evidence-based practice in social work. Once the Editorial Board have approved the title and description of this award, we will announce it and invite contributions (we already have some pledged contributions). One suggested name for the award is 'The Leonard Gibbs award for outstanding contribution to evidence-based practice in social work'. This would allow for other awards both within social work and the other arms of C2. The first Leonard Gibbs Award will be given at the C2 colloquium in May 2009. We expect it to cover the recipient's travel expenses and colloquium registration fees. We hope that it will also include a modest cash award.

In May 2008 the SWCG began a pilot test of interest groups in order to engage more people in the identification of burning questions, potential reviewers, and possible funding sources. There was much enthusiasm for this in Vancouver, but so far only three groups have made any real progress (that we know of) and of these only one has much news to report in one. The Gerontology group did an initial outreach for members. The LIMC (Low and Middle Income Countries) group have had further internal correspondence. Most of the real news comes from the child welfare interest group. (We will soon contact and encourage other group leaders.)

On behalf of the child welfare interest group, Aron Shlonsky met with Trudy Festinger and Judy Rycus and the group decided to do a scoping review, in anticipation of asking academics and practitioners/policy makers to identify 'burning topics'. Aron received a small grant to do the scoping. Karianne Hammerstrøm assisted on the search strategy and the group are now about half-way through the initial screen. The child welfare group are currently making plans to

contact people to obtain their list of questions.

We have a number of reviews in progress in child welfare. Each of these review teams are likely to do some handsearching, and there could be considerable overlap and duplication of effort. As a result, Jane Dennis proposed and Aron Shlonsky is developing a project to do handsearching of five top journals in the field (Child Welfare, Social Service Review, Child Abuse & Neglect, Child Maltreatment, Children and Youth Services Review). In addition to University of Toronto staff, the handsearching team has assistance from a volunteer (library scientist) in Virginia and a research assistant from NC2. The team are searching for RCTs, certain QEDs (parallel cohort designs), and validation of diagnostic/prognostic instruments related to prevention, prediction, or treatment of child maltreatment. Results will be circulated to relevant review teams and sent to the Cochrane CENTRAL register.

The SWCG is developing more explicit procedures for co-registration of reviews with Cochrane. Co-registration occurs in one of two ways: First, there is a streamlined process; this applies to reviews that go through the CDPLPG (since the group is registered in both Collaborations and has worked out a smooth process that fulfills requirements of both). For authors who are interested in co-registration and have titles that fit in the scope of CDPLPG, we encourage registration in CDPLPG. Second, there is a negotiated co-registration process with other groups; to date these negotiations have resulted in a consistent approach – identification of a single editorial stream that will serve both Collaborations -- but the process often needs to be modified depending on when (at what stage in the review process) co-registration occurs. This week we expect to finalize the co-registration of an almost-completed review with the new Cochrane Public Health review group. Jane Dennis and Krystyna Kowalski are identifying essential issues that have to be addressed in order for C2 titles to be registered in Cochrane groups other than CDPLPG (e.g., use of RevMan5 is mandatory for these reviews).

Krystyna Kowalski is working on a start-up pack for review authors. Soon after a title is accepted, the Coordinator will send this start-up pack to authors. The pack start-up pack will be in the form of an email message with hyperlinks to documents on the C2, SWCG, and Cochrane websites and will further solidify decisions we've made to streamline the editorial review process.

Recent Presentations

Littell, J. H. "Systematic reviews: Credible evidence for policy and practice." Three one-day workshops sponsored by the New Zealand Ministry for Youth Development, Wellington, Christchurch, and Auckland, New Zealand, 24, 26, and 30 June 2008.

Littell, J. H., & Campbell, M. "Systematic reviews and meta-analysis." Two-day workshop at the Institute for Advancement of Social Work Research, Washington, DC, 7-8 July 2008.

Upcoming Presentations

Aron Shlonsky and Jeff Valentine are organizing a C2 training to be held in Toronto on 20-21 November 2008. Trainers will be Terri Pigott and Julia Littell. Betsy Becker will provide individual technical assistance to review authors.

Aron will be conducting a faculty development institute at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (a US national conference) that introduces an interactive evidence-based practice (EBP) curriculum development tool described below.

We will do our annual introduction to C2, systematic reviews, and the SWCG at the conference of the Society for Social Work and Research in New Orleans in January 2009.

Related activities

Aron has been involved in developing an interactive evidence-based practice (EBP) curriculum development tool on CD-ROM. The CD explains EBP from philosophy and question to search and evaluation. It also has sections on applying evidence in both the practice and policy contexts. The tool is being used by individual educators wishing to infuse their classroom syllabi with EBP principles and procedures. As well, some schools of social work have begun to use the tool to restructure their entire curriculum. The curriculum was funded through a grant, and C2 might think about using such an approach to develop SR training (i.e., obtain a grant to develop interactive training tools).

Julia serves on the U.S. National Board for Education Sciences panel to evaluate the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC). This group is charged with assessing the scientific validity of the WWC's evidence review process and reports.

**Social Welfare Coordinating Group (SWCG)
Status of Titles, Protocols, and Reviews as of 30 Sept 2008**

Summary

Published Reviews: 27

Published in C2-Library: 27

Update in progress or due soon: 11

Reviews in Progress: 12

Reviews submitted: 6

Under revision with external critiques complete: 4

Under revision with one external critique complete: 1

Under review/revision before seeking external readers: 1

Protocols approved, reviews not yet submitted: 6

Protocols in Progress: 17

Protocols submitted: 8

Under revision with external and methods critiques complete: 1

Under revision with external critiques completed: 1

Under review by external readers and methods group: 0

Under review/revision before seeking external readers: 6

Titles approved, protocols not yet submitted: 9

Titles in Progress: 9

Titles submitted: 7

Under revision with internal critique completed: 5

Under internal review: 1

New titles under discussion: 3

Inactive Titles: 17

Referred to other groups: 1

Withdrawn by authors: 6

Stalled (no active authors): 4

Rejected by editors: 6

Total SWCG Titles: 82

Titles, protocols and reviews completed, in progress or inactive.

27 Completed reviews

Published in C2-Library

- 1. Work programmes for welfare recipients (SW2004/6)**
Geir Smedslund, Kare Birger Hagen, Asbjorn Steiro, Torill Johme, Therese Kristine Dalsbo, Mons Georg Rud
- 2. Interventions Intended to Reduce Pregnancy-Related Outcomes Among Adolescents (SW2003/2)**
Lauren Scher, Matthew Stagner, Rebecca Maynard
- 3. Cognitive-behavioural interventions for children who have been sexually abused**
Geraldine Macdonald , P Ramchandani, Julian Higgins
- 4. Cognitive behavioural therapy for men who physically abuse their female partner**
Geir Smedslund, Therese Dalsbø, Asbjørn Steiro, Aina Winsvold, Jocelyn Aas
- 5. School-based education programmes for the prevention of child sexual abuse**
Karen Zwi, Sue Woolfenden, Danielle Wheeler, Tracey O'Brien, Paul Tait, Katarina Williams
- 6. School feeding for improving the physical and psychosocial health of disadvantaged elementary school children**
Elizabeth Kristjansson, Vivian Robinson, Mark Petticrew, Barbara Macdonald, Julia Krasevec, Laura Janzen, Tricia Greenhalgh, George Wells, Jessie MacGowan, Anna Farmer, Beverly Shea, Alan Mayhew, Peter Tugwell
- 7. Treatment Foster Care for improving outcomes in children and young people**
Geraldine Macdonald, William Turner
- 8. Personal assistance for older adults (65+) without dementia, but with impairments**
Evan Mayo-Wilson, Paul Montgomery, Jane Dennis
- 9. Financial benefits for child health and well-being in low income or socially disadvantaged families in developed world countries**
Patricia Lucas, Sandra Dowling, Carol Joughin, Gabriella Laing, Karen McIntosh, Julia Newbury, Mark Petticrew, Alan Shiell, Helen Roberts
- 10. Cognitive-behavioural interventions for preventing youth gang involvement for children and young people (7-16)**
Herrick Fisher, Paul Montgomery, Frances Gardner
- 11. Opportunities provision for preventing youth gang involvement for children and young people (7-16)**
Herrick Fisher, Paul Montgomery, Frances Gardner

- 12. Personal assistance for children and adolescents (0-18) with intellectual impairments**
Evan Mayo-Wilson, Paul Montgomery, Jane Dennis
- 13. Personal assistance for children and adolescents (0-18) with physical impairments**
Evan Mayo-Wilson, Paul Montgomery, Jane Dennis
- 14. Personal assistance for children and adolescents (0-18) with both physical and intellectual impairments**
Evan Mayo-Wilson, Paul Montgomery, Jane Dennis
- 15. Personal assistance for adults (19-64) with physical impairments**
Evan Mayo-Wilson, Paul Montgomery, Jane Dennis
- 16. Personal assistance for adults (19-64) with both physical and intellectual impairments**
Evan Mayo-Wilson, Paul Montgomery, Jane Dennis

Published in C2-Library, update in progress or due soon

- 17. Behavioural and cognitive behavioural training interventions for assisting foster carers in the management of difficult behaviour**
William Turner, Geraldine Macdonald, Jane Dennis
- 18. Independent living programmes for improving outcomes for young people leaving the care system**
Charles Donkoh, Kristen Underhill, Paul Montgomery
- 19. Multisystemic therapy for social, emotional, and behavioral problems in children and adolescents aged 10-17**
Julia H. Littell, Melanie Popa, Burnee' Forsythe (author line on update: Julia H. Littell, Margo Campbell, Stacy Green, Barb Toews)
- 20. Exercise to improve self-esteem in children and young people**
Eilin Ekeland, Frode Heian, Kåre Birger Hagen, Jo Abbott, Lena Nordheim
- 21. Individual and group based parenting for improving psychosocial outcomes for teenage parents and their children**
Esther Coren, Jane Barlow
- 22. Interventions for learning disabled sex offenders**
Lorraine Ashman, Lorna Duggan
- 23. Family and parenting interventions in children and adolescents with conduct disorder and delinquency aged 10-17**

Katrina Williams, Sue Woolfenden

24. Group based parent-training programmes for improving emotional and behavioural adjustment in 0-3 year old children

Jane Barlow, Jacqueline Parsons

25. Parent-training programmes for improving maternal psychosocial health

Jane Barlow, Sarah Stewart-Brown, Esther Coren

26. Speech and language therapy interventions for children with primary speech and language delay or disorder

James Law, Zoe Garrett, Chad Nye

27. Cognitive-Behavioral treatment for antisocial behavior in youth in residential treatment

Bengt-Ake Armelius, Tore Henning Andreassen

12 Reviews in Progress

Being revised with external critiques complete

1. Families and Schools Together (FAST) for improving social, psychological, and educational outcomes in children of age 4-13 and their families

Chad Nye, Haluk Soydan, Celia Almeida, Salvadore Chacon-Moscoso, Julio Sanches-Meca, Jane Dennis

2. Threat of Compulsory Participation in Active Labour Market Programmes for the Unemployed (SW2004/7)

Peter Jensen, Nils Henning Bjørn, Lars Pico Geerden

3. Case Management for Substance Use Disorders (SW2005/5)

Morten Hesse, Wouter Vanderplasschen, Eric Broekaert, Mats Fridell and Richard Rapp

4. Kinship Care for the Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being of Children Removed from the Home for Maltreatment

Mark Winokur, Deobrah Valentine and Amy Holtan

Being revised with one external critique complete

5. Home visits for prevention of impairment and death in elderly people (SW2006/3)

Jennifer Burton, Paul Montgomery, Evan Mayo-Wilson, Kristin Underhill, Camilla Thorgaard

Being revised/reviewed before seeking external readers

- 6. Health and social impacts on residents following housing improvement (SW2004/4)**
Hilary Thomson, Mark Petticrew, Eva Selstrøm

Protocol approved, review not yet submitted

- 7. Home based support for socially disadvantaged mothers**
Geraldine Macdonald, Cathy Bennett, Jane Dennis, possibly others
- 8. Interventions for the prevention of relationship and dating violence in adolescents and young people**
Joanne Nurse, Shakiba Habibula, Dinesh Sethi
- 9. Mass media interventions for influencing the use of health services (SW2006/2)**
Miranda Cumpston, Jill Hayden, J Grilli, C Ramsay
- 10. Functional Family Therapy**
Julia Littell, Arild Bjørndal, Aina Winsvold, Karianne Hammerstrøm
- 11. Risk of child maltreatment: A systematic review of the predictive validity of instruments (SW2006/1)**
Aron Shlonsky, Mike Saini, Ulla Jergeby
- 12. Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy For Parents Who Have Physically Abused Their**
Mogens Nygaard Christoffersen, Diane DePanifilis, Jacqueline Corcoran, Clara Daining, Pricilla Ryder

17 Protocols in Progress

Being revised with external and methods critiques complete

- 1. A systematic review of interventions to reduce distress in adult victims of sexual violence and rape (SW2006/8).**
Cheryl Regehr, Ramona Alaggia, Michael Saini

External critiques complete, methods critique will be sought after revision

- 2. Mentoring to prevent tobacco use by children and adolescents (SW2006/5)**
Roger Thomas, Eileen Schmidt, Diane Lorenzetti, Karen Smith, Wendy Spragins

Under review by methods group and external readers

Being revised/reviewed before seeking external critiques

3. **The effects of early childhood educational programmes (ECE) on the socio-emotional development and school achievement of children disadvantaged by poverty (SW2004/11)**
Greg Brooks, Bente Jensen, Mogens Nygaard Christoffersen
4. **Effects of school-based cognitive-behavioral anger interventions on child and adolescent aggressive behavior (SW2007/1)**
Julia Lavenberg, Sandra J. Wilson, Herbert M. Turner, Anthony Petrosino, Martin Olsson
5. **Home based, parent mediated, early educational intervention for children with, or biologically at risk of developmental disability**
Jill M Ellis, Miriam Wüst.
6. **Parent training for ADHD**
Morris Zwi, Ann York, Camilla Thorgaard
7. **Interventions for the secondary prevention and treatment of emotional abuse of children by primary carers**
Anita Schrader McMillan, Sarah Stewart-Brown, Yvonne Carter, Jane Barlow, Moli Paul, Peter Sidebotham, Geraldine MacDonald
8. **Effectiveness of Interviewing Skills Training (SW2006/7)**
Marion Bogo, Glenn Regehr, Cheryl Regehr, Michael Saini

Title approved, protocol not yet submitted:

9. **Family group conferences for children at risk of abuse and neglect (SW2005/1)**
Aron Shlonsky, Kate Schumaker, David Crampton, Charlene Cook, Elisabeth Backe-Hansen, Krystyna Kowalski.
10. **Mentoring to prevent use of illegal drugs and alcohol by children and adolescents (SW2006/6)**
Roger Thomas, Eileen Schmidt, Diane Lorenzetti, Karen Smith, Wendy Spragins
11. **HIV/AIDS Education for Knowledge and Attitude Change, Sexual Behavior Change, and Reducing HIV/AIDS Incidence in Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa (SW2007/2)**
Rebecca Maynard, Clarisse Haxton, David Seidenfeld
12. **Preschool feeding programmes for improving the health of disadvantaged infants and young children**
Elizabeth Kristjansson, Mark Pettigrew, Julia Krasevec, George Wells, Vivian Robinson, Trisha Greenhalgh, Peter Tugwell, Laura Janzen, Beverly Shea, Alan Mayhew
13. **Housing program, including case management, for reducing homelessness and increasing residential stability for homeless people (SW2008/3)**

Sten Antilla, Lars Benjaminsen; Mats Blid, Agentia Brolund, Lars Brännström Maja Frederiksson & Siobhan Reilly.

14. Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for reducing antisocial behaviour in adolescents and adults. (SW2008/5)

Catrine Kaunitz, Geir Smedslund, Anna-Karin Andershed, Lars Brännström & Marie Nyström

15. Empowerment-based Positive Youth Development interventions for improving self-efficacy and positive connections for youth and adolescents (10-24) in any location. (SW2008/5)

Matthew Morton & Dr. Paul Montgomery

16. Does Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Reduce Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Combat Veterans?EMDR (SW 2008/7)

David L. Albright, Bruce Thyer, Betsy J. Becker & Allen Rubin

17. Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction programs for improving health and wellbeing (SW2008/6)

Michael de Vibe & Arild Bjørndal

9 Titles in Progress

Under revision after internal review

1. Engagement of Women and Communities of Color in HIV Vaccine Trials: A Systematic Review (SW2007/5)

Peter A. Newman, Michael Saini and Charlene Cook

2. Adopted children's physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development

Femmie Juffer and Marinus H. Van Ijzendoorn

3. Internet based self-help therapy programmes for mental disorders (SW2007/6)

Morten Fenger

4. Interventions used in treating substance abuse among the queer community (SW 2008/09)

Jim Cullen, Nick Doukas, Tim Guimond, & Michael Saini

5. Interventions for children and parents to improve parenting skills and life-skills in children of parents diagnosed with mental illness (SW2008/10)

Hanna Christiansen & Prof. Dr. Bernd Röhrle

Under internal review

6. The LINK: the association between human-animal violence and human-human (SW2008/08)

Jan Yorke, Elizabeth Strand, Bill Nugent, Stephanie Harness, Janelle Nimer, Merrie Rennard, & Bethanie Poe.

Under discussion, no formal title registration yet

7. Inter-organizational relations: Synthesizing results of network analyses

Alicia Bunger

8. Assertive Community Treatment for persons with schizophrenia.

Cochrane review needs updating and cumulative meta-analysis.

9. Sex workers and mental health

Joanne Yaffe

17 Inactive Titles

Referred to other group(s)

1. Interventions for juvenile sex offenders

Karen Oshima

Withdrawn by authors

2. Solution-focused therapy (2004/1)

Jacqueline Corcoran et al.

3. Impact of new roads on health outcomes (2004/5)

Matt Egan et al.

4. Health impacts of workplace reorganization (2004/8)

Matt Egan et al.

5. Health and social impacts of public investment and privatization in business (SW2004/9)

Matt Egan et al.

6. Media-delivered cognitive behavioural therapy and behavioural therapy (self-help) alone for anxiety disorders in adults (SW2004/10)

Evan Mayo-Wilson, Paul Montgomery

7. Media-based behavioural treatments for behavioural disorders in children

Paul Montgomery, Gretchen Bjornstad

Stalled, no active authors

- 8. Impact of Mandatory Work Policies on Family Structure (SW2004/3)**
Matthew Stagner, Jennifer Ehrle, and Jane Reardon-Anderson, Katherine Kortenkamp
- 9. Employment effects of job training for adults with musculoskeletal disorders” (SW2005/3)**
Geir Smedslund, Carina Gustafsson, (Staffan Marklund)
- 10. Monitoring and Sanctions in Social Insurance (SW2005/4)**
Per Johansson, Johan Vikström and Per Skedinger
- 11. In-home services to prevent out-of-home placement and recurrence of child maltreatment in cases of child abuse and neglect**
Geraldine Macdonald, Julia Littell, & Jacqueline Corcoran

Rejected by editors

- 12. Welfare rights advice in health settings**
Martin White et al.
- 13. Measuring professional competence relevant to social work: A systematic review of the reliability and validity of assessment tools**
Marion Bogo et al.
- 14. What does a person need to disclose about a current psychiatric condition or history in the context of employment? (SW2007/3)**
Elaine Brohan et al.
- 15. The impact of revealing a current psychiatric diagnosis or history on finding or keeping a job (SW2007/4)**
Elaine Brohan et al.
- 16. System-level characteristics and outcomes of the public Vocational Rehabilitation program (SW2008/1)**
Heike Boeltzig et al.
- 17. Fatty acids for attention-deficit/hyperactivity symptomatology in children aged 6-12 (SW2008/2)**
Stephen James & Paul Montgomery