

Literature search on Concurrency 16.06.16

The following papers were collected from searches conducted on the 16th June 2016. It is likely that most of these resources are likely to be closed access, but it is possible that users can gain access with an Athens password via IRISS/SSKS at <http://www.iriss.org.uk/services/knowledge> (look under the 'more' heading).

Results of searches conducted on 6th June 2016

Jennifer F. Coakley and Jill D. Berrick, "Research Review: In a Rush to Permanency: Preventing Adoption Disruption," *Child and Family Social Work* 13, no. 1 (2008): 101–12, doi:10.1111/j.1365-2206.2006.00468.x. (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2206.2006.00468.x/full>)

Since the late 1990s, US, UK and Canadian policy have increasingly focused on improving permanency outcomes for looked-after children. Although the ideal permanency outcome of reunification is attained for about half of the children entering out-of-home care, an increasing number of children are adopted each year. The vast majority of adoptions are stable and secure, but concerns about adoption disruption haunt child welfare workers when making this important permanency decision. Despite a variety of definitions employed in the literature, adoption disruption is a general term used to describe the failure or breakdown of an adoptive child's placement. Studies dating back to the 1970s have reported adoption disruption rates and the characteristics associated with those involved in such cases. This paper reviews available research, principally from the United States, and offers possible explanations for the wide range of reported disruption rates in the literature. After reviewing the research, practice implications for improving adoption outcomes and suggestions for future research are presented.

A. C. D'Andrade, "The Differential Effects of Concurrent Planning Practice Elements on Reunification and Adoption," *Research on Social Work Practice*, 2009.

(<http://rsw.sagepub.com/content/19/4/446.full.pdf>)

Objective: The child welfare practice of concurrent planning attempts to shorten children's stays in foster care. There is very little quantitative research on concurrent planning's effects. This study examines the influence of concurrent planning practice elements (reunification prognosis, concurrent plan, full disclosure, and discussion of voluntary relinquishment) on reunification and adoption. Method: Using a sample of 885 children, an observational design, and statistical controls, children who received concurrent planning elements were compared to those who did not. Results: Findings show discussion of voluntary relinquishment to be positively associated with adoption and full disclosure to be negatively associated with reunification. Conclusions: Concurrent planning's benefits may require more intensive services to be fully realized. Care should be taken to ensure activities achieve their intended effects.

Amy D'Andrade, Laura Frame, and Jill Duerr Berrick, "Concurrent Planning in Public Child Welfare Agencies: Oxymoron or Work in Progress?," *Children and Youth Services Review* 28, no. 1 (2006): 78–95, doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2005.02.008. (available at:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/222562292_Concurrent_planning_in_public_child_welfare_agencies_Oxymoron_or_work_in_progress)

Concurrent planning is used increasingly in child welfare practice as one strategy to expedite permanency for children. The strategy was developed in small, private agency contexts utilizing comprehensive and intensive services; how and with what success concurrent planning concepts have been implemented by large public child welfare bureaucracies is not known. This study examines the implementation of concurrent planning in six county child welfare agencies

in a large western state. Quantitative data were extracted from case files of a sample of 885 children entering out-of-home care before and after implementation of concurrent planning legislation. Interviews and focus groups with 180 individuals (including agency social workers, supervisors, and court personnel) from the same counties contextualize these findings. Results from the study help to identify factors that may facilitate or hinder successful implementation.

Laura Frame, Jill D Berrick, and Jennifer F. Coakley, "Essential Elements of Implementing a System of Concurrent Planning," *Child and Family Social Work* 2, 2006, 357–67, doi:10.1017/CBO9781107415324.004. (available at: http://www.americanbar.org/dam/aba/migrated/child/PublicDocuments/welfare_1.authcheckdam.pdf)

In efforts to preserve foster children's biological families and to promote the formation of alternative families in some situations, legislative efforts to promote "permanency" have been gaining pace since the late 1990s. One policy and practice tool, concurrent planning, simultaneously allows for the pursuit of reunification and adoption. This article examines six counties in California (USA) and their efforts toward implementation of the components of concurrent planning. Researchers used qualitative methods to explore policies and practices of concurrent planning. Key informants include social workers, social work supervisors, attorneys and judges. The study identifies and describes seven elements determined to be essential to the complete and successful implementation of concurrent planning. Implications for agency practice and family outcomes are discussed.

J Kenrick, "Concurrent Planning: A Retrospective Study of the Continuities and Discontinuities of Care, and Their Impact on the Development of Infants and Young Children Placed for Adoption by the Coram Concurrent Planning Project," *Adoption & Fostering* 33, no. 4 (2009): pp5–18, doi:10.1177/030857590903300403. (<http://aaf.sagepub.com/content/33/4/5.full.pdf+html>)

J Kenrick, "Concurrent Planning (2) 'The Rollercoaster of Uncertainty' .," *Adoption & Fostering* 34, no. 2 (2010): 38–48 11p, doi:10.1177/030857591003400206. (<http://aaf.sagepub.com/content/34/2/38.full.pdf+html>)

'Concurrent planning' originated in the United States in the 1980s and is the term used to describe an adoption scheme where both the rehabilitation of the birth parents and the adoption are intensively worked upon concurrently. The child remains with foster parents who are approved as adopters and continues to have contact with birth parents. The outcome the programme works towards is that the birth parents demonstrate that they can care for their child, with an assured adoption by the child's existing foster carers if the birth parents fail to do so. This study looks at the impact on the child of intensive contact with its birth parents during the process of concurrent planning in the Coram Adoption Services Concurrent Planning Project.

Sophie Laws, Rebecca Bellew, and Rebekah Wilson, "Outcomes of Concurrent Planning : Summary of Findings," 2013. (available at: [http://www.coram.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource_files/Concurrent%20Planning%20Report%20Summary%20\(Mar%202014\)%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.coram.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource_files/Concurrent%20Planning%20Report%20Summary%20(Mar%202014)%20FINAL.pdf))

E Monck, J Reynolds, and V Wigfall, "Using Concurrent Planning to Establish Permanency for Looked after Young Children.," *Child & Family Social Work* 9, no. 4 (2004): 321–31 11p, doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2206.2004.00340.x. (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2206.2004.00340.x/full>)

“Many looked after children spend lengthy periods in impermanent care, and their frequent moves probably contribute to subsequent disturbed behaviour. Concurrent planning aims to reduce the number of moves and the length of time before placement in a permanent family. In this study 24 young children in three concurrent planning (CP) projects and 44 from two 'traditional' adoption teams were followed for 12-15 months. Records were obtained of the number of moves between households and the dates of key events before the child's permanent family placement was confirmed by the courts. The CP children moved into permanent families significantly faster and with significantly fewer previous moves than the two comparison groups. Unexpectedly, the CP children were significantly younger than the children following 'traditional' adoption programmes, making direct comparison impossible. Among those birth parents who were interviewed, the majority saw advantages in the CP approach. Concurrent planning carers reported high levels of personal anxiety but positive views of the advantages for the children. We conclude that CP can be used to achieve earlier permanence and fewer moves between carers for young children from selected birth families. The success of a CP team is dependent on the support of other professionals involved in determining permanent placements, based on a shared acknowledgement of the damaging effects of delay for the looked after child.”

Carol Wassell, “The Case for Concurrency Planning” (Glasgow, 2012). (available at https://www.celcis.org/files/6214/3817/9785/Case_for_Concurrency_Planning.pdf)

Valerie Wigfall, Elizabeth Monck, and Jill Reynolds, “Putting Programme into Practice: The Introduction of Concurrent Planning into Mainstream Adoption and Fostering Services,” *British Journal of Social Work* 36, no. 1 (2006): 41–55, doi:10.1093/bjsw/bch250. (<https://bjsw.oxfordjournals.org/content/36/1/41.full.pdf+html>)

Originating in Seattle, USA, in the early 1980s, concurrent planning aimed to speed the placement of children into permanent families, either birth or substitute, and to reduce overall the time spent in impermanent care. When the first pilot concurrent planning project was introduced in the UK in 1998, independent evaluation was a requirement of government funding. The evaluation was expanded to include two additional projects when the number of initial referrals failed to meet the projected target. This paper looks beyond the successful outcomes of the pilot projects, focusing instead on the local authority context in order to explore some of the difficulties in setting up such an innovative programme, and to shed light on why concurrent planning appeared slow to take off. Based primarily on interviews conducted with social workers at different levels of responsibility, the researchers encountered a steep learning for all the professionals. The research findings indicated positive outcomes for the children placed through concurrent planning, but limited understanding of the concept of concurrent planning, uncertainty in the division of responsibilities, and failure to take up preparation and training opportunities contributed to the initial slow progress in the incorporation of the programme.