



SCHUBERT CENTER
FOR CHILD STUDIES

A Message from Schubert Center Director Anastasia Dimitropoulos

Dear Friends of the Schubert Center,

Our thoughts are with each of you and your families during these uncertain times. Our lives have been upended and we are all figuring out how to continue our work and education, and how to navigate our professional and personal relationships under these conditions. At the Center, we are focused on the ways in which we can help improve the lives of children and are thinking purposefully about next steps. **While we are disappointed to have cancelled our events this spring, we are engaging in critical policy work, teaching and mentoring our students, and adjusting our research efforts to accommodate the current crisis.**

With so many changes and shutdowns, the needs of our community's most vulnerable have increased dramatically. **Policy Director Gabriella Celeste's current work is addressing these needs, particularly for children in institutional care.** Institutional care presents unique challenges for social distancing and protecting our youth; Gabriella has worked to urge public administrators to take protective and proactive measures to address the needs of vulnerable children and youth in care, and has asked legislators to consider adding provisions to Ohio's COVID-19 legislative package to protect youth in these circumstances. **The center issued a [statement of concern](#) on this issue last week.** I encourage you to reach out directly to me or Gabriella (mgc36@case.edu) if you have any thoughts or ideas to share on this issue.

For our students, videoconferencing and distance learning have become an essential part of education and we are all adjusting to this new format. **This semester, we have two students enrolled in our policy externship course, an opportunity for experiential learning in the community.** Gabrielle Watson is at [Birthing Beautiful Communities](#) exploring the implications of doula support and cost effectiveness, including how potential Medicaid coverage may advance improved maternal and infant birth outcomes. Chloe Jen is at the [Center for Community Solutions](#) investigating to what degree Medicaid requirements under EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment for children) for screening for elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) are being implemented and what policy measures states have taken and can take to improve blood lead screening rates in order to reduce harm to children with EBLLs. **Externships and clinical placements face significant challenges right now, but our partner agencies have worked creatively to keep our students engaged and learning from a distance – we are so very thankful for their support.** We are proud of these students and commend them for being

flexible and patient as we adjusted their placements. Be on the lookout for details about their experiences and what they learned once their projects are completed!

While some research has paused or been readjusted during the shutdown, **many new research efforts at CWRU are beginning in response to the pandemic. At the center, we plan to engage in these discussions and collaborate on these efforts to ensure our city's most vulnerable children and families are included in examining the scope of the effects of the pandemic.** Many of our faculty associates have already published research that is very relevant right now. We are gathering these papers and will make them available on our website in the coming weeks.

In addition, we are very grateful to Dr. Lisa Damour, a Senior Advisor to the center, for sharing some of her recent work related to the pandemic. Her advice always rings true for me and is especially helpful as I navigate this uncertainty with my own children.

- [Five Ways to Help Teens Manage Anxiety about the Coronavirus](#) [NY Times Article]
- [Quaranteeners: Strategies for Parenting in Close Quarters](#) [NY Times Article]
- [Six Ways Parents Can Support Their Kids through the Outbreak](#) [UNICEF Article]
- [How Teenagers Can Protect Their Mental Health during Coronavirus](#) [UNICEF Article]

In closing, I know that we as a center and as a community will remain focused on improving the lives of children during this crisis and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have ideas to share or just want to connect. We are here for you and look forward to the time when we can be with each other again.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anastasia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anastasia

April 2, 2020