

Network for Enhancing Wellness in Disaster-Affected Youth (NEW DAY)- Trainer Biographies

Robin H. Gurwitch, Ph.D.



Dr. Robin Gurwitch, a Clinical Psychologist, is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center, Duke University School of Medicine, and the Center for Child and Family Health. Dr. Gurwitch specializes in work with children, particularly those considered at-risk. Since the bombing in Oklahoma City in 1995, she has devoted much time to understanding the impact of trauma and disaster on children and ways to increase resilience. Dr. Gurwitch has numerous scientific publications and presentations addressing these topics. She has responded to disasters /traumatic events, both nationally and internationally. She has helped to develop materials for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), the American Red Cross, the U.S. Department of Education, and the American Psychological Association, among others, related to disaster mental health, secondary traumatic stress, and resilience. With a focus on these issues, Dr. Gurwitch has served on state and national committees and task forces as well as consulted with federal and state agencies and school systems. Among her appointments, Dr. Gurwitch served on the inaugural US Department of Health and Human Services' National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters.

Dr. Gurwitch is a subject matter expert regarding at-risk populations for the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and children's issues for the American Psychological Association. Dr. Gurwitch has been actively involved in the NCTSN since it began in 2001, with efforts largely focused on Disaster/Terrorism. She now serves as a Senior Advisor for the Disaster and Terrorism Program of the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress; Dr. Gurwitch is the Co-Principal Investigator for the NEW DAY (Network for Enhancing Wellness in Disaster-Affected Youth) SAMHSA-funded grant with the NCTSN. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Dr. Gurwitch has been involved in activities related to understanding its impact and improving coping for children and their families.

Dr. Gurwitch is a leader in the evidence-based treatment, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). As one of only 21 Global Trainers worldwide, certified by PCIT International, Dr. Gurwitch is involved in training, service, consultation and research in PCIT. She is recognized as the national leader in the adaptation of PCIT for use with military families coping with deployment. Dr. Gurwitch and her colleague recently developed an adaptation of PCIT for use with children who have experienced trauma. Dr. Gurwitch is one of the co-developers of Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE), a trauma and evidence-informed program based on PCIT, and other evidence-based parenting interventions designed for to improve behaviors in children and teens.

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CARE is being used across settings throughout the US and internationally, with a growing evidence base. Again, Dr. Gurwitch has taken the primary role in adapting CARE for use after disasters, in military settings, and, with colleagues, an adaptation for school settings. Recently, Dr. Gurwitch has been involved in the inclusion of COVID-19 and DEI issues into PCIT implementation, including its use via telehealth.

Jami M. Furr, Ph.D.



Dr. Jami Furr is a Clinical Associate Professor and Senior Psychologist in the Mental Health Interventions and Technology (MINT) Program, and Developer of the Selective Mutism Program at Florida International University Center for Children and Families (CCF). She is the Past-President of the Selective Mutism Association and has served on their Board of Directors for the last 6 years. Dr. Furr has extensive clinical expertise and research interests in cognitive and behavioral treatments of childhood anxiety and disruptive behavior disorders, with a particular focus on preschool mental health. Dr. Furr currently serves as a Trainer and Clinical Supervisor on two exciting clinical projects in the MINT Program: (a) a SAMHSA-funded program providing largescale training and consultation in disaster mental health to youth-serving professionals in disaster-hit regions and disaster-prone regions—i.e., Network for Expanding Child Wellness in Disaster-Affected Youth (NEW DAY), and (b) a Donor-funded Clinical Program, Virtual House Calls for Families in Need: The Free Family Telehealth Program. In addition, Dr. Furr has served as the Clinical Director of several federally funded randomized trials evaluating the acceptability and utility of telehealth strategies for expanding the scope and reach of mental health care; and provides training and supervision for clinical services for anxiety, OCD, and/or disruptive behavior problems in the MINT Program that have reached over 100 children and adolescents each year.

Dr. Furr fostered the first randomized controlled trial on an intensive group behavioral treatment for youth with selective mutism, published in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. Her selective mutism program has been featured in the media, including The New York Times. In 2019, Dr. Furr was the recipient of the Anne Marie Albano Early Career Award for the Integration of Science and Practice from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) and the Florida International University College of Arts, Sciences, and Education Award for Research.