

# ROLLING MINUTES

## Practice Research Collaborative - Organizational Support

A Program of the International Community of Practice Research in Social Work <icprsw.com>

### Rolling Minutes

Rolling Minutes are designed to help newcomers learn about prior PRC work and to assist those who have missed meetings.

### February 2025

#### **Present:**

- Sidsel
- Mike
- Bowen
- Heidi
- Hiroki
- Marianne
- Phil
- Kaisa

#### **Regrets (some due to meeting times):**

- Kristen
- Christa
- Katherine

### Agenda Highlights

#### **1. The Challenges and Opportunities of Conducting/Implementing Practice Research:**

Heidi Muurinen facilitated the meeting, which started with presentations of case vignettes that captured the challenges and opportunities of conducting/implementing practice research. All participants had received a manuscript with the cases beforehand so that the presenters could focus on the highlights of their cases. Mike and Bowen will continue writing the introduction and conclusions for the article after the meeting. The cases presented in the meeting discussed:

- 1) Philip (UK) presented a project on evaluating an online psychoeducation intervention for foster carers and adoptive parents.
- 2) Marianne (AU) presented a project on collective reflection regarding a mental health crisis leading to a psychiatric inpatient admission with a group consisting of patients, former patients, and staff who collaboratively developed a first-person narrative incorporating the experiences and narratives of the various group members. The findings also supported advocacy for mental health patients
- 3) Mike (USA) presented a project on implementing the Family Stabilization (FS) program in different counties in California, which also allowed comparing similarities and differences between them in implementing the public policy
- 4) Kaisa (FIN) presented her dissertation project focused on supporting the development of a new social and health care service concept in Helsinki, where Kaisa, as a researcher, was also working during the project and could engage the management, development staff, and practitioners in conducting and utilizing the research. The study also inspired the professionals to become more research-minded

5) Bowen and XuBin are still working on their case, which should be ready next month

Finally, Bowen presented preliminary themes concerning 1) preconditions for PR (e.g. the importance of collaboration and engagement of different stakeholders to improve practice, flexibility in planning and implementing the projects, 2) collaborative processes (e.g., including lived experiences, optimizing how to access and use resources) and 3) future possibilities and challenges (e.g., identifying ways of moving towards empirically embedded culture of practice, identifying mechanism of on-going learning and sharing).

In the discussion, it was brought up that the concept of participation (who is participating and what is their interest in participation) could be an interesting aspect to analyze in the cases and how, through participation, the research-mindedness of those practitioners who may be reluctant to participate in research could be enhanced.

## **2. Planning for the June meeting (20 min) -- Updates on PRC-OS Dissemination manuscript (Bowen) and preliminary ideas for 2026 ICPRSW Singapore Conference**

Bowen and Mike are writing the introduction and conclusions for the manuscript on PR dissemination and hope to share that with the collaborative later this spring.

The three papers on launching, implementing, and disseminating PR belong together, and it could be discussed whether they could be used as building blocks for a workshop at the ICPR in Singapore in 2026.

We will continue the discussion on this and the future topics of the PRC-OS in the June meeting on June 17 at 10 pm US time/June 18 in other countries. Bowen will host the meeting.

## October 2024

Present:

Heidi - <heidi.muurinen@helsinki.fi>,  
Sidsel - <sidsna@oslomet.no>,  
Mike <mjaustin@berkeley.edu>,  
Hiroki - <toi@toyo.jp>,  
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### Agenda Highlights

Sidse Natland facilitated the discussion of proposed case vignettes that capture the Challenges and Opportunities of Disseminating Practice Research Findings. After welcoming our new member, Katherine Reid from Australia, the members who volunteered to develop a brief 1000-word case vignette on research dissemination shared the following highlights in anticipation of sending the vignettes to Mike before November 15, 2024, for Bowen and Mike to create the next co-authored manuscript:

- 1) Phil shared highlights of a wide variety of research projects and will focus on the findings of one project given the complexities of getting projects published in national and international journals
- 2) Marianne noted that she is currently involved in ten practice research projects and was encouraged to focus on one previously completed project, ideally with a service user focus
- 3) Sidse focused on the dissemination challenges associated with a previous study entitled Service User's Self-Narratives on Their Journey from Shame to Pride: Tales of Transition in the *Journal of Evidenced-Informed Social Work* (12 (1), 2015, 50-63)
- 4) Mike for Sarah focused on their experiences in child welfare case record datamining and an unusual dissemination strategy that used the cleaned-up case records extracted from child welfare organizations to create a casebook for use in preparing social workers in university programs and staff in agency staff development programs (*Public Child Welfare: A Casebook for Learning and Teaching*), Carnochan, S. et al, (2019). Related references include: Carnochan, S., et al. (2019). Using Qualitative Data mining to Identify Skillful Practice in Child Welfare Case Records, *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 13:4, 419-440; Henry, C., et al (2014) Using qualitative data mining for practice-based research in child welfare. *Child Welfare*. 93(6), 7-25.

### PRC-OS Manuscripts:

#### *Almost finalized:*

- Platforms for the Development and Expansion of Practice Research in Social Work: An International Cross-Case Analysis. McBeath, B. et al
- Practice Research Collaboratives within the International Practice Research Community: Promising Communities of Practice. Natland, S. et al

#### *Recently published* [our first co-authored PRC article]:

Austin, M.J., McBeath, B., Xu, Bin, Muurinen, H., Natland, S., & Roose, R. (2024). Organizational supports for practice research: Illustrations from an international practice research collaborative. *Research on Social Work Practice*. 34 (6), 610-624.

#### *Future PRC-OS papers* (for possible presentation at the 2026 Singapore Conference on Practice Research)

- Launching Practice Research Projects: International Perspectives
- Implementing Practice Research Projects: International Perspectives
- Disseminating Practice Research Findings: International Perspectives

#### *Previous related PRC-OS articles:*

Austin, M.J. & McBeath, B. (2022). Connecting Practice Research with the Process of Theorizing. *Research on Social Work Practice*. 32(7), 731-742.

Austin, M.J. & McBeath, B. (2022). Conducting Practice Research. *China Journal of Social Work*. 15(3), 270-286

McBeath, B., Austin, M. J., Carnochan, S., & Chuang, E. (2022). Practice research methods in social work: Processes, applications and implications for social service organizations. *The British Journal of Social Work*, 52(6), 3328-3346.

## June 2024

### Present:

Christa - <c.fouche@auckland.ac.nz>,  
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Sarah <scarnochan@berkeley.edu>

### Agenda Highlights

We welcomed new members (Phil in the UK and Kristen in Canada) as we all introduced ourselves and our organizational auspice along with aspects of our research backgrounds.

We received brief updates on our latest collaboration related to four of the six Launching Practice Research Projects. They include Sidsel in Norway capturing the changing directions of an agreed-upon research project, Christa in New Zealand reflecting on the dynamics of involving a third party to access a complex research site, Hiroki in Japan engaged in a complex research collaboration between social work and lawyers related to forensic services, and Zach in Singapore involved in promoting evidence-informed practice in Cancer services for children. Soon to arrive are two more case vignettes: Kristen in Canada selecting a launch case vignette from her extensive experience with PART (Practice and Research Together) in the Ontario Providence and Heidi in Finland drawing upon her experience in the national government working with localities to promote evidence-informed practice.

The various case vignettes will be used by Bowen and Mike to identify cross-cutting themes enroute to constructing the first draft of a co-authored paper by the end of the summer, possibly to be considered for inclusion in the Aalborg Conference Special Issue deadline in December.

There was a general consensus that our experiment with a shared project related to Launching PR could be expanded for discussion in our next two meetings as follows:

October 23, 2024 – The *Challenges and Opportunities of Disseminating/Utilizing Practice Research* with proposed case vignettes by Sidsel, Marianne, and Phil and interested others with analysis by Bowen and Mike along with prompts for the case vignette designers. Sidsel agreed to host this meeting with the zoom announcement where highlights of the vignettes are shared briefly, and the written draft would be due November 1, 2024.

The key question/prompt to guide the case vignette development is:

What were the overall results of the specific practice research project? How was the project disseminated by the practice researcher and the agency partner, and what resources (of funding, time, knowledge) were used to support its dissemination?

February 19, 2025 – The *Challenges and Opportunities of Conducting/Implementing Practice Research* with proposed case vignettes by Christa, Kristin (AU), and Heidi along with the possibility of Hiroki, Phil and Zach with analysis by Bowen and Mike based on prompts for the case vignette designers. Heidi agreed to host this meeting with announcements where highlights of the vignettes are shared briefly, and the written draft would be due March 15, 2025.

The key question/prompt to guide the case vignette development is:

How was the specific practice research project implemented by the practice researcher and the agency partner, and what resources (of funding, time, knowledge) were used to support its implementation?

#### Other PRC working drafts

There are two other PRC-OS manuscripts in various stages of completion for publication consideration in the Aalborg Special Issue and highlights of the following will be shared at the October meeting:

- PRC-OS workshop at the Aalborg conference on PRC as a Community of Practice (Sidsel, Heidi & Bowen)
- Symposium on Practice Research Platforms from an international perspective (Bowen & Mike)

#### PRC Membership Roster

There was also consensus that we find ways to expand our membership based on each current member inviting 1-2 guests to our next meeting to see if they are interested in joining us. As we enter year 4 of our PRC-OS, we also agreed to update our roster by requesting information about continuing to receive announcements from those who have not attended previous meetings.

February 2024 (Ralph?)

October 2023 (Ralph)

June 2023 (Aalborg Conference)

## February 2023

### MEETING NOTES - Practice Research Collaborative - ZOOM Wednesday 22 February 2023

**Present:** Mike Austin (USA); Kristin Diemer (Aus); Ralph Hampson (Aus); Zach Lee (Sing); Bowen McBeath (USA); Heidi Muurinen (Finland); Hiroki Toi (Japan)

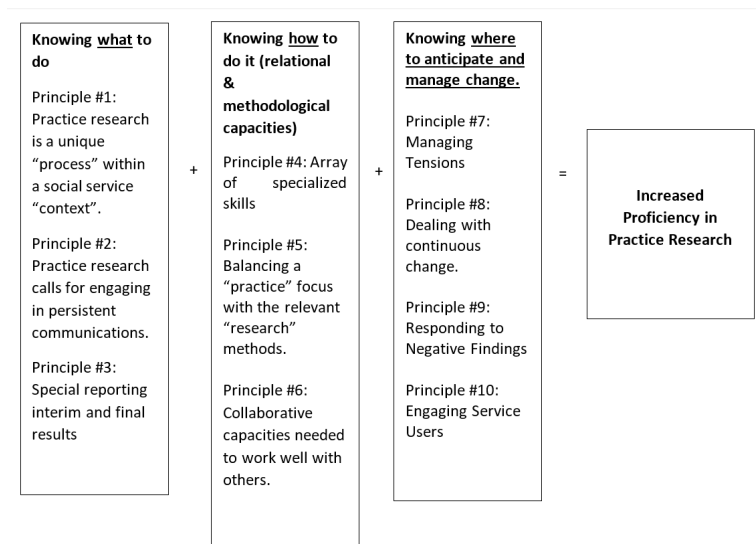
**Apologies:** Khoon Chaiwee (Sing); Christa Fouche (NZ); Sidsel Natland (Swed); Marianne Wyder (Aus)

Our collaborative is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year – Congratulations!

**Mike and Bowen led the session** and presented the figure below for discussion in the group which Bowen then illustrated with a case example from his work with child welfare agencies in Detroit. Examples of collaborations underway in Japan, South Pacific and SE Asia and Melbourne, Australia were shared. This discussion highlighted some key issues that need to be considered, including:

- The process is often iterative, rather than linear in nature.
- Cultural differences between research and practice settings.
- Managing Communication and tensions – which are normal and should be anticipated.
- Dealing with contextual change in the sector because of funding and political changes.
- How do we engage service users more effectively?

**Figure 1:** Principles of Practice Research: An Evolving Equation [from Chapter 8, Austin & Carnochan (2020). *Practice Research in the Human Services: A University-Agency Partnership Model*. Oxford University Pocket Guide to Social Work Research Methods]



### Outcomes

After a rich discussion and sharing. The group agreed that we would like to work together on a paper focusing on the challenges and opportunities that are faced when developing practice research collaboratives with a tentative title: *International Perspectives on Launching Practice Research Projects: Challenges and Opportunities*.

If you would like to participate in this – please provide Mike via email [mjaustin@berkeley.edu](mailto:mjaustin@berkeley.edu) with between 750-500 words which highlight 3-4 challenges and opportunities your projects have faced as case vignettes **by June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Mike and Bowen have then agreed to review these and provide a presentation at our next meeting on June 26.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 26 June at 5pm via ZOOM.

October 2022 (Ralph)

June 2022 (Ralph)

February 2022 (Ralph)

October 2021 (Ralph)

## June 2021

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**Attendees:** Lynette Joubert, Christa Fouche, Lyon Koh, Heidi Muurinen, Hikori Toi, Denise Liu, Kaisa Pasanen, Bowen McBeath, Sarah Carnochan, Michael Austin,

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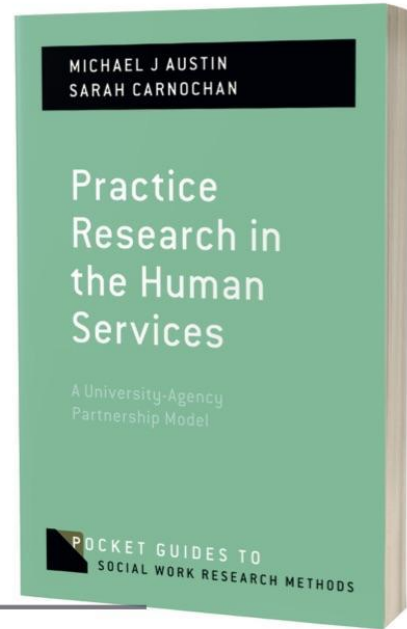
### Topics:

- Session focused on exploring together: Models that work; global collaboration; developing an agenda for interaction
- How to attract funding for Practice Research – Finish Institute of Health and Welfare seen as one model.
- Lonely nature of practice research when you are in a small organization.
- Need to be curious, critically reflective and critical thinking skills. [The 3 Cs]
- Create a reference section on the website of books, articles and resources.
- *Practice Research in the Human Services* –by Mike Austin and Sarah Carnochan (attached flyer) along with recent Handbook by Lynette Joubert and Martin Webber (attached flyer).
- Different sources of funding: public, private and not for profit. Different models emerging across the globe.
- Proposal to meet quarterly and conduct a webinar once a year on the work of the group

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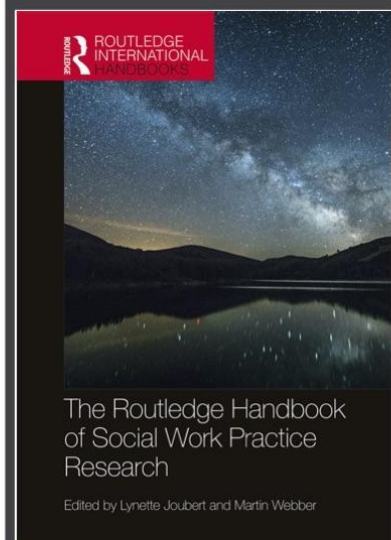
**Michael J. Austin**, PhD, MSW, MSPH is the Milton and Florence Krenz Mack Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Nonprofit Management and director of the Mack Center on Nonprofit and Public Sector Management in the Human Services at the School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley.

**Sarah Carnochan**, PhD, MSW, JD, is the Research Director for the Bay Area Social Services Consortium.

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