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January 2018 Spotlight on the SRCD Policy Fellow: Yunsoo Park, Ph.D.

2017-2018 Federal Executive Branch Policy Fellow



Yunsoo Park, Ph.D.

AUTHOR

My second year of the SRCD Executive Branch Policy Fellowship at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has involved applying the training and skills I acquired during my first year to approach a greater range of responsibilities with increased independence. I carry out various activities to facilitate the implementation of research and evaluation focusing on topics pertaining to crime and victimization, primarily intimate partner violence and elder abuse. A major responsibility throughout my second year has involved leading the Federal Interagency Workgroup on Teen Dating Violence. Through this work, I engage with federal partners and expert researchers and practitioners to communicate and exchange exciting and cutting-edge information about research, evaluation, and program activities in the field.

I serve as a primary NIJ contact for a large-scale, national evaluation focused on linking systems of care for youth victims. This project requires the successful integration of priorities and strategies across different states. As such, I have learned how dynamic partnerships are formed and maintained, as well as the crucial

pieces that go into effectively launching and evaluating a project of considerable diversity and magnitude. In this role, I advise and consult with partner organizations on evaluation approaches and methods. I also represent NIJ during key collaborative meetings, such as all-sites and steering committee meetings.

Throughout my second year, I have continued to strengthen and build on the effective communication of scientific research to a wide range of audiences. For example, I recently completed a research brief on the protective effects of social support against elder abuse based on an NIJ-funded longitudinal study; this brief is intended to provide direct access to findings to enhance practice and clarify policy choices. In addition, I am in the final stages of publishing a book chapter focusing on outcomes related to teen dating violence, and also continue to write website summaries based on final reports of NIJ-funded projects focusing on dating violence.

Through my various responsibilities, I have been able to collaborate and interact actively with scientists and practitioners. For example, I help to organize various research meetings for ongoing projects focused on aspects of program implementation and evaluation (e.g., measurement of outcome variables). I also recently chaired a panel at the American Society of Criminology Conference, which gave me the opportunity to work with expert researchers in the field.

I continue to be extremely grateful to NIJ and SRCD for the invaluable opportunities and support of my continued professional growth, and am incredibly excited for the next steps to come.