



# CASE

MANDEL SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

## **ELIZABETH M. TRACY, MSW, LISW, Ph.D.**

### **Professor**

#### Faculty Biographical Sketch

**Elizabeth M. Tracy** is a Professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and Chair of the PhD Program. She teaches courses in direct social work practice methods and child welfare in the master level program and models of social work practice in the doctoral program. She also directs the school social work program that leads to licensure through the Ohio Department of Education for master level and post master level students. Reflecting her interest in schools and families, she serves on the advisory board to the Center for Math and Science Education, UCITE and the Schubert Center for Child Development.

Dr. Tracy's research focus has been the development and evaluation of social work practice models and methods which support families, make use of natural helping networks, and incorporate environmental helping strategies. Her scholarly work has focused on clinically useful ways to assess social support and social networks, the development of key practice skills for social network interventions, and the role of social network and other environmental helping strategies in program implementation. The body of her work on social networks and social support has been applied by other researchers to family preservation programs, residential settings for youth, early intervention, and community mental health case management programs. Drawing on her practice experience with social network interventions, she co-authored a social work practice text "*Person-environment practice: The social ecology of interpersonal helping*" which addresses a core but long neglected dimension in social work – environmental assessment and intervention.

Dr. Tracy's interest in the role of supportive relationships coincides with her study of services to strengthen and support families within the child welfare system. She conducted an evaluation of Ohio's Family Stability Incentive Fund, designed to encourage collaborations to keep at-risk families intact. She has also studied the process of and criteria for decision making for referrals to family preservation services in Cuyahoga County. She facilitated the efforts of a National Family Preservation Working Group, which developed a sourcebook on the teaching of family preservation practice. She has a family centered practice text recently published by Columbia University Press, "*Social Work Practice with Children and Families*", the purpose of which is to help social work students and practitioners understand and work with vulnerable families and children, and intervene at multiple levels and with different systems. Subsequent to a NIAAA Faculty Development Program, she focused on integrating knowledge of alcohol and other drug abuse with her specialization on family preservation. She is currently Principal Investigator of a NIDA funded pilot research study on "Personal Social Networks and Women with Co-occurring Substance Use and Mental Disorders".

- Substance Use and Co-occurring Mental Disorders
- Social support and social networks
- School Social Work