



Jachen Curdin Nett, Professor in the Social Work Section at Bern University of Applied Sciences, responded to Munro’s presentation and shared highlights from a study he led, “Child Protection Systems: An international comparison of good practice”, which examined CP systems in Switzerland, UK, Australia, Finland, Sweden and Germany. The aims of the study were to examine current evidence for effective delivery of CP services among countries with similar economic and social development and to identify international examples of good practice. The Study found that all the countries sought to have in place laws and procedures that balance the rights of parents to privacy with the rights of children to protection and are informed by an understanding of child development. All the countries share a central dilemma with respect to determining at what point the state intervenes to protect the child and there is evidence that both over and under-intervention in family life may bring unintended and unwanted consequences. The five countries promote early intervention—such as support for families –

before problems become too acute, and seek to establish a balance this with compulsory interventions for children with an immediate need for protection.

The study indicated consistent and coherent lessons learned as reflected in the recommendations that address: Governance; legal responsibilities of different CP actors; coordination mechanisms; training standards; continuum of services; development of practice guidance for social workers; assessment tools; audit of intervention methods; establishment of a vetting and barring scheme for those working with children; and a national data system to track both system outputs and child outcomes.