

Children, Youth, and Families

Activity Summary

August 2006–August 2007

PUBLIC INTEREST

AN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTORATE

Advancing psychology as . . . a means of promoting health, education and human welfare.

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PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1	Public Interest Directorate	page	4
	Children, Youth, and Families Office		4
	Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents		5
	Task Force on Evidence-based Practice with Children and Adolescents		5
	16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect		6
	2008 APA/ABA National Conference on Child Custody and Divorce		6
	Policy Statements		6
	Publications		7
	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office		8
	Health Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project		8
	Lesbian and Gay Parenting		9
	Women's Programs Office		9
	Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls		9
	Adults and Children Together Against Violence		10
	Office on AIDS		11
	Office on Socioeconomic Status		11
Section 2	Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF)		
	Call for Nominations for 2008		13
	CYF Federal Advocacy Priorities		14
	CYF 2006 Annual Report		17

PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE

PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW

The Public Interest Directorate (PI) was established in 1987. PI supports and promotes APA members' efforts to apply the science and profession of psychology to the advancement of health, education and human welfare. The Directorate's issues are central to the science and profession of psychology and critical to consumers of psychological services and the general public.

The Directorate provides staff support for the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest; the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology; the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs; the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns; the Committee on Women in Psychology; the Committee on Psychology and the Public Interest Awards; the Board of Directors' ad hoc Committee on Psychology and AIDS; the Committee on Aging; the Committee on Socioeconomic Status; and other groups as needed.

The Directorate is home to the Children, Youth, and Families Office that provides support to the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; the Wingspread Conference Application Planning Committee; the Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents; the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents; and the Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents.

In addition, the Directorate houses the ACT Against Violence Project funded in large part by foundation and government sources, the HIV Office on Psychology Education (HOPE) Program, and the Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project, which are federally funded.

The following is a summary of child, youth, and family focused activities from the various Public Interest program areas.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES OFFICE

The Children, Youth, and Families Office coordinates APA's public interest, health, human welfare, and social responsibility activities in the areas of children, youth, and families. The office serves as an information and referral resource and it develops and disseminates reports and other written materials on professional and consumer issues to APA members, the public, and federal agencies. The office monitors the welfare of these groups as consumers of psychological services and promotes the development and application of psychological knowledge to address public policy issues affecting them. For additional information, visit the Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) website at <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf>.

The office provides staff support to the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; the Wingspread Conference Application Planning Committee; the Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents; and the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice for Children and Adolescents.

The office liaisons with the following child, youth, and family related APA divisions: Division of Developmental Psychology (7); Division of School Psychology (16); Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (37); Section on Child Maltreatment (Division 37, Section 1); Division of Clinical Neuropsychology (40); Division of Family Psychology (43); Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (53); and the Society of Pediatric Psychology (54). For information about these divisions and their child, youth, and family focused initiatives please visit the CYF website at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/divisions.html>.

The Children, Youth, and Families Office staff include: Efua Andoh, CYF Program Associate, and Mary Campbell, Director.

Interdirector Staff Working Group on Child and Adolescent Issues

This group meets periodically to share information on initiatives, to discuss issues of mutual concern, and to develop collaborative strategies for addressing those concerns. Representatives from the Education, Practice, Public Interest, and Science Directorates and the Public Interest Government Relations Office participate in the meetings.

2006 – 2007 INITIATIVES

Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents (RSBCA) – The Board of Directors established the RSBCA in February 2006. The task force's 2006 and 2007 work is supported by Board of Directors discretionary funds. RSBCA is charged with the identification of factors that contribute to the healthy development of Black children and adolescents in three contexts: families, schools, and peer groups. Focus on disparity data in terms of income, female-headed households, academic achievement and criminal justice system involvement fails to inform about attitudes and behaviors that contribute to Black children and adolescents being resilient and strong. The compilation of relevant research data as well as the identification of successful academic programming will provide another lens with which to view these individuals. Such information can inform policy and programming in communities where African Americans reside.

The following persons were appointed by then APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD, to serve on the task force: Stephanie Coard, PhD, Chair; Anne Gregory, PhD; Yolanda Jackson, PhD; Robert Jagers, PhD; Le'Roy Reese, PhD; Caryn Rodgers, PhD; and Anita Thomas, PhD. There are three Senior Advisors to the task force: Faye Belgrave, PhD; Robert Sellers, PhD; and Margaret Beale Spencer, PhD.

The RSBCA held two meetings on October 27-29, 2006 and March 9-11, 2007. A third meeting is planned for November 9-11, 2007. The task force has identified issues, assigned writing tasks, developed a draft document, and established deadlines. For additional information, contact Mary Campbell by email at mcampbell@apa.org or Efua Andoh by email at eandoh@apa.org.

Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents (EBPCA) - The Board of Directors established the EBPCA at their April 2006 meeting. The Board of Directors allocated discretionary funds for 2006 and the Council of Representatives allocated discretionary funds for 2007. The task force is charged with reviewing the extant literature and preparing a comprehensive report on the current state of knowledge concerning evidence-based psychological practice with children and adolescents. This would include empirically supported principles and evidence applied to psychological assessment, case formulation, possible mediating variables such as therapeutic relationship, and intervention with children and adolescents (and often their caregivers). Also included would be the acknowledgement of the variety of settings in which services are provided to children, including schools, clinics, hospitals, independent practices, and homes and the need to consider setting characteristics when implementing evidence-based practice. In addition, developmental and cultural characteristics that influence the applicability, acceptance, and efficacy of evidence-based practice would be addressed. The task force was encouraged to consider implications of its findings for future research agendas and for the education and training of psychologists with specificity to evidence-based practice with children and adolescents.

The following persons were appointed by then APA President Gerald P. Koocher, PhD, to serve on the Task Force: Anne Kazak, PhD, Chair; Gerard Banez, PhD; Kimberly Hoagwood, PhD; Korey Hood, PhD; Thomas Kratochwill, PhD; Luis Vargas, PhD; and John Weisz, PhD. The task force met on November 9-11, 2006 and April 11 - 12, 2007. One additional meeting is scheduled for September 17-18, 2007. The task force identified issues, developed a draft document, and established deadlines. For additional information, contact Mary Campbell by email at mcampbell@apa.org or Efua Andoh by email at eandoh@apa.org.

16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect The APA was a national cosponsor of the Children's Bureau/Office on Child Abuse and Neglect's 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect and participates in planning and implementing the conference. The 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect was held April 16 to 21, 2007, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland with 1,625 attendees. The conference theme, "Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families, and Preserving Communities," reflected the desire to ensure that every child enjoys a healthy family life in a nurturing community. It emphasized the need to create safe havens for children, enabling them to thrive at home and in their neighborhood. Further, the theme promoted the idea of communities joining to establish collaborative relationships and strategies to prevent child maltreatment and provide responsive services and treatment.

The conference brought together diverse professional and volunteer populations to promote new working relationships, exchange cutting-edge information on research, and review practice issues and model programs. A total of 184 sessions allowed various disciplines and perspectives to come together to discuss policy, research, program, and practice issues concerning the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Check this website <http://www.childwelfare.gov/calendar/cbconference/index.cfm> for post-conference information, including the full program, awards booklet, and audio podcasts of selected plenary sessions.

2008 APA/ABA National Conference on Child Custody and Divorce An APA/ABA Child Custody Steering Committee was established to develop goals, recommendations, and implementation strategies for APA/ABA collaboration in divorce, child custody, and related areas of mutual interest and concern. The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place in December 2005 and one of the collaborative initiatives identified is co-sponsorship of an APA/ABA National Conference on Child Custody and Divorce in April 2008. The Steering Committee will be issuing status reports as well as soliciting input from various APA governance entities – particularly relevant APA Divisions – as the Committee continues to identify issues of interest and develop recommendations for collaborative projects. For additional information, contact Donna Beavers, Director, Psychology/Law Coordination, by email at dbeavers@apa.org.

APA Policy Statements on Children, Youth, and Families

APA's Council of Representatives, the Association's highest policy-making body, has adopted resolutions on the following child, youth, and family issues:

- Corporal Punishment*
- Child Custody*
- Committee on Children, Youth, and Families*
- Prevention of Motor Vehicle Trauma and its Psychological and Physical Sequelae*
- Resolution on Violence Against Children by Governments*
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- Psychological Issues Related to Child Abuse and Neglect*
- The Use of Anatomically Detailed Dolls in Forensic Evaluations*
- Resolution on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youths in the Schools*
- Policy Statement of the American Psychological Association on Psychology and Service Integration
- Violence in Mass Media*
- Resolution on the Psychological Needs of Children Exposed to Disasters*
- Resolution on Cigarette Smoking
- Resolution on School Dropout Prevention*
- Resolution on Sexuality Education*
- Policy Statement on Social Practices that Induce Violence*
- Resolution on Immigrant Children, Youth, and Families*

- Resolution Opposing Child Sexual Abuse*
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Optional Protocols*
- Resolution on the Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities*
- Resolution on Bullying Among Children and Youth*
- Resolution on Children's Mental Health*
- Violence in Video Games and Interactive Media*
- Task Force on Advertising and Children Recommendations*

*Text is available on the Internet at <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/resolution.html>. Printed copies are available by contacting, Efua Andoh, CYF Program Associate, by email at eandoh@apa.org.

Children, Youth, and Families Office Publications

Children, Youth, and Families Activity Summary. Provides a summary of Public Interest activities focusing on children, youth, and families. Updated annually.

<http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/activitysummary806.pdf>

Annual Report of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. Provides a summary of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families' yearly activities and accomplishments. Updated annually.

http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf_annual_report_2005.pdf

APA Policy Statements on Children, Youth, and Families. Provides text and references for APA public policy statements on children, youth, and families. Updated online as new statements are adopted. Copies of the resolutions are available at this web address

<http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/resolution.html>

A New Look at Adolescent Girls: Strengths and Stresses Research Agenda. This booklet was excerpted from *Beyond Appearances: A New Look at Adolescent Girls* published by APA Books. It provides an overview of research questions focused on the strengths, challenges, and choices with the contexts of girls' lives. 28 pages. 1999. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/adolesgirls.html>

Protecting Our Children from Abuse and Neglect. This public education pamphlet was written for parents, teachers, relatives, and those who care for children. It provides information on causes of child abuse and neglect, how to recognize and prevent child abuse and neglect, and what may happen to abused and neglected children. 18 pages. 1997. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/abuse.html>

APA Talking Points on Children's Mental Health. These materials were developed to address policy concerns identified by the APA Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health. They address policy implications of a broad range of children's mental health needs and issues. 5 pages. 2005. <http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/tftalkingpoints.html>

APA Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health. This report presents the implementation plan to organize and focus APA's resources to further policies, research, training, and practice as identified in the report of the APA Working Group on Children's Mental Health: *APA's Response to the Surgeon General's Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health*. 21 pages. 2004. http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/child_adoles_mentalhealth_report.pdf

APA Working Group on Children's Mental Health: APA's Response to the Surgeon General's Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health. This report puts forward findings and recommendations important in efforts to address the crisis in children's mental health as identified in the *Report of the Surgeon General's Conference on Children's Mental Health: A National Action Agenda*. References are included. 39 pages. 2001. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/dpnacmh.pdf>

Addressing Missed Opportunities for Early Childhood Mental Health Interventions: Current Knowledge and Policy Implications. This report focuses on the current knowledge and gaps in understanding that must guide the needed policy directions to improve mental health service delivery in early childhood. 48 pages. 2004 <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/emhireport.pdf>

Developing Adolescents: A Reference for Professionals. This booklet provides information on normative adolescent physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral development. References are included. 41 pages. 2002. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/develop.pdf>

Tips for Talking with Adolescents. This bookmark, excerpted from *Developing Adolescents: A Reference for Professionals*, provides tips for talking with adolescents. 2004. Available in English http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/tips_for_talking_with_adolescents.pdf

and Spanish (**Como Hablar con los Adolescentes.**)
http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/tips_for_talking_with_adolescents_spanish.pdf

Yes...It's Normal for Adolescents to... This bookmark, excerpted from *Developing Adolescents: A Reference for Professionals*, provides a quick reference on normal adolescent development. 2004. Available in English http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/yes_its_normal_for_adolescents_to.pdf

and Spanish (**Si...Es normal que los Adolescentes...**)
http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/yes_its_normal_for_adolescents_to_spanish.pdf

Love Doesn't Have to Hurt Teens. This poster-style brochure on teen dating violence provides information and resources for victims, aggressors, and friends. It includes discussion of issues particular to disabled youth, same-sex relationships, and cultural beliefs. 1997 <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/teen.pdf>

Report of the APA Task Force on Advertising and Children. This report provides information on the psychological issues in the increasing commercialization of childhood and the psychological implications of commercialism in schools. Contains recommendations for public policy, research, applied psychology, industry practices, media literacy, and advertising and schools. 68 pages. 2004.
<http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/advertisingandchildren.pdf>

An Annotated Bibliography on the Implications of Interactive Media for Adolescents. This bibliography provides a comprehensive list of references on the implications of interactive media for adolescents. 71 pages. 2002. <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/interactivemedia.pdf>

Report of the APA Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents. This report provides a thorough review of the existing literature and reports on the current state of knowledge concerning the effective use, sequencing, and integration of psychotropic medications and psychosocial interventions for children and adolescents. 246 pages. 2006
<http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/childmeds.pdf>

A free copy of most material is available by contacting publicinterest@apa.org.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, and TRANSGENDER CONCERNS OFFICE

Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project

The Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project (HLGBSP) continues its work to strengthen the capacity of the nation's schools and youth-serving organizations to prevent health risks and promote healthy outcomes among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth. The project, which has been funded since its inception by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), began its ninth year of operation in May 2007. Prior to its current five-year funding cycle, the project's principal undertaking was development, implementation, and evaluation of its full-day training workshop, *Preventing Health Risks and Promoting Healthy Outcomes Among Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth: A Training Workshop for School Counselors, Nurses, Psychologists, and Social Workers*. To date, HLGBSP has provided 40 trainings at the national, regional, and state levels, reaching a combined audience of 1,137 school counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers. Together, these professionals are responsible for providing health and mental health services to an estimated 956,000 middle- and high-school students.

During the past year, HLGBSP has expanded its capacity building efforts beyond education agencies. After marketing its services to approximately 150 community based organizations whose work focuses

on LGBTQ youth, the project has selected ten organizations to receive intensive, tailored technical assistance for HIV prevention programming with young men who have sex with men. HLGBSP, in collaboration with APA's Office on AIDS, has established linkages between these community organizations and behavioral and social scientists with expertise in HIV prevention.

HLGBSP also sought to create long-term partnerships with five state or local education agencies to improve their education and outreach programs for HIV prevention with LGBTQ youth. After a selective application process, APA has begun its first year (of a four-year period) of collaborative work with five education agencies in jurisdictions with high rates of HIV infection—the Los Angeles Unified School District, San Diego Unified School District, District of Columbia Public Schools, Massachusetts Department of Education (on behalf of Boston Public Schools), and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

To learn more about HLGBSP's mission, history, and future plans, please visit the website at www.apa.org/pi/hlgbsp.

Lesbian and Gay Parenting

The publication is provided for the use of clinicians, researchers, students, lawyers, and parents involved in legal and policy issues related to lesbian and gay parenting. *Lesbian and Gay Parenting* is the successor to *Lesbian and Gay Parenting: A Resource for Psychologists* (1995) and is a collaborative project of the Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns; the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; and the Committee on Women in Psychology.

It is divided into three parts. Part I is a summary of research findings on lesbian mothers, gay fathers, and their children written by Charlotte J. Patterson, PhD. Part II is an annotated bibliography of the literature cited in the summary. Part III provides some additional resources relevant to lesbian and gay parenting in the forensic context: APA amicus briefs, professional association policies, and contact information for relevant organizations.

Lesbian and Gay Parenting is available in **PDF** format (88 pages/912KB) at this web address <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbcp/publications/lgparenthome.html> . Contact the Public Interest Directorate at publicinterest@apa.org to request a free print copy.

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS OFFICE

Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls

The Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls was released February 16, upon Council's adoption of the report and recommendations. Press coverage was extensive, with nearly 200 news placements nationwide and internationally, including a full length feature in the *Washington Post* and coverage on CNN and in *USA Today*. By the end of the first day of coverage, this was the #1 most frequently emailed story on the BBC website. Op-eds appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Denver Post*. At this writing, the report on APA's web site has attracted over 200,000 hits.

According to the report, sexualization occurs when a person's value comes only from her/his sexual appeal or behavior, to the exclusion of other characteristics, and when a person is sexually objectified. Examples of sexualization abound in virtually every form of media, including television, music videos, music lyrics, magazines, movies, video games, and the Internet, in addition to advertising campaigns and products marketed to girls. Attitudes of parents, siblings, and friends can contribute to the pressure of sexualization. Sexualization is linked to negative consequences for cognitive and emotional functioning (including impaired performance on mental activities), mental health (including eating disorders, low self-esteem, and depression), physical health, and healthy sexual development. The report identifies strategies and programs that can help counter the negative effects of sexualization and provides recommendations for research, practice, education and training, public policy, and raising public awareness. The report, a summary, parent tips, a list of media literacy resources, and the APA press release is available at: www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization.html.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Adults and Children Together Against Violence (ACT)

One of a few violence prevention strategies that focus on early childhood, *ACT Against Violence* is a national anti-violence initiative developed by the APA Public Interest Directorate and Public Communications and Membership Office in collaboration with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). ACT emphasizes early prevention, community involvement, strengthening families and positive parenting as critical ways to create safe and healthy environments that protect children and youth from violence and other behavior problems.

The ACT program accomplishes its goals through partnerships with community-based organizations, coalitions and agencies and through training of professionals and others who work with families. Trained professionals and their organizations disseminate to adults research-based information on child development, risk factors, protective factors, skills for nonviolent behaviors, and the importance of community participation.

The program is culturally sensitive and designed to increase the professionals' sensitivity to cultural differences. All the training and educational materials come in English and Spanish and are available for download or purchase through the program web site – www.actagainstviolence.org The program also reaches millions of adults through a TV ad; radio and print ads that are available online; and billboards and posters.

In order to increase the fidelity of replication and adoption, proceed with an outcome/impact evaluation, and meet increasing demand for the program in Latino communities, in 2005 APA redesigned the program intervention model and refined the materials. The redesign process created **Parents Raising Safe Kids**, an 8-week program in English and Spanish that focuses on educating parents and families of young children.

As of today, the ACT program is implemented in 35 communities in 18 states, including Latino communities. The program has trained more than twenty thousands professionals and reached more than thirty thousand parents and other caregivers. The program has established partnerships with community-based social service and mental health providers, colleges, local government agencies, local coalitions, churches, and hospitals.

Parents, including teen parents, incarcerated parents, and foster parents, are among those recruited to attend the 8-week program conducted at childcare centers, prisons, shelters, hospitals, public libraries, adult education centers, churches, schools. The ACT national staff provides technical assistance to the local teams through e-mails, conference calls, annual leadership seminars, a listserv, web-based seminars, and site visits. Two of the program sites are currently conducting outcome/impact evaluation coordinated by psychologists with groups of parents completing the parent 8-week program.

With the purpose of decentralizing and expanding the program, APA is currently creating five ACT Regional Centers – two on the East Coast, two in the Mid-west, one on the West Coast - to coordinate the program in their regions and increase the number and diversity of communities, organizations, professionals, and families involved with ACT.

For additional information, contact Julia da Silva, ACT Program Director, by email at jsilva@apa.org.

OFFICE on AIDS

HOPE Training Program

The APA's Office on AIDS has been training mental health service providers about HIV/AIDS for over twelve years. The office administers a federally funded HIV/AIDS mental health provider training initiative called the HOPE Program. The program features a nationwide faculty of over 220 project-trained Regional Psychologist Trainers who deliver HIV-related mental health training based on the HOPE Training Resource Package. The Training Resource Package contains 9 modules encompassing the most-often requested areas for HIV/mental health-related professional development. HOPE Trainers individually tailor their workshops to meet requirements for in-service and continuing education credit.

Since its inception in 1991, the HOPE Program, through the APA Office on AIDS has conducted a workshop entitled, *Psychology, HIV, and Pediatrics*. In 2001, the HOPE Program, responding to not only changes in the epidemic, but the stated needs of HOPE Trainers, developed a "families-centered" module for the Training Resource Package. This new module, *HIV & Families* addresses the new reality of HIV as it effects families, and acquaints psychologists with the issues that confront children and adolescents infected and affected by HIV, as well as their families and support networks. This training module highlights the epidemiology of HIV among children and adolescents; outlines and discuss relevant issues including disclosure, multiple loss, permanency planning, school issues, bereavement and grieving, transitions, and psychological interventions as well as providing the participant experience identifying and using skills needed to work in this specialty area.

For additional information, please visit their web site at <http://www.apa.org/pi/aids/>.

OFFICE on SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

June 2007 marks the inauguration of the Office on Socioeconomic Status (SES). The Office on Socioeconomic Status (SES) is responsible for directing, overseeing, facilitating and promoting psychology's contribution to the understanding of SES and the lives and well-being of the poor. As such, the Office works to develop and facilitate relationships and activities to advance psychology as a major force in research, policy and advocacy related to SES.

This is accomplished through activities and programs such as:

- collecting, synthesizing, and disseminating specific research, professional, organizational, and public policy information concerning SES and its impact on public interest constituencies, including increasing awareness of issues related to SES such as class, classism, and class-based bias, institutional and interpersonal forms of bias and discrimination and the psychological implications of unemployment and underemployment;
- promoting the scientific understanding of the roles of poverty and SES in health, education, and human welfare;
- developing applications of psychology that take into account the effects of SES on psychological development and well-being;
- supporting effective advocacy for public policy addressing disparities based on SES and related issues.

The Office also works to support and manage projects of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES), serves as an information and referral source on issues related to SES; and develops and disseminates reports, pamphlets, and other written materials on professional and consumer issues.

To learn more about the Office on Socioeconomic Status, please visit the website at <http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/homepage.html> or contact Keyona King-Tsikata, Director, Office on Socioeconomic Status by email at kkingtsikata@apa.org.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) was established by a vote of Council in August 1985 to ensure "...that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are actualized." The Committee consists of six members and reports to the Council of Representatives through the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI). The 2006 CYF Annual Report provides information on CYF's goals and a summary of activities as they relate to the Committee's goals. Committee members for 2007 are Lonnie Sherrod, PhD, Chair; Mario Hernandez, PhD; Karen Budd, PhD; Barbara Fiese, PhD; Scott Nolen, PhD; and John Hagen, PhD.

Committee on Children, Youth, and Families Call for Nominations for Terms Beginning in 2008

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) is anticipating two vacancies in 2008. CYF welcomes nominations from individuals interested in linking research and policy for children and families within APA and the profession. The Committee is particularly interested in candidates with substantial expertise and demonstrated experience in applying psychological knowledge to the well being and optimal development of children, youth, and families; and in issues advancing psychology as a science and profession in the area of promoting health and human welfare. Candidates are sought who have particular expertise in contemporary issues facing children, youth, and families in the context of their socioemotional and cognitive development and mental health. Candidates who have particular interest in culturally and linguistically diverse, understudied, underserved and diverse populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Members are expected to participate in a targeted project directly related to CYF's work and mission and to APA as a whole. The project is to be completed during their three-year term on the Committee. Some examples of projects previously implemented by the Committee include immigrant children, youth, and families; school drop-out prevention; sexuality education; social practices that induce violence; psychological implications of disasters; early mental health interventions; violence against children in the family and community; training psychologists to work in the public sector; cultural competence; day care; testing; the mental health needs of children and adolescents in the juvenile justice system, bullying and violence in videogames and interactive media. Areas of interest to the Committee at present include rural children's mental health, mental health disparities, and cultural diversity. Potential candidates are encouraged to visit the CYF website (<http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/ccyf>) to learn more about CYF's mission and prior initiatives.

The Committee places a priority on maintaining representation within the Committee's membership that reflects the diversity of psychology and society (e.g., ethnicity, culture, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, geographic location, and those who are employed less than full time). The candidates selected to serve on the Committee will serve for three years and will be required to attend two Committee meetings a year in Washington, DC, with expenses reimbursed by APA, and to participate in conference calls. The successful candidate is expected to attend, if possible, the informal CYF meeting held during the APA convention at the member's own expense. In addition, members are expected to work on projects and Committee business between meetings.

Each candidate is asked to submit:

- (1) a letter indicating his/her willingness to serve;
- (2) a brief statement describing the applicants expertise and interest in one or two contemporary issues facing children, adolescents and families that they would bring to the Committee; and
- (3) a current curriculum vita.

Nomination material including a letter from the candidate indicating a willingness to serve, issues statement, and a current CV must be received by **Monday, August 27, 2007**. Nomination material received after August 27 will be held for consideration the following year. Although it is not required, candidates are encouraged to have letters (not more than three) supporting their nomination submitted to the Committee. Material may be sent to CYF Nominations, c/o Efua Andoh, CYF Program Associate, Public Interest Directorate, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20002-4242, by email eandoh@apa.org or fax (202) 336-6040.

Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
Federal Advocacy Priorities
March 24, 2007

Preamble

The listing of legislative priorities of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) that follows reflects the current policy concerns of the committee. This listing is updated regularly. The committee is fully aware that the Congressional agenda and calendar, as well as other external events typically dictate the opportunities available to the staff of APA's Public Policy Office (PPO). Thus, the policy initiatives pursued by the PPO will be constrained by these factors and will not necessarily reflect the priorities listed below. The Committee charges PPO with taking advantage of advocacy and legislative opportunities as they arise.

In general, certain principles can assist the work of the PPO with respect to child, youth, and family policy issues. The committee agrees that the following principles should be used as a guide when considering any such policy initiatives:

Whenever possible, the policy approaches advocated should be proactive rather than reactive. APA has the capacity to educate policy makers on innovative policy issues and should strive to assist Congress in addressing policy matters before they reach a crisis stage. In addition to a proactive approach to policy issues, APA assumes that advocacy priorities are best implemented in a holistic context. This context views policies and practices affecting children and families in an integrated manner where all the priorities work synergistically within communities rather than in isolation of each other.

In this manner, advocacy should focus whenever possible on promoting a comprehensive array of services and supports that are organized within communities into coordinated networks to meet the needs and strengths of children, adolescents, and their families.

APA's input in child, youth, and family policy discussions should be strongly based in the science of psychology. The Association's unique standing in the policy arena is psychology's body of empirical research and theory. Contributions that are evidence-based and rooted in the science of psychology are crucial to establishing and maintaining APA's credibility with policy makers.

It is particularly important that APA bring the developmental perspective to bear on legislation affecting children and youth. Juvenile justice and child welfare policies, childcare policies, and welfare reform policies are often formulated with little thought to the developmental issues that will likely affect the success or failure of those policies. APA is uniquely situated to address important developmental considerations as policies are formed.

APA should devote special effort to devise policy approaches that promote healthy development among children and youth. Most policy initiatives for children, youth, and families are problem-focused. An expanding body of research attests to the value of an array of intervention/prevention models that develop and build upon strengths and foster psychosocial competence and health. APA should work to assure that this perspective is represented in policy making whenever possible.

The priorities below are comprehensive and are intended to cover all aspects of policy. These aspects include: infrastructure (policy, financing, etc.), direct services (availability, types, quality, etc.), training (in service, pre service) and evaluation (basic, policy relevant, policy analysis, etc.), research and public information (stigma, media, dissemination of research, etc.).

Mental Health

Advocate for federal policies that implement a primary mental health care system for children that integrates and promotes high quality evidence-based prevention and treatment services in collaboration with child treatment services from other disciplines.

1. Advocate for federal support for a continuum of mental health services for children and adolescents in need across levels of care and age ranges.

2. Advocate for federal support for research and optimal methods of effective dissemination, replication and implementation of child and adolescent evidence-based prevention and treatment programs.
3. Advocate for the promotion of comprehensive school mental health services for students of all ages that are based on the best available science and that incorporate the services of school-employed providers and other providers who work in school sites.
4. Advocate for federal policies to promote adolescents' access to confidential and sensitive health, mental health, and reproductive health services.
5. Advocate for federal support for child abuse and neglect prevention, treatment, and research, and for increased involvement of psychologists and behavioral science in these areas.
6. Advocate for federal support for research on the prevention, intervention and treatment of the sexual exploitation of children and for increased involvement of psychologists and the behavioral science in this area.
7. Advocate for research and dissemination of programs to prevent substance use and mental health problems and promote positive mental health of children and youth.
8. Advocate for dissemination of crisis intervention policies and procedures related to community disasters and trauma.
9. Advocate for federal support for suicide prevention research.
10. Advocate for the appropriate inclusion of children and youth in clinical trials to validate the use of therapeutic interventions and for trials to determine best practices in interventions across culture and gender.
11. Advocate for research on safe and effective use of psychotropic medications with children and adolescents.
12. Advocate for federal funding for research and support services for children and youth in the criminal justice system including rehabilitation services, prevention efforts, and a continuum of mental health services.

Physical Health

Advocate for policies that promote positive healthy development of children and their families that reduce health disparities and that recognize comorbidities between physical and mental health.

1. Advocate for health insurance for uninsured and underinsured children and youth and their families.
2. Advocate for the dissemination of empirically supported, developmentally appropriate interventions to service networks and providers for whom they are relevant.
3. Advocate for policies that monitor and lead to a reduction in negative environmental effects on children and youth's healthy growth and development.
4. Promote federal policies and regulations that serve to reduce children's exposure to and involvement in violence, whether through the media, in schools, in the community, or at home.
5. Advocate for children and adolescents' access to appropriate and comprehensive health and sexuality education.

6. Advocate for federal funding and support for research on the normative development of sexual behavior in youth in order to guide programs that aim to impact sexual behavior.

Education

Advocate for programs and policies that promote the optimal development of the whole child--cognitive and socio-emotional development, physical and mental health--in all contexts affecting children and youth--preschool, school, and communities.

1. Advocate for programs and policies that promote the positive development of all children and youth, that increase the likelihood that they will live up to their full potential in order to prevent talent loss and increase human capital.
2. Advocate for federal support for full educational opportunities for all children and adolescents leading to literacy and self-support skills (meaning the ability to earn a living).
3. Advocate for federal policies to enhance the contributions of electronic and other media to the positive social, emotional, and cognitive development of children and youth.

Diversity

Advocate for federal policies and funding that recognize, address, and support the diversity of children, youth, and families and that promote tolerance of diversity.

1. Advocate for federal funding and support for research on normative development of minority children, youth, and families
2. Advocate for federal funding and support to train psychologists to work with children, youth, and families with particular attention to children, youth, and families of color, including those who are linguistically diverse, poor and those in rural areas.
3. Advocate for support of research-based policies that promote the healthy development of children in all families (including married, unmarried, single parent, lesbian, gay, and grandparent headed households).
4. Advocate for preserving and protecting rights of and services to immigrant, migrant, and refugee children and youth and for research funding and programs to address issues of this population as new immigrants to this country.
5. Advocate for programs and policies that promote the development of tolerance in children and youth of individual differences across social economic class, race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and disability status.
6. Advocate for federal funds and policies to support research and programs addressing prevention efforts for adolescent sexual behavior risk for HIV, STDs and pregnancy.

Family Support

Advocate for policies that promote and support family and child physical and mental health with particular attention to underserved children and families.

1. Advocate for federal funding for research and support services for children and families in the child welfare and the juvenile justice system.
2. Advocate for policies that guarantee the high quality care of all children in and out of the home, that allow and promote parental leave, and that support families in multiple ways in order to promote positive development.

3. Advocate for federal policies to promote positive, involved and consistent parenting practices and positive family development.
4. Advocate for strengthening programs that support and empower families with young children, particularly infants and toddlers such as Early Head Start, Head Start, Healthy Start, and childcare initiatives.

Children's Rights and Civic Engagement

Advocate for policies that recognize and support the rights of children and their development into citizens who will exercise their rights responsibly.

1. Advocate for programs and policies that would promote the civic development of children and youth so that they can appreciate, understand, and take advantage of their rights as developing citizens.
2. Advocate for policies that promote character, tolerance, understanding, and respect for others in a diverse society.
3. Advocate for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other policies to promote the rights of children and youth.

The Committee further recommends that priority be given to a specific legislative initiatives as appropriate to include Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Head Start, Family Opportunity Act, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Keeping Families Together Act, Child Health Care Crisis Relief Act, Higher Education Act, No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Resiliency Act, and child welfare, particularly in regard to family preservation, and adoption and termination of parental rights.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) was established by a vote of Council in August 1985 to ensure "...that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association...in order that all human resources are actualized." The Committee consists of six members and reports to the Council of Representatives through the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI). The 2006 CYF Annual Report provides information on CYF's goals and a summary of activities as they relate to the Committee's goals.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPOSITION

The six members of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) for 2006 were Nancy E. Hill, PhD (chair); Lonnie Sherrod, PhD (chair-elect); John Lochman, PhD; Mario Hernandez, PhD; Barbara Fiese, PhD, and Karen Budd, PhD.

MEETINGS

The Committee held two formal meetings in the Washington, DC, area on April 7-9, 2006, and September 29 - October 1, 2006. In addition to these sessions, the Committee accomplished other business by e-mail exchange and conference call.

LIAISON FUNCTIONS

CYF maintains active monitor and liaison relationships with APA divisions, boards, committees and task forces. Division liaisons to CYF are active and involved in the work of the Committee. Liaisons who participated in one or more meetings during 2006 included: Kathy S. Katz, PhD, Division 7; Karen Saywitz, PhD, Division 37; Margaret Feerick, PhD, Division 37 Section 1; Shelley Heaton, PhD, Division

40; James Bray, PhD, Division 43; Marilyn Erickson, PhD, Division 53; Brian Smedley, PhD, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest; Clark Campbell, PhD, Committee on Rural Health (Monitor); Jennifer Gibson, PhD, Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology; and Diane J. Willis, PhD, American Orthopsychiatric Association.

Each CYF member is a monitor or liaison to several APA boards and committees. They review pertinent material and bring relevant issues to CYF's attention. In addition, CYF strives to comment appropriately on all crosscutting agenda items that have some pertinence to children, youth, and families to ensure that adequate and accurate consideration is devoted to those issues.

MISSION AND GOALS

CYF's mission is to further the central purpose of APA -- to advance psychology as a science and a profession and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare -- by specifically ensuring that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are actualized. CYF's goals are to:

- Identify and disseminate information concerning the psychological status of children, youth, and families for psychologists, other professionals, policy makers, and the public;
- Offer consultation to relevant APA boards and committees responsible for psychologists who conduct research and provide services for children, youth, and families;
- Encourage psychological research on the factors that promote or inhibit the development of individual and family competence;
- Contribute to the formulation and support of policies that facilitate the optimal development of children and youth within families;
- Designate priorities for APA involvement in the issues affecting children, youth, and families including issues related to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability.

SUMMARY OF CYF 2006 ACTIVITIES

Diversity Training and Representation At the request of the Council of Representatives, the following information is provided on diversity training activities and membership. In all its efforts from Committee membership to policy statements, the Committee works diligently to ensure that diversity issues receive the Committee's full attention. For example, CYF's 2006 membership was diverse with respect to ethnicity (i.e., One African-American, One Hispanic-American, Four European-Americans) gender (three females and three males), and geographic location; the Committee solicits nominations from ethnic minority psychological associations to enhance the ethnic diversity of the candidate pool; and the Committee advocates for or develops publications, policies and programs that are appropriate with regard to age and developmental level, culture, ethnicity, language (Spanish and English language public information material), disability, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Further, advocacy priorities established by the Committee pay special attention to issues uniquely important to those from diverse backgrounds. This commitment is reflected in Committee's Federal Advocacy Priority focused on diversity. In that priority, CYF calls for advocating for federal funds for research on the normative development of minority children, youth and families; funding to support training for psychologists to work with children, youth and families from diverse backgrounds in culturally sensitive ways; supporting and funding research based policies that promote the healthy development of children in all families, including those from married, unmarried, single parent, lesbian, gay and grandparent headed household; and for preserving and protecting the rights of and services to immigrant, migrant, and refugee children and youth and for funds for research and programs to serve these families; among others.

The Committee reviewed its strategic plan to ensure its consistency with the APA diversity goals. In addition, the Committee developed specific strategies to enhance the Committee's multicultural/diversity capabilities, reviewed the *Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice, and Organizational Change for Psychologists*, published in the American Psychologist in 2003. CYF set as a goal the identification and implementation of existing APA documents and policies that further APA's and the Committee's commitment to diversity. The Committee also committed to developing or to assisting in the development of new policies as needed.

The Committee supported the establishment of the Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents and looks forward to reviewing their product.

Committee members participated in APA's Multicultural Leadership Workshop and developed a 5-part action plan for engaging and retaining members of color in the Association's activities.

The Committee continued ongoing activities and initiated new efforts in 2006 to fulfill its mission. The Committee's major activities are summarized below as they relate to each of their five goals.

I. Identify and Disseminate Information

Newsletter

CYF NEWS is the primary vehicle for communication of information about CYF activities and issues of concern. Two CYF members edit the newsletter. Drs. Fiese (Summer 2006) and Budd (Winter 2007) shared that responsibility in 2006. Copies of the newsletter are available on the Internet at <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/cyfnews.html>. The Committee also uses other APA vehicles to disseminate information to members (i.e., APA Monitor on Psychology, APA Division Dialogue) and public information pieces (i.e., Tips for Talking with Adolescents and Yes...It's Normal for Adolescents to... bookmarks in English and Spanish.)

2006 APA Convention

To mark the Committee's 20th anniversary as an APA committee, CYF presented a presidential symposium on the topic, "*Growing up with diversity: The role of psychology in strengthening families.*" This symposium was co-chaired by Drs. Hill and Sherrod and focused on the increased diversity in the United States of America of the last century; the importance of understanding the unique and interactive influences of ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, and community resources for understanding parenting, family dynamics and children's development in diverse contexts; and how diversity influences policies and programs. President Koocher was the discussant.

In addition, CYF member, Dr. Lochman, chaired a symposium titled "*Issues in the Dissemination of Empirically-Supported Interventions for Children and Adolescents.*"

APA staff planned a CYF 20th Anniversary reception for Friday, August 11th at the Convention. They developed an informational packet that reflected the 20-year history of CYF. The Committee received a Presidential Citation from President Gerald Koocher, PhD, in acknowledgement of their 20th Anniversary and for their efforts in carrying out their mission.

For the 2007 Convention, on behalf of CYF, member, Dr. Fiese, in collaboration with CWP, has proposed a symposium to BAPPI to reflect the theme *The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice*.

Conference Activities

CYF works through its members to involve the Association with other organizations in collaborative efforts to bring psychology's knowledge base to other professionals. Nancy E. Hill, PhD, took the lead in advancing an Interdisciplinary Conference on Family-School Relations. The conference focused on empirical research findings on the relationship between family involvement in schools and children's educational outcomes, and on factors that promote or inhibit the development of family and school relationships for families, schools and teachers. The conference took place in July, 2006, was hosted by Duke University, and was funded by the National Science Foundation.

Through the work of Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD and with the enthusiastic support of CYF, APA accepted the invitation of the Association of Family Conciliation Courts (AFCC) to be a collaborating organization for the AFCC's 43rd Annual Conference. APA members participated in conference research presentation and activities.

II. Provide Consultation:

Consultation was provided to a variety of APA boards, committees, task forces, and divisions through CYF liaison and monitor relationships to these groups.

Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI)

At the request of BAPPI, the Committee forwarded recommendations for members of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status.

Other Consultations

The Committee reviewed and made recommendations to the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula, Report of the Task on the Sexualization of Girls, Report of the Presidential Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice, Report of the Accreditation Summit Meeting; the Report of the Task Force on the Impact of Elementary and Secondary School Zero Tolerance Policies; the Report of the Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents, APA Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Divorce Proceedings, and the Report of the Task Force for Psychological Practice with Girls and Women. The Committee also discussed and made substantive recommendations related to the Presidential Task Force on Enhancing Diversity in APA and increasing membership. The CYF Chair also attended the Membership Summit.

The Committee made recommendations for the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula Working Group, and APA Presidential Task Force on Military Deployment Services for Youth, Families, and Service Members.

Dr. Hernandez, CYF Member, provided consultation to President Koocher on a response to the controversy surrounding the Judge Rotenberg Institute and its use of aversives to disrupt self-injurious behaviors among autistic patients.

III. Encourage Psychological Research and

IV. Formulate Policy:

CYF's initiatives, listed below, encompass activities that concurrently address both of these important aspects of the Committee's responsibilities.

Unlicensed Residential Treatment Centers for Youth

Dr. Hernandez brought unlicensed residential treatment centers to the Committee's attention. There are a growing number of unlicensed residential treatment centers for juveniles. There have been reports that some of these unlicensed centers utilize questionable methods of discipline and treatment. Dr. Hernandez will lead the Committee in exploring possible recommendations to address this issue.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and Civic Engagement

The NCLB Act is up for reauthorization in 2007. The NCLB cuts across several CYF interests including civic engagement, parental involvement in education, and the lack of attention to nutrition and health. In collaboration with Annie Toro, JD, from the APA Policy Office, Dr. Sherrrod will lead the Committee in developing recommendations for language in the reauthorization.

Inter-divisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health Care

The Committee continued to liaison with the Inter-divisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health. As part of its larger effort to advocate for children's mental health services, the Task Force submitted a draft proposal for a Wingspread Conference on providing quality mental health services to children, and developed talking points to use in advocacy visits with Members of Congress.

Updating Lesbian & Gay Parenting: A Resource for Psychologists

CYF contributed to the document titled *Updating Lesbian & Gay Parenting: A Resource for Psychologists* by identifying reviewers and collaborators with the appropriate expertise, and assisting with the document's refinement and editing. The document was released early in 2006.

Rural Children's Mental Health

At the request of the Council of Representatives, CYF gathered information and developed a report on APA's efforts related to rural children's mental health as articulated in Council New Business Item No.

58C: Rural Children's Mental Health Services. The CYF forwarded its report titled Report of APA Activities Focused on Rural Children's Mental Health to the Council of Representative.

Mental Health Interventions Targeted at Children in the Welfare/Child Protection System

Empirically supported treatments developed in research lab settings rarely include children (or their parents) who are wards of the state. There is also a disconnect between the research done in juvenile courts on families trying to regain custody of their children. This topic was brought to the committee by Dr. Budd. She will lead the committee in comparing a review of the scholarly literature with legislative initiatives to see where they intersect and develop recommendations for further research, policies and practices pertaining to enhancing the mental health outcomes of children in protective custody. This topic will serve as the major theme of the Winter 2007 issue of CYF News.

Family Mealtimes and Obesity in Children

Family mealtime routines are related to childhood obesity. Obesity among children has increased substantially over recent years and is associated with a number of maladaptive outcomes for children. Moreover, childhood obesity is largely preventable. Dr. Fiese brought this to the Committee's attention and organized various reports on this topic for the Summer 2006 CYF Newsletter. Dr. Fiese will lead the Committee in the development of a set of CYF brochures on various aspects of childhood obesity and mealtimes.

Additional Topics

The Committee discussed other issues including corporal punishment, children's rights, civic engagement, dissemination of empirically supported interventions for children and adolescents, and multicultural education and training for psychologists.

V. Designate APA Priorities for Children, Youth, and Families

This goal permeates every aspect of CYF's work and is evident through the variety of consultation efforts, working groups and task forces described earlier. In recognition that CYF is particularly effective when its members have expertise to respond to contemporary events affecting children, youth, and families, the nominations statement for terms beginning in 2008 explicitly encourages applicants with such expertise, including (but not limited) to culturally and linguistically diverse, understudied, and underserved populations; rural mental health; mental health disparities and promotion of healthy lifestyles for children, youth, and families.

Revised Legislative Priorities

After consultation with staff from the Public Policy Office (PPO), the Committee revised and reorganized the CYF legislative priorities to include priorities related to children's mental health, physical health, education, diversity, family support, and children's rights and civic engagement.

Conclusion

Different from most APA committees, CYF advocates for and provides service to a population that is not represented among the membership, nor capable of promoting its best interests without the assistance of others. CYF's strives to use psychological knowledge and practice to improve and enhance the lives of young people both as individuals, as well as within the family structure. The notion of public service truly underlies all of CYF's efforts.

CYF focuses APA's organizational efforts and capabilities on issues of critical social importance. During the past year, those efforts have encompassed numerous topics for which APA has provided assistance in the areas of education, information dissemination, training, and public policy recommendations. These contributions clearly enhance the reputation of the Association while at the same time delivering important public service. CYF members are proud of this service and confident that it has had a meaningful positive impact on the lives of many young people and families.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy E. Hill, PhD

2006 Chair

Committee on Children, Youth, and Families

