

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 2005 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 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPOSITION

The six members of the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) for 2005 were Beth Doll, PhD (chair); Nancy E. Hill, PhD (chair-elect); Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD; John Lochman, PhD; Mario Hernandez, PhD, and Lonnie Sherrod, PhD.

MEETINGS

The Committee held two formal meetings in the Washington, DC, area on March 18-20, 2005, and September 29 - October 2, 2005. 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 2005 included: Kathy S. Katz, PhD, Division 7; Karen Saywitz, PhD, Division 37; Gerry Gioia, PhD, Division 40; James Bray, PhD, Division 43; Marilyn Erickson, PhD, Division 53; and Randi Streisand, PhD, Division 54.

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

The mission of CYF 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 2005 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 2005 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 developmental and age level, culture, ethnicity, language (Spanish and English language public information material), disability, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. The Committee looks forward to participating in APA's diversity training when it is scheduled. The Committee did not provide any formal diversity training.

The Committee continued ongoing activities and initiated new efforts in 2005 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 members of the Committee edit the newsletter. Drs. Hernandez and Sherrod shared that responsibility in 2005. 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, the Committee proposed a presidential symposium on the topic, "*Growing up with diversity: The role of psychology in strengthening families.*" The Committee will also submit a proposal to a division on dissemination of empirically supported interventions in real world settings.

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. For example, 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 42nd Annual Conference, May 18-21, 2005 in Seattle, WA. APA members participated in conference research presentation and activities. Additionally, AFCC requested that APA cosponsor their annual conference in May 2006 in New Orleans, and APA agreed to collaborate again on conference activities. This collaboration will benefit the professions and children, youth, and families.

Nancy E. Hill, PhD, took the lead in advancing an Interdisciplinary Conference on Family-School Relations. The conference will focus 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. Duke University will host the conference in 2006.

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 proposed Committee on Socioeconomic Status.

Other Consultations

The Committee reviewed and made recommendations to the report of the Presidential Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice, 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

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.

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 formal 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.

Resolution on Violence in Video Games and Interactive Media.

The Council of Representatives approved as APA policy the CYF sponsored Resolution on Violence in Video Games and Interactive Media at their August 2005 meeting.

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 will be 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.

Additional Topics

The Committee discussed other issues including corporal punishment, children's rights, civic engagement, children's mental health, unlicensed residential treatment centers for youth, dissemination of empirically supported interventions for children and adolescents, multicultural education and training for psychologists, and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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 2007 explicitly encourages applicants with such expertise, including (but not limited) to rural mental health; promotion of healthy lifestyles for children, youth, and families; and underserved and ethnic minority populations.

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:

Beth Doll, PhD
2005 Chair
Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
January 2, 2005