



25th ANNIVERSARY OF APA'S COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

**American Psychological
Association**

Children, Youth, and Families Office

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**Supporting
America's
Children, Youth,
and Families
for 25 Years**



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Foreword

Messages from the 2011 Co-Chairs of APA's Committee on Children, Youth, and Families

The 25th Anniversary of *Children, Youth and Families, (CYF)*, marks a very special occasion in the history of the American Psychological Association (APA). The theme for the 25th Anniversary, *Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures*, captures the commitment and vision that CYF has always had to youth and their families. CYF was founded with the goals of “advancing psychology as both a science and a profession and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare by ensuring that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are actualized.” Consistent with this vision, CYF functions as a catalyst in promoting organizational and policy changes by interacting with and making recommendations within APA's governing structure, to its membership, and to relevant divisions, special interest and policy groups. Specifically, CYF's goals over the years have been:

- To identify and disseminate information concerning the psychological status of children, youth, and families for psychologists, other professionals, policy makers, and the public.
- To offer consultation to relevant APA boards and committees that are responsible for the educational standards for psychologists who conduct research and provide services for children, youth, and families.
- To encourage psychological research on the factors that promote or inhibit the development of individual and family competence.
- To contribute to the formulation and support of policies that facilitate the optimal development of children and youth within families.

To designate priorities for APA involvement in the issues affecting children, youth, and families, including issues related to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability.

CYF's dedication to these goals has been important given the millions of children and adolescents with mental health, behavioral, developmental and educational needs and challenges. Approximately half of all psychological diagnoses occur in childhood or adolescence with the average age of onset in early adolescence (Kessler et al, 2005). Through its leadership and the expertise of its respective committee members, CYF has helped to advance research, public policy, collaboration, and community awareness of children's and families' mental health issues. CYF's presence is well-known and far-reaching, particularly in the areas of homelessness, obesity, juvenile justice, and in promoting issues of diversity and inclusion.

There are many reasons to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of CYF. First, CYF has lead more than thirty comprehensive strategic initiatives, many of which have lead to the passage of APA and senate resolutions. Second, CYF has a number of ongoing initiatives related to making sure that we have *Healthy Kids*, including supporting military families, immigration and health-mental health integration. Third, CYF is working with a number of Committees, Divisions and Task Forces to develop collaborative strategies to ensure that all children and their families have *Healthy Futures*. Finally, in addition to celebrating CYF's anniversary, CYF's



Foreword (cont'd)

outstanding leadership should also be recognized including Ms. Mary Campbell who served the Committee during its 25 years of existence, Dr. Gwen Keita who provides administrative leadership, and Ms. Efua Andoh and Ms. Amani Chatman who provide administrative support.

- **Monica Johnson Mitchell, PhD, CYF Co-Chair**

I'm very pleased to be asked to give some feedback regarding my experience as a member and co-chair of CYF. I must say that my being accepted as a member came at a time when I was feeling somewhat disillusioned with APA and was considering cutting back on my participation in the organization. Becoming a member of CYF changed my perspective towards APA dramatically. I found myself working with colleagues who shared my lifelong commitment to improving the well-being of children and families. These colleagues demonstrated this commitment by their enthusiastic willingness to take on challenging tasks that are at the heart of the idealistic and pragmatic goals that drive CYF.

One of my first impressions of CYF was that it was and is a well-organized, goal oriented, and effectively managed committee (staffed by an outstanding group of professionals) that works to attain specific outcomes and tangible products (e.g., reports, publications, informational resources, etc.) that directly benefit children and families. To this point, prior to joining CYF, I had not worked with any other group that required its new members to identify a project that they would tackle during their tenure (e.g., immigration) and that would result in a product/outcome. I believe that having this requirement helps to make CYF one of the most active and productive APA committees. I like to think that CYF's persistent efforts relative to immigration helped to bring about the creation of existing APA Presidential Task Force on Immigration.

So what does my involvement in CYF mean to me? It has given me a great opportunity to work with persons dedicated to issues related to children and families and who, through collaborative efforts, I have come to admire and respect. It has helped to create in me the feeling that my being a part of the work of CYF has resulted in positive outcomes for children and families. As my tenure at CYF comes to an end, my only regret is that my tenure is coming to an end.

- **J. Manuel Casas, PhD, CYF Co-Chair**



CYF Alumni

1986-2011

- ◆ Hortensia Amaro, PhD
- ◆ Lenore Behar, PhD
- ◆ Maureen M. Black, PhD
- ◆ Bernard L. Bloom, PhD
- ◆ Melissa A. Bray, PhD
- ◆ Preston A. Britner, PhD
- ◆ Karen Schlueter Budd, PhD
- ◆ **Jesus Manuel Casas, PhD***
- ◆ Jean Chin, EdD
- ◆ Mary M. Clare, PhD
- ◆ Deborah Coates, PhD
- ◆ **Jan L. Culbertson, PhD***
- ◆ **Elisabeth Doll, PhD***
- ◆ **Barbara H. Fiese, PhD***
- ◆ Roseanne Flores, PhD
- ◆ James Garbarino, PhD
- ◆ **Donna Gelfand, PhD***
- ◆ Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, PhD
- ◆ Barry G. Ginsberg, PhD
- ◆ Juan, C. Gonzalez, PhD
- ◆ **John W. Hagen, PhD***
- ◆ Jerome Hanley, PhD
- ◆ Shelley Christine Heaton, PhD
- ◆ Mary Henning-Stout, PhD
- ◆ Mario Hernandez, PhD
- ◆ **Nancy E. Hill, PhD***
- ◆ E. Wayne Holden, PhD
- ◆ Larke Nahme Huang, PhD
- ◆ **Jaime Inclan, PhD***
- ◆ Colette Ingraham, PhD
- ◆ **Anthony Jackson***
- ◆ Yo Jackson, PhD
- ◆ Patti Johnson, PhD
- ◆ Kathy S. Katz, PhD
- ◆ **Judith Kaufman, PhD***
- ◆ Merle A. Keitel, PhD
- ◆ Jane Knitzer, EdD
- ◆ John Knitzer, PhD
- ◆ **Gerald P. Koocher, PhD***
- ◆ **Dale L. Kunkel, PhD***
- ◆ **Annette M. La Greca, PhD***
- ◆ **Susan P. Limber, PhD***
- ◆ Maria L. Lintel, PhD
- ◆ John E. Lochman, PhD
- ◆ Raymond P. Lorion, PhD
- ◆ John Henry Meier, PhD
- ◆ **Judith C. Meyers, PhD***
- ◆ Norweeta Milburn, PhD
- ◆ **Monica Johnson Mitchell, PhD***
- ◆ Scott C. Nolen, PhD
- ◆ Ena Vasquez Nuttall, EdD
- ◆ **Vera Paster, PhD***
- ◆ Natalie Porter, PhD
- ◆ Marsha Kline Pruett, PhD
- ◆ **Stephen M. Quintana, PhD***
- ◆ William A. Rae, PhD
- ◆ **Michael C. Roberts, PhD***
- ◆ **Donald K. Routh, PhD***
- ◆ William Sanchez, PhD
- ◆ Irwin, N. Sandler, PhD
- ◆ Karen J. Saywitz, PhD
- ◆ Felicisima C. Serafica, PhD
- ◆ **Lonnie Ray Sherrod, PhD***
- ◆ Stephen R. Shirk, PhD
- ◆ Barbara Slater, PhD
- ◆ Diana T. Slaughter, PhD
- ◆ Michael A. Southam-Gerow, PhD
- ◆ Marilyn Stern, PhD
- ◆ Randi M. Streisand, PhD
- ◆ Miguel Suarez, PhD
- ◆ **Carolyn F. Swift, PhD***
- ◆ **Anita J. Thomas, PhD***
- ◆ **Patrick H. Tolan, PhD***
- ◆ **Penelope K. Trickett, PhD***
- ◆ Luis Alberto Vargas, PhD
- ◆ **Brian L. Wilcox, PhD***
- ◆ Diane, J. Willis, PhD
- ◆ Melvin N. Wilson, PhD
- ◆ Edward F. Zigler, PhD

* Members who acted as Chair or Co-Chair



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

- Resolution on Promoting Healthy Active Lifestyles and Prevention of Obesity and Unhealthy Weight Control Behaviors in Youth
- Violence in Video Games and Interactive Media
- Resolution on Children's Mental Health
- Resolution on Bullying Among Children and Youth
- Resolution on the Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Optional Protocols
- Resolution Opposing Child Sexual Abuse
- Resolution on Immigrant Children, Youth, and Families
- Policy Statement on Social Practices that Induce Violence
- Resolution on Sexuality Education
- Resolution on School Dropout Prevention
- Resolution on the Psychological Needs of Children Exposed to Disasters
- Violence in Mass Media
- Resolution on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youths in the Schools
- Psychological Issues Related to Child Abuse and Neglect
- The Use of Psychology to Market Tobacco Products
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Resolution on Violence Against Children by Governments
- Prevention of Motor Vehicle Trauma and its Psychological and Physical Sequelae
- Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
- Corporal Punishment

APA Policy Statements and Resolutions Related to Children, Youth, and Families

Resolutions are available online at:

<http://www.apa.org/pi/families/resources/policy/index.aspx>



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Alumni Quotations

CYF has provided me with the opportunity to work closely and collaboratively with smart and caring colleagues – both APA members and staff – on important science translation, influencing policy, and creating and disseminating resources for psychologists and the public.

Preston A. Britner, PhD

Being a member of CYF was a one-of-a-kind opportunity to collaborate with a group of talented, smart, passionate, and action-oriented professionals in putting psychological knowledge to work for children, youth, and families. It was work with a mission, so it never felt like a chore. Mary Campbell had a gift for making each member feel valued and bringing the best out of us without ever raising her voice.

Karen S. Budd, PhD

CYF helped me appreciate how much APA could influence policy and practice by taking conscientious and research-supported positions on issues that matter to children and families. The work that was accomplished during my term on the committee clarified APA's positions on media violence, the involvement of parents in schools, the pivotal role of immigration in American family life, and services to children in schools. I've continued to see these issues reverberate through public forums since that time, and I'm proud to see APA's positions quoted and emphasized. I am so very glad that I was able to contribute to CYF and its important role.

Beth Doll, PhD

CYF gives a foundation and public centerpiece for APA priorities for children and families globally.

Donna Gelfand, PhD

The committee on Children, Youth and Families has enjoyed remarkable success over its 25 years. The scope of issues and range of topics that have been addressed by the committee is impressive, and the various "products" that have resulted from these activities have made a difference for children and families in all walks of life, whether they were articles in the Newsletter, reports, or endorsements of issues.

John W. Hagen, PhD



Alumni Quotations (cont'd)

The Committee on Child, Youth, and Family has been a significant activist force for improving the lives of children by focusing attention of the psychology community on these significant issues as well as by enhancing the visibility on a national level for children's issues and psychological roles in research, practice, and advocacy.

Michael C. Roberts, PhD, ABPP

Participating in CYF was one of the most invigorating professional experiences of my career. I learned a great deal from my fellow committee members and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working on policy issues that have real impact on the lives of children. Of course, the APA staff made everything happen – and made the work a pleasure.

Irwin N. Sandler, PhD

Congratulations to CYF for a wonderful 25 years of service! CYF has not only made a huge difference in APA by ensuring that policies and initiatives include children and youth, but CYF has had an influence on legislative action on the Hill. It was especially an honor to me to work with colleagues dedicated to ensuring cultural sensitivity in all of our efforts. It was also a wonderful privilege to work with the CYF Office staff under the direction of Mary Campbell.

Anita Thomas, PhD, CYF 2008-2010, Chair 2010

It was a great pleasure and honor to serve on the CYF Committee. This involvement led directly to the APA Report "Developing Psychology's National Agenda for Children's Mental Health" and over a decade of productive collaboration with others within APA. This is just one example of how this committee has made real advances for children in this country.

Patrick H. Tolan, PhD

I remember when a number of child oriented psychologists worked hard to get the Committee approved. Since its inception CYF has had wonderful leaders and committee members who have contributed in a positive manner. There is increased focus on advocacy, in providing good evidence to support legislation, and in focusing on relevant problems confronting CYF in the 21st century. Congratulations on the 25th anniversary.

Diane J. Willis, PhD



Milestones

A Summary of 25 Years of Achievements

1986-1994

1995-1998

1999-2003

- ◆ When You Need Child Day Care (English)/ La Seleccion del Mejor Cuidado para el Nino de Edad Preescolar (Spanish)
- ◆ Psychological Testing of Language Minority and Culturally Different Children (Pamphlet)
- ◆ Mary Campbell conducted a survey of APA's activities related to children, youth, and families
- ◆ Special issue of *JCCP* (Dec 1994) on the "Impact of Poverty on Children, Youth, and Families" (with Div 12/Sec 1)
- ◆ National Conference — *Violence Against Children in the Family and the Community: A conference on Causes, Developmental Consequences, Intervention and Prevention*
- ◆ Love Doesn't Have to Hurt Teens (Brochure)
- ◆ APA Resolution on Immigrant Children, Youth & Families
- ◆ APA Resolution on School Dropout Prevention
- ◆ APA Resolution on the Psychological Needs of Children Exposed to Disasters
- ◆ APA Working Group on Children's Mental Health: APA's Response to the Surgeon General's Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health
- ◆ An Annotated Bibliography on the Implications of Interactive Media for Adolescents
- ◆ Developing Adolescents: A Reference for Professionals
- ◆ APA Resolution on Children's Mental Health



CYF Milestones (cont'd)

2004-2005 2006-2008 2009-2011

- ◆ Report of the APA Task Force on Advertising and Children
- ◆ Addressing Missed Opportunities for Early Childhood Mental Health Interventions: Current Knowledge and Policy Implications.
- ◆ APA Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- ◆ APA Resolution on Bullying Among Children and Youth
- ◆ APA Talking Points on Children's Mental Health
- ◆ Children and Trauma: Update for Mental Health Professionals
- ◆ Children and Trauma: Tips for Mental Health Professionals
- ◆ Report of the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice with Children and Adolescents
- ◆ Report of the Task Force on Resilience and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents
- ◆ Report of the APA Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents
- ◆ Promoting Healthy Lifestyles/ Preventing Obesity & Unhealthy Weight Control Behaviors in Children & Youth
- ◆ Report of Healthy Development: A Summit on Young Children's Mental Health
- ◆ Partnering with Communication Scientists, Collaborating across Disciplines and leveraging Impact to Promote Children's Mental Health
- ◆ Acting Boldly to Change Diet and Exercise for Kids (A.B.C.D.E.) Program



The Future Looks Bright

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families has 25 years of success and achievement to reflect on, yet the future looks just as bright.

Every year, two new members will join the Committee's ranks, with a mission to:

- Advance psychology as both a science and a profession and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare by ensuring that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association

As of 2011, current Committee members' areas of interest include the following diverse topics:

- Immigrant children, youth, and families
- Diversion services for juvenile offenders
- Systems of care services for youth in foster care
- Integration of pediatric psychologists within medical care settings
- Early child education and Head Start
- The impact of deployment on military children and families

CYF continues to seek out members with the passion, drive, and energy to devote to giving voice to the mental and behavioral health needs of children, youth, and families.

Interested in becoming a member of the Committee? **APPLY!**

Our annual call for nominations is available here:

<http://www.apa.org/pi/families/committee/nominations.aspx>

