



AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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 2009 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

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPOSITION:

Anita Thomas, PhD, Chair; Preston Britner, PhD; J. Manuel Casas, PhD, (Co-Chair elect); Yo Jackson, PhD; Norweeta Milburn, PhD; Monica Mitchell, PhD (Co-Chair elect)

MEETINGS:

The Committee held two formal meetings in Washington, DC; March 19-21, 2010 and September 24-26, 2010. CYF conducted necessary business through conference calls and email between meetings, for example to prepare for convention.

LIAISON FUNCTIONS

CYF maintains active monitor and liaison relationships with APA boards, committees, task forces, and divisions. Division liaisons to CYF participate actively in Committee discussions. They provide invaluable consultation and they keep the committee abreast of important work underway throughout APA. Liaisons who participated in one or more meetings include:

*Sarah Friedman, PhD, Division 7; *Linda Reddy, PhD, Division 16; *Erika Van Buren, PhD, Division 37; *Margaret Feerick, PhD, Division 37 Section 1; Sangeeta Parikshak, MS, Division 37 Student Board Liaison; Scott Hunter, PhD, Division 40; *Barbara Fiese, PhD, Division 43; Yo Jackson, PhD, Division 53; Monica Mitchell, PhD, Division 54

OTHER COMMITTEES

CYF strives to learn more about the activities of other APA committees so that its work may be more collaborative and synergistic. This year, CYF collaborated with the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) to write a collaborative memo to the Carol Goodheart, PhD, APA President, regarding the strategic plan. CYF also worked with CEMA, the Committee on Socioeconomic Status, and the Committee on Women to prepare a proposal for convention. Dr. Casas guest authored an article in Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs April 2010 issue of *The Communiqué*, on the effects of the U.S. detention system on immigrants. CYF looks forward to continuing this cross-directorate and division collaboration in future years.

COMMITTEE MISSION AND GOALS

CYF's mission and goal is to further the central purpose of APA- to advance the 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 fully 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 that are responsible for the educational standards 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.

DIVERSITY

CYF continues to address diversity in the appointment of diverse members to its committee and keeping the needs of diverse children, youth and families at the forefront. The composition of the committee during the spring and fall meetings included 83% minority members (Casas, Jackson, Milburn, Mitchell, and Thomas).

Dr. Casas presented at a congressional briefing on the impact of immigration policy on children, youth, and families. The briefing sought to raise awareness about the impact of U.S. immigration detention policies and two pieces of legislation; HR 3531 (humane enforcement and legal protections for unaccompanied minors) and HR 1215 (immigration oversight and fairness particularly for immigrant parents separated from their children). Additionally, Dr. Casas is a member of the APA Presidential Task Force on Immigration.

A continuing concern of CYF is child, youth, and family representation on the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI), the board through whom CYF reports to the Board of Directors and to the Council of Representatives. The mission of CYF is to bring to APA's attention concerns of children, youth, and families who would not otherwise have a voice in APA policy concerns. We dutifully respect the role that other representatives play on BAPPI and urge BAPPI to consider a permanent CYF position at the table so that its mission may be fulfilled to ensure "...that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are fully actualized."

I. IDENTIFY AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION

CYF NEWSLETTER

Under the leadership of Dr. Mitchell, the Summer CYF News included a series of articles on psychology's role in advancing pediatric and child health with particular attention to the integration of psychologists in medical and healthcare settings. The next CYF News will be developed by Dr. Britner and will focus on diversion of juveniles from state legal systems to community-based services.

2010 Annual Conventions

CYF was active during the 2010 convention.

- BAPPI approved Dr. Mitchell's program submission and request for time. *Engaging Schools and Communities to Advance Behavioral, Physical, and Public Health* will be included in the 2010 convention with the Committee on Women in Psychology, the Committee on Socioeconomic Status, and the Society of Pediatric Psychology as cosponsors (John W. Hagen, CYF Chair, was the introducer and discussant; Monica J. Mitchell, PhD, is symposium chair.)
- The Presidential Task Force on Psychology's Contributions to Ending Homelessness Symposium, *A New Look at Homelessness - Research, Policy, and Funding* was chaired by Norweeta Milburn, PhD. This well attended session included a SAMHSA presentation on the

federal response to homelessness, which is encouraging collaboration with emergent investigators in psychology to respond to service needs.

- CYF cosponsored a well-attended social hour with Divisions 37 and 43 titled *Networking Together to Advance Children's Mental Health*.

II. PROVIDE CONSULTATION

The Committee consulted with a variety of APA boards, committees, task forces, directorates, and divisions through its liaison and monitor relationships to these groups and on items placed on the Spring and Fall 2010 cross-cutting agenda. These groups include the: Board of Scientific Affairs; Board of Professional Affairs; Policy and Planning Board; Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology; and Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns.

Drs. Mitchell and Thomas on CYF's behalf reviewed and commented on *Guidelines for Psychological Practice in Health Care Delivery Systems*.

CYF reviewed and commented on the Board of Education's Task Force on Classroom Violence Directed Against K-12 Teachers; the Revision of Guidelines for Psychological Evaluations in Child Protection Matters; APA Input to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Coalition; and Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients; The Report of the Task Force on the Psychosocial Effects of War on Children and Families Who Are Refugees from Armed Conflict Residing in the United States; Resolution on Data about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; the Proposed Revisions to APA Resolution on Homelessness; the Proposed Guidelines for Prevention Practice, Research, Education, and Social Advocacy for Psychologist; Resolution on Affirming Research on Global Climate Change; and the Resolution on Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples.

On behalf of the committee:

Dr. Jackson reviewed and commented on the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula.

Dr. Thomas reviewed and commented on the Guidelines for the Practice of Parenting Coordination.

Dr. Thomas served as CYF's liaison to the APA Presidential Task Force on Caregivers.

The committee met with President Goodheart to discuss the Manchester hotel situation as part of the San Diego Convention and the strategic plan initiatives. The committee also met with President-elect Vasquez regarding her initiatives on immigration, educational disparities, and reducing prejudice.

III. ENCOURAGE PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND IV. FORMULATE POLICY

Dr. Casas presented at a congressional legislative briefing on the impact of immigration policy on children, youth, and families.

CYF recommended archiving two APA policies based on recommendations from the Committee on Legal Issues: the Policy Statement on Child Custody and the Policy Statement on the Use of Anatomically Detailed Dolls in Forensic Evaluations.

V. DESIGNATE APA PRIORITIES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

This goal permeates every aspect of CYF's work and is evident in its consultation efforts with various groups. CYF is particularly effective in ensuring that its members have expertise to respond to present-day events affecting children, youth, and families. The 2012 nominations statement explicitly encourages

applications from candidates who have particular expertise in addressing research and policy relevant to 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 (e.g., ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, and those with disabilities) and who have expertise in topics relevant to these populations are also particularly encouraged to apply. The Committee paid particular attention to cultural diversity and competency in putting forth its 2011 slate.

Revised Legislative Priorities

After consultation with the PI-GRO staff, the Committee revised and reorganized the CYF legislative priorities with additions in the areas of the influence of diverse technology on children, youth, and families, mental health, community-based mental health initiatives for mental health needs of racial and ethnic minority youth, and the scientific evaluation of programs targeted to promote the health of racial and ethnic minority youth.

CONCLUSION

CYF focuses APA's organizational efforts and capabilities on issues of critical social importance. During times of economic stress, children, youth and families are often vulnerable to household disruptions that portend for poor outcomes. CYF will be well poised to address these issues for the Association, the scientific community, and to advocate for support of children, youth, and families to be resilient under stressful periods. During the past year, CYF efforts have foreshadowed the impact that strong science and strategic policy efforts can enhance the wellbeing of children, youth and their families in the domains of health, social justice, education, and child welfare. The continued work of the committee on integrated health care, community-based care, and alternative systems of care will continue to advance this important work. 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,



Anita Thomas, PhD
2010 Chair
Committee on Children, Youth, and Families