



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

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPOSITION:

John Hagen, PhD, Chair; J. Manuel Casas, PhD; Norweeta Milburn, PhD; Monica Mitchell, PhD; Stephen Shirk, PhD; Anita Thomas, PhD (Chair elect)

MEETINGS:

The Committee held one formal meeting in Washington, DC on March 20-22, 2009. APA cancelled the September consolidated meetings due to the projected APA budget shortfall. As a result, CYF conducted necessary business through conference calls and email.

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:

Margaret Feerick, PhD, Division 37 Section 1; Scott Hunter, PhD, Division 40; Connie Morrow, PhD, Division 54; Linda Reddy, PhD, Division 16; Michael A. Southam-Gerow, PhD, Division 53; Kali Trzesniewski, PhD, Division 7; Erika Van Buren, PhD, Division 37; Luis Vazquez, PhD, BAPPI.

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 Socioeconomic Status, the Committee on Women in Psychology and the Society of Pediatric Psychology to develop a convention program submission for BAPPI's consideration. BAPPI allocated one hour of convention time for the program. 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 meeting included 66% minority members (Casas, Milburn, Mitchell, and Thomas). The Committee was pleased to have Dr. Shirk's expertise in the area of child mental health-another priority of the Association and the topic of a recent APA task force (see Interdivisional Task Force on Child and Adolescent Mental Health).

CYF was pleased that one of its members participated on the Task Force on Resilience and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents. In its review of priorities, the committee's focus included culturally as well as linguistically diverse children, youth, and families.

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 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 DISSIMINATE INFORMATION

CYF NEWSLETTER

Dr. Thomas developed the spring CYF NEWS, which focused on Spirituality and Resilience in African American Youth. Dr. Casas developed the fall CYF NEWS, which focused on Immigrant and Refugee Children, Youth, and Families.

2009 and 2010 Annual Conventions

CYF was active during the 2009 convention with participation in several panels, coordination of BAPPI panels, and co-sponsorship of a social hour with divisions and other committees. Committee activities included:

2009

- CYF cosponsored with Divisions 37 and 43 a networking social hour: Networking Together to Advance Children's Mental Health
- Discussion Symposium: Facilitating Literacy and Learning in Young Children (John W. Hagen, CYF Chair, was the organizer)

2010

- 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, is the introducer and discussant; Monica J. Mitchell, PhD, is symposium chair; and Anita J. Thomas, PhD, is the closing discussant.)

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 2009 cross-cutting agenda. These groups include the: Board of Scientific Affairs; Board of Professional Affairs; Board of Professional Affairs; Policy and Planning Board; Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology; and Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns.

Dr. Milburn served as Chair of the APA Presidential Task Force on Psychology's Contribution to End Homelessness. Dr. Shirk served as a reviewer and provided comments on CYF's behalf.

Dr. Milburn served as preliminary reviewer for 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.

APA President, James Bray, PhD, informed the Committee of the following Presidential Initiatives: The *Task Force on the Future of Psychology Practice* (TFFPP) that will convene the *Presidential Summit on the Future of Psychology Practice*, May 14-17, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas. He also brought to CYF's attention The *Task Force on the Future of Psychological Science Education* that will identify the changes needed in graduate and postgraduate psychological science training and education to keep the discipline productive and vibrant.

The Committee met with APA President Elect Carol Goodheart, EdD. She discussed plans for her presidential initiatives: Working Group on Caregiving, Task Force on Tools for 21st Century Practice, and The American Institute of Psychology. The Committee met with Carolyn Schroeder, PhD, member of the Committee on Rural Health and Shelley Heaton, PhD, Division 40 liaison to BAPPI and with the Public Interest-Government Relations Office (PI-GRO) staff to discuss and comment on issues of mutual concern.

III. ENCOURAGE PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND IV. FORMULATE POLICY

CYF's initiatives listed below describe the important work carried out by CYF in these areas during 2009.

Spirituality and Resilience

Dr. Thomas wrote a memo on CYF's behalf to the PI-GRO on:

- Spirituality and Resilience of African American Youth
- Religiosity, the African American Church, and Resilience of African American Youth

Dr. Thomas agreed to serve as liaison to the APA President Elect Carol Goodheart's Task Force on Caregivers.

Head Start

Dr. Hagen presented a schematic titled *Challenges and Strategies in Using Research to Improve Outcomes for Young Children*, initially proposed at the 2008 Head Start Research Conference. Under Dr. Hagen's leadership, CYF's long-standing interest in early childhood education and Head Start was integrated in the CYF Advocacy Priorities and in CYF's work with the PI-GRO staff. The revised proposal will be brought forward to the 2010 Head Start Research Conference.

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 2010 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 2010 slate.

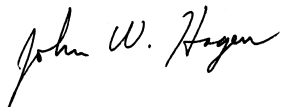
Revised Legislative Priorities

After consultation with the PI-GRO staff, the Committee revised and reorganized the CYF legislative priorities with additions in the areas of primary health care; comprehensive health care for all; faith-based organizations; culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention, intervention, and response to crises; and concerns of immigrant children and their families.

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 homelessness, resilience and spirituality, early education, and child mental health continues 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Hagen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John W. Hagen, PhD
2009 Chair
Committee on Children, Youth, and Families