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 2011 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

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPOSITION:
J. Manuel Casas, PhD, (Co-Chair); Monica Mitchell, PhD (Co-Chair) Preston Britner, PhD (Co-Chair Elect); Yo Jackson, PhD (Co-Chair Elect); Roseanne Flores, PhD; and Patti Johnson, PhD.

MEETINGS:
The Committee held two formal meetings in Washington, DC; March 25-27, 2011 and September 16-18, 2011. 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 Parikh, MS, Division 37 Student Board Liaison (Spring 2011); Lauren Legato, MA, Division 37 Student Board Liaison (Fall 2011); 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 Socioeconomic Status (CSES), the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), Committee on Rural Health (CRH), Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP), and the Society of Pediatric Psychology (SPP - Division 54) to prepare a proposal for the APA 2012 Convention on “Addressing Obesity and Health Disparities in the Nation’s Children.” The proposal was accepted and will be featured in 2012 APA President Suzanne B. Johnson’s Convention programming track on obesity.

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 66% minority members (Casas, Flores, Jackson, and Mitchell).

Dr. Casas completed his Committee project focused on immigrant children and youth through his continued service on the 2011 Presidential Task Force on Immigration. The report which was reviewed and approved unanimously at the Fall 2011 consolidated meetings and December 2011 Board of Directors meeting includes a section on especially vulnerable subpopulations of immigrants, e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender immigrants and immigrants with disabilities. In addition, the report specifically addresses the complexity of presenting problems associated with discrimination and racism for immigrant children, youth, and families.

In addition, the needs of diverse youth are inherently addressed by the Committee's focus on the mental health needs of youth within the foster care system and diversion of youth at risk of entering state juvenile justice systems to community-based services.

Lastly, CYF invited all four ethnic minority psychological associations and Divisions 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues) and 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues) to appoint liaisons to the Committee.

I. IDENTIFY AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION

CYF NEWSLETTER

The Winter 2011 issue of CYF News was developed by Dr. Britner and focused on the provision of diversion of youth at risk of entering state legal systems to community-based services.

2011 Convention Report

- CYF cosponsored a social hour with Divisions 37 and 43 at which it celebrated the Committee’s 25th anniversary and also presented an award to retiring director, Mary Campbell, for her 25 years of service.
- Dr. Yo Jackson chaired the aforementioned symposium on the mental health needs of youth in foster care.
- Dr. Monica Mitchell (2011 CYF Co-Chair) gave welcoming remarks to MaryLee Allen of the Children’s Defense Fund at the symposium Ending Child Poverty and the Cradle to Prison Pipeline Crisis.
- The Presidential Task Force on Immigration (on which 2011 CYF Co-Chair, Dr. J. Manuel Casas serves) presented a symposium titled Humanizing the Dehumanized: Psychological Implications of the Immigration Experience.
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 2011 cross-cutting agendas. These groups include the: Board of Educational Affairs; Board of Professional Affairs; Board of Scientific Affairs; and Ad-Hoc Committee on Psychology and AIDS.

CYF reviewed and commented on the:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Coalition 2012-2014 Action Plan;
- Council New Business Item on Recognition of Psychotherapy Effectiveness
- Education and Training Guidelines: A Taxonomy for Education and Training in Professional Psychology
- Guidelines for Preparing High School Psychology Curricula
- Guidelines on Prevention Science and Practice
- National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula
- Performance Indicators for the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula
- Report of the Presidential Task Force on Immigration
- Report of the Presidential Task Force on Reducing and Preventing Discrimination Against and Enhancing Benefits of Inclusion of People Whose Social Identities are Marginalized in U.S. Society
- Resolution on Advocacy for Psychology as a STEM Discipline
- Resolution on Combination Biomedical and Behavioral Approaches to Optimize HIV Prevention
- Resolution on Family Caregivers
- Resolution on Master’s Level Education in Psychology
- Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology
- Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing

III. ENCOURAGE PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND

IV. FORMULATE POLICY

Throughout the year, in consultation with Division 37, the Committee developed a proposed Resolution on Alternatives to Physical Punishment of Children by Parents. In November 2011, the resolution was approved by BAPPI and is set to go before APA boards and committees for review at the Spring 2012 consolidated meetings.

In August 2011, Dr. Jackson participated in the PsycAdvocates day arranged by PI-GRO. Nearly 100 psychologists and psychology students participated in the daylong program, which included a continuing education workshop on public policy and communication with policy makers, as well as interactive exercises that put these principles into practice. After the workshop, participants met with over 100 congressional offices, including over half of all Senate offices, to advocate on behalf of two key issues for psychology, Graduate Psychology Education and the Minority Fellowship Program.

CYF also provided comment on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization (particularly regarding its bullying prevention provisions) and the Speak Up to Protect Every Abused Kid Act (with particular attention to its mandatory reporting of child abuse provisions).

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 encouraged 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 2012 slate.

Revised Legislative Priorities

After consultation with the PI-GRO staff, the Committee provided substantive input on the revised advocacy goals regarding children, youth, and family issues. The Committee approved the four new issue areas as Child and Family Safety and Violence Prevention; Child and Family Development; Child and Adolescent Health; and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. They also made sure to integrate considerations of parenting and families more thoroughly into the document’s goals and objectives.

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 health disparities, 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,

J. Manuel Casas, PhD
2011 Co-Chair
Committee on Children, Youth, and Families

Monica Johnson Mitchell, PhD
2011 Co-Chair
Committee on Children, Youth, and Families