



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 2012 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

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPOSITION:

Preston Britner, PhD (Co-Chair); Yo Jackson, PhD (Co-Chair); Roseanne Flores, PhD (Co-Chair Elect); Patti Johnson, PhD (Co-Chair Elect); Lauren McCubbin, PhD; and Michael Southam-Gerow, PhD.

MEETINGS:

The Committee held two formal meetings in Washington, DC; March 30 – April 1, 2012 and October 5-7, 2012. CYF conducted necessary business between meetings through conference calls, email, and the APA Communities web platform.

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; James DiPerna, PhD, Division 16; Dara Blachman-Demner, PhD, Division 37; Barbara Fiese, PhD, Division 43; Mia Smith-Bynum, Ph.D., Division 43; Josie Welkom, PhD Division 54; Luis Vargas, PhD, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI); and Omar Gudino, PhD, National Latino/a Psychological Association (NLPA.)

OTHER GOVERNANCE GROUPS

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 a number of Boards and Committees, including BAPPI, the Members of Color meetings, and the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP).

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 50% minority members (Flores, Jackson, and McCubbin). The Committee discussed the need to attract an even more diverse pool of applicants, particularly with regard to reflecting LGBT populations and individuals with disabilities. The desired end result is representation of a broad range of perspectives and expertise as well as diversity characteristics. The dissemination of the call for nominations was broad, with particular outreach to Divisions 17, 44, and 45.

In addition, the needs of diverse youth are inherently addressed by the Committee's topical focus on the needs of diverse youth and families, including Committee members' focal areas of mental health needs of youth within the foster care system (Jackson), diversion of youth at risk of entering state juvenile justice systems to community-based services (Britner), poverty and health disparities affecting children (Flores), and culture, health disparities, and resilience (McCubbin).

I. IDENTIFY AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION

Speak Up for Kids

Ms. Efua Andoh gave background on the national Speak Up for Kids Campaign and thanked the Committee for their extensive input on the presentations.

Presidential Task Force on Immigration

Ms. Efua Andoh updated the Committee on the approval of the report of the Presidential Task Force on Immigration at the February 2012 Council meeting, dissemination of the executive summary and report, and subsequent events (e.g., May 2012 Capitol Hill Briefing and Clinician's Corner).

Juvenile Diversion

Dr. Britner's juvenile diversion efforts were featured in the December 2011 issue of the *Monitor on Psychology*. He worked with CYFO on building a web-based juvenile diversion resource that includes definitions and examples of successful models for intervention.

Systems of Care for Children in Foster Care

Dr. Jackson worked with CYGO and GRO-PI on advocacy efforts related to mechanisms for effective intervention in the child welfare system. She proposed the creation of a network of psychologists across various states that can coordinate and collaborate their advocacy efforts around this issue, i.e., a child welfare special interest group.

Ongoing Committee Projects

Dr. Southam-Gerow is planning to develop policy documents that address translation of evidence-based practices for public mental health settings for children, youth, and families. Dr. McCubbin is planning to examine culture, health disparities, and resilience in specific minority populations. Projects are well under way by Dr. Johnson (military families) and Dr. Flores (poverty and children's health disparities).

CYF NEWSLETTER

Two strong topical issues of CYF News were published in 2012.

- Dr. Yo Jackson edited the Winter 2012 CYF News on "Systems of mental health care for youth in foster care."
- Dr. Roseanne Flores edited the Spring (July) 2012 CYF News on "Poverty, health disparities, and the nation's children"

2012 Convention Report

- CYF sponsored its annual social hour, in conjunction with Divisions 16 & 37, and introduced new CYFO Director Lauren Fasig, PhD, JD.
- The Committee in collaboration with CSES, CDIP, CRH, CEMA, and Division 54 submitted a convention proposal to BAPPI that addresses the BAPPI theme of *Health Disparities*. *The symposium, on "Addressing Obesity and Health Disparities in the Nation's Children," was chaired by Past CYF Co-Chair Dr. Monica Mitchell; CYF member Roseanne Flores, PhD served as the discussant.*
- Dr. Johnson organized a symposium (sponsored by Division 19 and co-sponsored by Division 16) titled "Military Children: Behavioral Health Issues and Promising Programs," which provided an overview of the major behavioral health concerns facing military children and their families.
- Dr. Britner organized a Division 37-sponsored symposium titled "Diverting Youth from State Systems: Psychological Models, Interventions, and Issues," which featured some presenters who were also contributors to the Winter 2011 CYF News issue on juvenile diversion.

II. PROVIDE CONSULTATION

CYF was represented at the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) November 2-4, 2012 meeting in Washington, DC by Roseanne Flores, PhD (CYF Co-Chair Elect). Throughout 2012, the Committee consulted with a variety of APA Boards, Committees, Directorates, and Divisions through its liaison and monitor relationships to these groups and on items placed on the Spring and Fall 2012 cross-cutting agendas.

CYF reviewed and commented on:

- APA Data Collection Activities
- Proposed Resolution on Interrogations of Criminal Suspects (NBI 27A)
- Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice
- BEA Statement on Accreditation
- Education and Training of Psychology Doctoral Trainees to Provide Healthcare Services
- Call for Comments on Petitions to CRSPPP for Recognition or Renewal of Recognition of Specialty and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology
- Policies and Procedures for the Recognition of Organizations that Provide Certifications in Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology
- Endorsement of NBI 23(B). Structure and Function of an Interdisciplinary Team for Persons with Acquired Brain Injury
- Recognition of Psychotherapy Effectiveness (NSI #260)
- Strategies for Education and Training of Psychologists in the Use of ICD-10-CM (NBI 26J)
- APA Guidelines Terminology and Process
- Endorsement of Guidelines by APA
- Revision of APA Guidelines for Ethical Conduct of Behavioral Projects Involving
- Human Participants by High School Students
- Call for Questions to the President-Elect Candidates
- Draft Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology
- The Revised Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing
- Task Force on the Trafficking of Women and Girls Reviewers for Preliminary Draft
- Human Rights Initiative by the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest

III. ENCOURAGE PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND
IV. FORMULATE POLICY

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 was reviewed by APA boards and committees at the Spring 2012 consolidated meetings. Several governance groups, including the Board on Scientific Affairs, had concerns about the scientific basis of the resolution and the range of information included. The Committee had tried to find an acceptable approach to addressing corporal punishment given the lack of sufficient literature on which to rely at this point, and had focused the Resolution on positive alternatives to physical punishment. As a result of the governance response, the Committee decided to withdraw the Resolution. The Committee endorses the approach to alternative discipline methods of the APA Office on Violence Prevention and supports prioritizing the work of this office in addressing parenting discipline practices.

The Committee again took an active role in commenting on PI-GRO federal policy issues throughout the year, with members frequently offering expert comment on timely matters (e.g., policy-focused activities, including those related to child abuse and neglect, juvenile justice, and collaboration with other entities such as an Institute of Medicine and National Research Council meeting. In terms of the longer view, the Committee – after consultation with PI-GRO staff and CYFO staff -- advocated for a more focused approach to setting federal priorities and sought clarification from PI-GRO about needs and procedures.

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.

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 culture, health disparities, integrated health care, evidence-based 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,



Preston A. Britner, PhD
2012 Co-Chair
Committee on Children, Youth, and Families



Yo Jackson, PhD
2012 Co-Chair
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