



## 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 2015 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

### 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

#### COMPOSITION:

Carmen R. Valdez, Ph.D. (Chair); Marietta H. Collins, Ph.D.; Jodi Quas, Ph.D.; Caryn Rodgers, Ph.D; Ashley Butler, Ph.D.; and Arthur "Andy" Horne, Ph.D.

#### MEETINGS:

The Committee held two formal meetings in Washington, DC; March 27-29, 2015 and October 30-November 1, 2015. 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; Susan Bowen, PhD, Division 40; Mia Smith-Bynum, Ph.D., Division 43; Rachel Tunick, PhD, Division 54; Margaret Erickson, Ph.D., Division 53; and Elizabeth Vera, PhD, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI).

#### 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, The Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA); the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity (CSOGD), the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP), the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP), the Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES), the Committee on Aging (CONA), the Committee on Legal Issues (COLI), and Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA).

#### COMMITTEE MISSION AND GOALS

CYF's mission and goal is to further the central purpose of APA - to advance 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.
- recruit members with diverse expertise who will advance the CYF strategic plan

#### 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 (Valdez, Butler, Collins, & Rodgers). The Committee discussed the need to attract an even more diverse pool of applicants, particularly with regard to reflecting gender, LGBT populations and individuals with disabilities. In addition the committee sought to attract and recruit members who are early career in concert with APA's membership initiatives. At the time of each member's appointment, 66% of the committee would be classified as ECP (under the guidelines of 10 years post-graduation). 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 immigration, culture, and maternal-child depression (Valdez); children's involvement in the legal system (Quas); adolescent health promotion in low-income urban communities of color (Rodgers), healthy school and community climate (Horne); mental health disparities in youth (Butler); and quality mental health interventions for underserved children, adolescents and families (Collins).

#### I. IDENTIFY AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION

##### CYF New Business and Priorities

The CYF team with the guidance of Lauren Caldwell used a one page new business form for new items to evaluate potential projects moving forward with the strategic planning of the committee. As part of this new process in strategic planning, the committee reviewed several new business proposals and decided to pursue two projects: (a) Translating a Mental Health Disparities Report published by the

William T. Grant Foundation for practitioners and (b) Strengthening the role of psychology in the state-wide dissemination of the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Essentials for Childhood Framework. In addition, the committee continued to update the Developing Adolescence Handbook.

#### Translating a Mental Health Disparities Report for Practitioners

Carmen Valdez, Chair, is taking a lead on this project and activities in 2015 included drafting a proposal of the project, securing approval and funds (\$16,000) from the William T. Grant Foundation, hosting open meetings at the 2015 Annual APA Convention and the Fall APA Consolidated meeting, successfully submitting a conference abstract for a symposium at the 2016 APA Annual Convention, assembling a workgroup of national experts to inform and develop the practitioner guide, and facilitating an initial meeting with the workgroup. This project focuses on adapting a research report into a practitioner friendly guide related to addressing mental health disparities in children and adolescents. The project includes development and dissemination tasks.

#### CDC's Essentials for Childhood Framework

The Children, Youth and Families Office, under the leadership of Dr. Lauren Caldwell, along with a CYF subcommittee, has partnered with the CDC to strengthen the role of psychology in the dissemination of the Essentials for Childhood Framework (ECF). Dr. Caldwell and Ms. Alyssa Forman, CYFO graduate student, have tracked and identified names of psychologists in all states implementing the framework, whose expertise is relevant to the ECF. Dr. Rodgers, CYF member, created a communication tool for psychologists describing their potential role in the dissemination of the ECF in their state. Drs. Caldwell and Valdez (Chair), attended a 2-day meeting at the CDC on May 13-14, 2015, to better understand the needs of the states and to identify potential opportunities for collaboration.

#### Update Developing Adolescence

The committee made progress in the update of the APA publication *Developing Adolescents: A reference for Professionals*. The last version was 2002 and given this was over 10 years old, new topics need to be addressed including technology, bullying and the cognitive neuroscience research on adolescence. Under the leadership of Jodi Quas, a CYF subcommittee established a workgroup to review and revise the various subtopics within this publication.

#### Public Interest Leadership Conference

Under the active involvement of Dr. Caldwell, CYFO Director, APA held its first annual PI Leadership Conference. The conference was designed to improve psychology's effectiveness in disseminating and increasing reception, engagement, and uptake of psychologists' messages to policy makers, other professionals, and consumers. Dr. Butler, CYF member, participated in the conference held in November of 2015.

#### CYF Awards

The committee reviewed nominations for its two awards: (a) early career award and (b) mid-career award. The awards to Drs. Lynn Miller (mid) and Jonathan Comer (early) were presented at the CYF Social Hour in Toronto in August 2015.

The committee also nominated Thomas Ollendick for the APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest, Senior Career, and Dorothy Espelage for the APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy.

## Continued Projects

### Revising *Lesbian & Gay Parenting*

The committee continued its collaboration to update this project and Dr. Quas joined a working group charged with undertaking these projects.

### Revising *Answers to Your Questions About Individuals with Intersex Conditions*

The committee continued a collaboration to update these projects and Dr. Marietta Collins joined a working group charged with undertaking these projects.

## CYF news

Dr. Rogers was the guest editor for the Spring 2015 newsletter. Her issue focused on the positive development of African American boys with articles on resilience and empowerment, fathers, and reducing disparities for African-American boys.

Dr. Horne was a guest editor for the Fall 2015 newsletter focusing on building strong communities and schools including articles on academic-community partnerships, district-school collaborations, and programs for ethnic minority and immigrant children, as well as LGBT youth.

### APA Public Interest Blog “Psychology Benefits Society”

CYF supported the development of blog posts addressing children, youth and family issues:

*How to Get Your Children to Eat Better*

*Did You See That Fight on YouTube™?*

*The Mad and Unhappy Place of Public Education for Black and Brown Children in the United States*

*6 Things Parents Can Do to Boost Resilience in Kids*

*Teens Raising Babies: Supporting and Assisting Pregnant and Parenting Teens*

*The Secret to Success in Positive Parenting: The ACT Raising Safe Kids Program*

*Early Childhood Parent Training: A Vital Tool for Psychologists*

*Justice for All... Experiences of Undocumented Youth with Law Enforcement*

*Practice to Policy: How Louisiana Revamped Its Approach to Preschool*

*It's Time to Rethink Our Detention Policies for Immigrant Families*

### 2015 Convention Report

CYF sponsored its annual social hour, in conjunction with Divisions 7, 16, 37, and 53.

CYF hosted an open Meeting on the Children and Youth Mental Health Disparities Resource.

The committee sponsored the symposium titled: Intimate Partner Violence and HIV: Intersectionality and the Accumulation of Risk.” - in collaboration with the Committee on Aging (CONA), the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP), the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns (CLGBTC), the Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA), the Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES), Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) and the Committee on Rural Health (CRH).

CYF reviewed and commented on the following cross-cutting agenda items:

- Call for Questions to the President-Elect Candidates
- Enhancing APA's Overall Engagement in Activities to Promote Human Rights
- Resolution Opposing HIV Criminalization
- Resolution on Universality of Science and APA International Engagement
- Raymond D. Fowler Award for Outstanding Contributions to APA - Member
- Committee on Children, Youth, and Families Early Career and Mid-Career Awards
- New Haven Trauma Competencies
- Proposed Revision to the Recognition of Organizations that Provide Certifications in Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology
- Resolution on the Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities

## II. ENCOURAGE PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND III. FORMULATE POLICY

### GOALS

The Committee again took an active role in commenting on PI-GRO federal policy issues throughout the year, with members frequently offering expert comments on timely matters (e.g. policy focused activities, including those related to solitary confinement, child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health). Furthermore, the Committee collaborated with other entities such as an Institute of Medicine and National Research Council meeting and U.S. Preventive Services Task Force to assist with the translation of research into policy and practice. In addition, in 2015 the Committee evaluated several possible projects and chose two to focus on.

### IV. 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 and community violence, children, youth and families are often vulnerable to household and societal disruptions that lead to poor outcomes. Over the years the CYF Committee has developed a strong core of expertise making it well positioned to address these issues for the Association, the scientific community, and to advocate on behalf of children, youth, and families given their ever changing needs and circumstances. Over the past year, CYF efforts have shown how the use of 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. Furthermore, the potential collaboration between the CYF Committee and HHS will help to ensure the integration of psychological science and practice into policies that affect children, youth and families. 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 "Carmen Valdez, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carmen R. Valdez, PhD

2015 Chair

Committee on Children, Youth, and Families