



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

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

COMPOSITION:

Jodi A. Quas, Ph.D. (Chair); Caryn Rodgers, Ph.D.; Ashley Butler, Ph.D.; Arthur Horne, Ph.D.; Kalina Brabeck, Ph.D., and Christina Rodriguez, Ph.D.

MEETINGS:

The Committee held in-person formal meetings in Washington, DC; April 1-2, 2016 and Sept 23-25, 2016 and held bi-monthly conference calls between the in-person meetings. Other business was conducted via additional 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; Margaret Feerick, Ph.D. Section 1 of Division 37; Susan Bowen, PhD, Division 40; Mia Smith-Bynum, Ph.D., Division 43; Rachel Tunick, PhD, Division 54; Adam Lewin, Ph.D., Division 53; Elizabeth Vera, PhD, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI); Jennifer Kelly, Ph.D., Board of Directors; Geraldine Downey, Ph.D., Board of scientific Affairs

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 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 % under-represented racial/ethnic minority members (Rodgers, Rodriguez, and Butler). The Committee has only one male, and discussed the need to continue to attract a diverse pool of male and female applicants so that gender, race, ethnicity, and LGBTQ populations and individuals with disabilities can be represented. 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, 50% 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, as well as traditional outlets (e.g., Division 7, 37, 53).

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 families' immigration experiences (Brabeck); maltreatment and culture (Rodriguez); 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); and mental health disparities in youth (Butler).

I. IDENTIFY AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION

CYF New Business and Priorities

In 2016, the CYF continued with several ongoing high-priority projects and laid the foundation for new initiatives. Following a model designed by Lauren Caldwell in the prior year, we disseminated a one page

new business form for new items that could be completed by committee members, liaisons, or other interested division members. Through this, the committee elected to pursue two new projects. (1) A proposed resolution addressing solitary confinement of juvenile offenders (this initiative was jointly targeted by CYF and COLI, with further input from BAPPI); and (2) a proposed resolution on parents' use of physical discipline with children (this initiative was brought to the CYF by a joint Division 7-37 task force). In addition, the Committee is continuing to make progress on several other large initiatives, including (a) Creating and disseminating a Functional Guide for Practitioners to address Child Mental Health Disparities based on the report published by the William T. Grant Foundation; (b) Creating and disseminating a parallel Functional Guide for Policy Makers based on the same William T. Grant Foundation report; (c) complete the Developing Adolescence Handbook revisions. Finally, in collaboration with other committees, several smaller activities are being pursued, including a revision of the LGBT Parenting Reference Guide (lead is CSOGD) and a revision to existing material on Intersex Conditions (lead is CSOGD).

New Initiatives

(1) Resolution Against Solitary Confinement of Juvenile Offenders

CYF has taken the lead in initiating a literature review that may serve as the basis for a proposed APA resolution against the use of solitary confinement with juvenile offenders. CYF has been working with COLI to identify relevant experts, both from within and outside of the committees who would be interested in and appropriate for serving on a working group. Names were suggested and reviewed during the summer of 2016. In the fall, the CYF (Quas and Horne) submitted a working plan to BAPPI outlining our plan and timeline of task completions to begin the process. This included the identification and formation of a working group, and then the process of conducting an extensive literature review on available evidence. As of the end of 2016, we were still in the process of finalizing potential members of the working group. The timeline was slowed because both the chair of COLI and CYF, who were involved in the initial timeline, were rotating off the committees. There are, however, newer members of both committees with expertise and interest who can move the process forward.

(2) Resolution on Parents' use of Physical Discipline with Children

A Task Force comprised of members from Division 7 and 37 prepared a comprehensive report regarding the adverse effects of physical discipline on children's (and family's) development and functioning. They requested that the CYF be involved in a resolution that would represent a formal statement as to APA's position on the use of such discipline. In fall, the CYF met to discuss the potential for a resolution. The committee reviewed the task force report and voted, based on the strength of the science, to go forward with the resolution. The Committee met with the BAPPI liaison to discuss the process and receptivity to the proposed resolution, and drafted resolution language. The next step will be to revise the language and then to submit the draft for review and comment by other APA committees and boards.

Ongoing Initiatives

a. Mental Health Disparities Report for and Dissemination to Practitioners

Former CYF member Carmen Valdez continued to work with current CYF members (Butler, Rodgers) to create from a research report put out by the William T. Grant Foundation on mental health disparities in children and adolescents a complimentary practitioner friendly guide. The project was

created, and accompanying webinars for dissemination were being finalized in fall of 2016 for distribution.

b. Mental Health Disparities Report for and Dissemination to Policy Makers

CYF member Butler took the lead in moving to create a second product and accompanying dissemination plan on mental health disparities for policy makers. She organized focus groups comprised of individuals from different policy groups, including non-profits, regarding their understanding of disparities, their needs, and their hopes with regard to potential dissemination materials. Butler analyzed qualitative data from these focus groups, and was planning on submitting an abstract of the responses for a special issue of *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*.

c. Update Developing Adolescence

The committee is nearly finished with its update of the widely distributed APA publication *Developing Adolescents: A reference for Professionals*. The 2002 version was in need of updating to include new science and practice and policy recommendations on a range of topics, including technology, cyberbullying, adolescent neuroscience, and identity development. CYF member Quas worked with the CYF intern and Lauren Caldwell throughout the endeavor. All of the revisions to the reference guide were submitted by fall of 2016, and editing began to put the sections into a single voice that was appropriate for the diverse set of professionals being targeted by the publication.

d. Revising *Lesbian & Gay Parenting Reference Guide*

CYF member Quas served on a working group that is updating the Lesbian and Gary Parenting Reference Guide, a research-based review of abstracts on available scientific evidence regarding parenting when issues regarding LGBT are relevant (e.g., in parents or in youth). A working group was formed in July of 2016 to begin the process, and two graduate students, working with CSOGD, conducted a literature review to identify new, relevant research. They completed the literature review in December and distributed it to the working group and CSOGD, the latter of whom is now evaluating how to proceed.

e. Revising *Answers to Your Questions About Individuals with Intersex Conditions*

A dialogue has continued between CSOGD and the CYF about the need to update existing materials. Brabeck now serves on the working group charged with this task. They have formulated notes, and Brabeck reviewed several suggested changes.

CYF Awards

The committee reviewed nominations for its two awards: (a) early career award and (b) mid-career award. The awards to Drs. Jason Downer (mid) and Christopher Trentacosta (early) were presented at the CYF Social Hour in Washington DC in August 2016.

CYF news

Dr. Butler was the guest editor for the Spring 2016 newsletter. Her issue focused on health disparities across childhood and adolescence. Articles touched on topics relevant to mental and physical health problems, obesity, and specific needs of unaccompanied immigrant minors.

Dr. Brabeck was a guest editor for the Fall 2016 newsletter focusing on the timely topic of U.S. immigration policies on children, youth and families, immigration laws, parental undocumented status, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, detention and deportation, and unaccompanied migrant youth behavioral health.

APA Public Interest Blog “Psychology Benefits Society”

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

How Do We Prevent Youth Violence: It Starts with Tolerance and Respect

Got a Question about Your Kid? Get an Answer Based on Good Science

Three Year Olds Defending Themselves in Immigration Court: Absurd Joke or Sad Reality?

2016 Convention Report

CYF sponsored its annual social hour, in conjunction with Divisions 7, 16, 37, and 53. It was well-attended. Awards were distributed, and memorial tributes were paid to leaders in the field of child maltreatment who has passed away.

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.

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, including such timely topics as physical discipline and immigration challenges for children and families. The resolutions being considered and drafted by our committee reflect our attention to these challenges, and our constant efforts to address the needs of children, youth, families in as broad of a way as possible.

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, juvenile justice, parenting practices, and immigration 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,

Jodi Quas

2016 Chair

Committee on Children, Youth, and Families

