

**The Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and
Adolescent Mental Health**

American Psychological Association
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**Members of Task Force on Psychology's
Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental
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Executive Summary

The incidence of untreated child and adolescent mental health problems constitutes a public health crisis for our nation. Mental health problems in children and adolescents can lead to negative and at times tragic consequences, including failure to complete high school, substance abuse, involvement with the correctional system, lack of vocational success, inability to live independently, health problems, and suicide.

The human and financial costs of mental health problems in children are both broad and deep; they affect the children, adolescents and their families, as well as schools, communities, employers and the nation as a whole.

In order to address these issues, the APA Board of Directors established the Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health. The mission of the Task Force was to review five central priorities, originally included in the Report of the Surgeon General on Mental Health (1999) and highlighted by the Working Group on Child Mental Health (2001):

- Promoting public awareness of children's mental health issues;
- Improving the infrastructure to address funding and parity issues;
- Increasing access and coordination of quality mental health services;
- Training providers about child development and mental health; and
- Monitoring access and coordination of quality mental health care services.

In addition, the Task Force was charged with the development of implementation plans and the actual implementation of activities that would organize and focus APA's resources to further policies, research, training, and practices, including noting the shared interests of psychologists in issues of children's mental health; continuing to pursue strong scientific study that can inform understanding of development, risk, and intervention; and working to organize collaborations with other service providers, scientific groups, policy advocates, and consumers.

The first mission of the Task Force was to develop an extensive list of opportunities for action within each priority listed above and to project an implementation time for each action. Based on financial and time constraints, the Task Force selected six activities to be completed within the designated time frame that would be of maximum use to the field.

The Task Force selected:

- A symposium on child and adolescent mental health for the APA Annual Convention 2004;
- A cover story and related articles in the APA Monitor on child and adolescent mental health, including a list of article topics and experts for use by Monitor staff;
- A child and adolescent mental health website;
- A list of the top child and adolescent mental health advocacy priorities for use by APA Public Policy Office;
- Talking Points for Advocacy on issues in child and adolescent mental health for use by APA Public Policy Office and other advocates; and
- Development and implementation of a Training Award for Distinguished Contributions for the Education and Training of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Psychologists.

In order to ensure that additional priorities and opportunities for action were realized, the Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health included the Chair of the Interdivisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health in its later meetings, conference calls, and activities. This report will serve as a transitional document for the Interdivisional Task Force for use in its future plans and activities.

Meeting Attendance

Task Force Membership

Barry S. Anton, PhD, Chair
Dennis D. Drotar, PhD
Patricia Y. Hashima, PhD
E. Wayne Holden, PhD
Nadine J. Kaslow, PhD
Kathy S. Katz, PhD
Arnold J. Sameroff, PhD
Deborah Tharinger, PhD

Guests

*Norman Anderson, PhD, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, American Psychological Association (APA)
*Rhea Farberman, Executive Director, APA Public and Member Communications
*Ellen Garrison, PhD, Director, Public Interest Policy, APA Public Policy Office
Ronald Palomares, PhD, Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy, APA Practice Directorate
*Geoffrey Reed, PhD, Assistant Executive Director, Professional Development, APA Practice Directorate
*Karen Saywitz, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA);
*Annie Toro, JD, APA Senior Legislative & Federal Affairs Officer

Invited Speakers

Larke Huang, PhD, Georgetown University and President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

*denotes partial attendance

History and Mission

On September 18-19, 2000, as a result of the growing recognition of the crisis in children's mental health care in the United States, the Office of the Surgeon General held a conference in Washington, DC titled "Children's Mental Health: Developing a National Action Agenda." The report produced as a result of this conference, *Report of the Surgeon General's Conference on Children's Mental Health: A National Action Agenda* (SGAA), addressed these critical issues, formulated a national agenda, and formulated a call to action regarding the crisis in children's mental health care.

In response to this call, the American Psychological Association (APA) Board of Directors established the Working Group on Children's Mental Health and charged the group with developing the Association's proactive, cross-directorate strategy to address issues raised at the Surgeon General's conference. The APA Working Group on Children's Mental Health (WGCMH) first convened on December 1-3, 2000, and began developing APA's response to the SGAA. The group met through July of 2001, and, as a result, produced *Developing Psychology's National Agenda for Children's Mental Health: APA's Response to the Surgeon General's Action Agenda for Children's Mental Health*. In this report, the Working Group identified five central strategies from the SGAA to guide APA in developing and implementing activities that will promote and further the eight goals comprising the SGAA. Within each of these five strategies, the report identified roles that psychology, through APA, can play in furthering that agenda, and the current activities and additional opportunities for APA to contribute to realizing that agenda's goals.

With the work of the Working Group in mind, the APA Board of Directors established the Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health. The mission of the Task Force is to review the five central strategies, as well as the opportunities for action, identified by the Working Group on Child Mental Health, in order to realize the goals originally set forth by the Surgeon General. The Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health is charged with the development of implementation plans and the actual implementation of activities that will organize and focus APA's resources to further policies, research, training, and practices called for in the SGAA, including noting the shared interests of psychologists in issues of children's mental health; continuing to pursue strong scientific study that can inform understanding of development, risk, and intervention; and working to organize collaborations with other service providers, scientific groups, policy advocates, and consumers.

The initial meeting of TFPACAMH was convened on July 10-13, 2003 and the final meeting was held November 14-15, 2003. Two conference calls were held in between. These meetings resulted in the activities and products described in this report.

Priority Grids

During the course of its meetings, Task Force members addressed each of the five priorities selected by the Working Group on Children's Mental Health and reviewed each of the opportunities to expand psychology's contribution or address gaps related to the priority, as listed in the report of the Working Group on Children's Mental Health. An additional grid titled "Financing the Infrastructure" was added. Each opportunity for action was ranked according to difficulty (easy, moderate, hard) and projected implementation time (1 year, 3 years, 5 years). Six grids (see the following) were developed with this information.

Implementation Plan

Using the priority grids as a guide, Task Force members ranked activities and developed an implementation plan keeping in mind the time and financial constraints of the Task Force. The goal was to develop as many products as possible that would contribute to the field of child and adolescent mental health in a significant way.

The products targeted for development and implementation upon were:

- A symposium on child and adolescent mental health for the APA Annual Convention 2004
- A cover story and corresponding stories on child and adolescent mental health in the *APA Monitor*. Included in the implementation plan was a list of article topics and suggested experts for use by *Monitor* staff.
- A website on child and adolescent mental health targeted toward mental health professionals, families, educators, and others interested in improving the mental health of children and adolescents.
- A list of Advocacy Priorities to assist the APA Public Policy Office in determining advocacy priorities in the area of child and adolescent mental health
- Talking Points for Advocacy in issues related to child and adolescent mental health for use by the APA Public Policy Office and other advocates
- A Training Award Distinguished Contributions for the Education and Training of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Psychologists

Task Force Product I: Symposium on child and adolescent mental health

A subcommittee of Task Force members met to develop the symposium on child and adolescent mental health for the annual APA Convention in August, 2004. The symposium is scheduled for Friday, July 30 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:50 in Room 303B of the Hawaii Convention Center.

The subcommittee developed the symposium title, topics, and potential presenters as follows:

Title: The Crisis in Children's Mental Health: A Well-Kept Secret

Chair: Barry Anton, PhD

- I. A System in Shambles
Presenter: Kim Hoagwood, PhD
- II. Definition and Monitoring of the Problem
Presenter: Wayne Holden, PhD
- III. Responding to the Crisis: APA and the Federal Government
Potential presenter: Pat Tolan, PhD (accepted)
- IV. Priorities of Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Access and Monitoring
Presenter: Karen Saywitz, PhD

Workforce Development and Public Awareness
Presenter: Nadine Kaslow, PhD
- V. Moderated Discussion with Audience
Moderator: Barry Anton, PhD

All Task Force members attending Convention were requested to attend and will participate in the question and answer portion of the program.

Task Force Activity II: Cover Story on Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Task Force members developed a list of article topics and suggested experts for use by *Monitor* staff as follows. Rhea Farberman, Executive Director, APA Public Communications, has scheduled a cover story and supporting articles on children's mental health for the *Monitor's* October, 2004 issue. Her staff will use the list of experts and subjects developed by the Task Force to develop the articles

Cover Title

The Crisis in Children's Mental Health: A Well-Kept Secret

Article Topics and Experts

A System in Shambles

Dianne J. Willis, PhD; Norman, OK
Arnold Sameroff, PhD; University of Michigan

Robert M. Friedman, PhD; Tampa, FL
Wayne Holden, PhD; Atlanta, GA
Douglas McDonald
Barbara J. Burns, PhD; Duke

Primary Public Health System for Children's Mental Health: Model Communities

Pat Tolan, PhD; University of Chicago
Bill Tynan, PhD; Alfred duPont Hospital for Children; Wilmington, DE
Caroline S. Schroeder, PhD; Lawrence, KS
Beverly Malone, R.N., CNS, Ph.D., FAAN; Royal College of Nurses, U.K.

Workforce Development/Training

Nadine Kaslow, PhD; Emory University
Michael C. Roberts, PhD; University of Kansas
Cynthia de la Fuentes, PhD; San Antonio, TX
Dennis Drotar, PhD; Cleveland, OH
Tony Spirito, PhD; Brown University
Karen Saywitz, PhD (cross discipline; leader training); UCLA
Chris Loftis (student perspective); Baltimore, MD

National Children's Mental Health Policy

Patrick Kennedy and/or staffers
Senator Ted Kennedy and/or staffers
Mrs. Carter
Thomas Bornemann, EdD; Director, Mental Health Program, The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA
Hilary Clinton

Ronda Talley, PhD; Georgia Southwestern State University

Follow Up to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

Larke Huang, PhD; Georgetown University
Steve Mayberg, PhD; Carmichael, CA
Katherine Powers, SAMHSA
Thomas Bornemann, EdD; Director, Mental Health Program, The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA

APA's Response to the Crisis

Barry Anton, PhD; University of Puget Sound
Norman Anderson, PhD
Norine Johnson, PhD
Diane Halpern, PhD
Martin Seligman, PhD
Sharon Nelson-Lagall, PhD
Karen Saywitz, PhD; APA Interdivisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health
Pat Tolan, PhD; APA Working Group on Children's Mental Health
Bob Sternling, PhD; Deborah Tharinger, PhD; Task Force on Professional Child and Adolescent Psychology
Norine Johnson, PhD; APA Past President; Cambridge, MA

Innovative Evidence-Based Best Practices

Scott Henggeler, PhD; Medical University of South Carolina (innovative best practices)
Irwin Sandler, PhD; Arizona State University (prevention)
Joseph Durlak, PhD; Loyola University
Rodney Hammond, PhD; Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA

Mark Weist, PhD (school system perspective); University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore
Kevin Stark, PhD; University of Texas at Austin
Bruce Chorpita, PhD; University of Hawaii
William E Pelham, PhD; SUNY, University at Buffalo; Buffalo, NY

Role of Psychologists in the Solution (schools)

Patricia Hashima, PhD; Clemson University
Luis Vargas, PhD; Children's Psychiatric Hospital; University of New Mexico

Rodney Hammond, PhD, Centers for Disease Control (CDC); Atlanta, GA
Barabara Huff, PhD

Miscellaneous Topics

Juvenile Justice System

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, PhD; Stanford, CA
Brian Wilcox, PhD; University of Nebraska at Lincoln
Ted Stickland, PhD; Lucasville, OH

Best Practices/Foster Care

John Landsrierh, PhD

Task Force Activity III: A Website on Child and Adolescent Mental Health

The Task Force will work with APA staff to develop a website on child and adolescent mental health targeted toward mental health professionals, families, educators, and others interested in improving the mental health of children and adolescents. The website will be accessible through the APA website and maintained by staff in the Office on Children, Youth, and Families. Examples of website information are links to reports and other publications, information on legislative activity, and links to related organizations.

Quarterly informational updates will be obtained from original Task Force members and the web site will be updated accordingly. A prototype of the website follows.

Task Force Activity IV: Advocacy Priorities

Task Force members developed a list of their three most critical advocacy priorities in child and adolescent mental health to assist the APA Public Policy Office in its advocacy work. The final priorities are as follows:

- 1) ***Increase public understanding*** that mental health is essential to overall health and functioning.
- 2) ***Enhance knowledge and skills*** of frontline providers (e.g., pediatricians, teachers, judges, social workers) by promoting evidence-based practices, including emerging best practices, to address the mental health needs of children and adolescents.
- 3) ***Improve access*** to mental health services for children and adolescents, especially in primary care (e.g., mental health check-ups for all children), as well as in educational, social service, and juvenile justice settings.

Task Force Activity V: Talking Points for Advocacy

The Task Force developed an extensive list of Talking Points for Advocacy on issues in child and adolescent mental health for use by the APA Public Policy Office and other advocates. The document follows.

Task Force Activity VI: Training Award

The Task Force developed language for a Training Award for Distinguished Contributions for the Education and Training of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Psychologists. A description of the award follows.

Cynthia Belar, PhD, Executive Director, APA Education Directorate, was contacted regarding possible avenues for implementation of the award. After Dr. Belar consulted with APA staff, it was recommended that the award be considered by the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA). Consideration of The Task Force award will be included on BEA's next agenda.

Future Directions

From the inception of the Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, members realized that the time and financial constraints of the Task Force would not enable them to plan and carry out longer-term projects. In order to address future priorities and activities, Karen Saywitz, PhD, Chair of the Interdivisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health, was invited to attend and participate in Task Force meetings and conference calls.

Interdivisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health

The Interdivisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health is composed of representatives from seven APA divisions:

Division 7: Developmental Psychology

Division 16: School Psychology

Division 27: Society for Community Research and Action, Division of Community Psychology

Division 37: Child, Youth, and Family Services

Division 43: Family Psychology

Division 53: Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology

Division 54: Society of Pediatric Psychology

The original goal of the Task Force was to advocate for Council's adaptation of the APA Resolution on Children's Mental Health that originated in the APA Working Group on Children's Mental Health. The goals of the Task Force have expanded since that time.

This report will serve as a transitional document between the Task Force on Psychology's Agenda for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and the Interdivisional Task Force on Children's Mental Health. Members of the Interdivisional Task Force will use the priorities and opportunities for action (see grids) developed by the TFPACAMH to select activities that match its goals, expertise, and resources.