



HFA State Systems Scoop- February 2007

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Q & A Corner: Circle of Parents, HFA and PAT- Joining Together to Support Expectant and New Fathers



On October 1, 2006, Circle of Parents® was one of one hundred recipients awarded a Responsible Fatherhood Project federal grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. Under the Community Access priority area, the Circle of Parents national office will receive \$900,000 a year during the 5-year project to increase the capacity of local **home visiting programs** to provide support and education that promotes responsible parenting among **expectant and new fathers**. The program model will eventually reach 2,500 fathers and be implemented in 25 states and 50 local home visiting sites during the five-year period.

Circle of Parents is implementing a comprehensive, multi-level training and technical assistance program (see below) to accomplish this goal. The targeted population will include married and unmarried fathers whose spouses, partners or mothers of their new babies are receiving home visiting services through Healthy Families America (HFA) or Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs.

The training, technical assistance, and capacity building system will be built in partnership with the national offices of HFA, PAT, the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), Circle of Parents state/regional network members, parents, domestic violence experts, and local community and faith based organizations. A national Fatherhood Advisory Committee has been created to provide guidance to the project. Helen Reif, HFA Director of Training, serves on the Advisory Committee, and Dr. Ching-Tung Wang, PCAA's National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research, have been contracted to conduct a process and outcomes evaluation for the project.

NFI will provide training and technical assistance around developing father-friendly programming, while Dr. Leonel Mesa, Jr., Reflections Wellness Center, will provide direction on preventing, recognizing and responding to domestic violence.

Sharing leadership roles with the Fatherhood Advisory Committee, the Circle of Parents' project staff and its national network committees that address infrastructure, training and parent leadership, will design training for state/regional and local sites, create a train the trainers' curriculum and deliver technical assistance. The program model will utilize the self-help parent support group model and the Conscious Fathering™ program of Parent Trust for Washington Children to help fathers support and learn from each other about responsible parenting. In addition to receiving training on the Conscious Fathering Program™, parent support groups and parent leadership, participating organizations will acquire new skills and practices that are necessary to successfully engage and retain fathers in family support services. The training will enable facilitators to integrate educational sessions with open discussion group meetings that address specific topics such as early childhood development, brain development, temperament, conflict resolution, healthy co-parenting, effective childrearing practices and the prevention of domestic violence and child abuse. The project goals and objectives can be summarized as the following:

I. Prepare local community-based or faith-based home visiting programs to engage fathers to become involved parents by:

- a. Recognizing organizational and staff-based resistance, biases and barriers;
- b. Creating father-friendly tools, training, protocols and infrastructure;
- c. Implementing father-led mutual support and education groups; and
- d. Providing parent leadership opportunities.

II. Prepare expectant and new fathers to be involved in the healthy development of their children by:

- a. Understanding the role fathers play in shaping the healthy development of their children, including benefits of healthy relationship with child's mother;
- b. Developing skills for handling stress, anger and disagreements; effective communication, co-parenting;
- c. Learning about basic childcare, early child development and child safety;
- d. Understanding the dynamics and risk factors associated with family violence;
- e. Exploring and utilizing strategies for bonding with and nurturing infants;
- f. Increasing awareness of community resources;
- g. Developing leadership skills; and
- h. Engaging in parent leadership activities.

Each year, five (5) Circle of Parents state/regional networks and ten (10) local sites (2 for each of the 5 Circle state/regional networks) will be funded through the Circle of Parents national office for participation in the project. For the first and pilot year of the project, Requests for Proposals (RFP) from the Circle of Parents state/regional networks have been announced and are due on March 9, 2007. Applicants must identify all HFA and PAT local programs within their

state/region and how they will work with the national office to provide ongoing capacity building, training and TA support to those programs that show interest in implementing the program model of this project. Successful applicants will be chosen by an external review committee, which will be organized by the national office. Each will receive a \$20,000 grant

Once the 5 Circle of Parents state or regional networks are chosen, credentialed HFA or certified PAT programs within those areas will be eligible to apply for \$50,000 grants from the national office that will allow them the opportunity to work with the chosen state network to implement in this responsible fatherhood program model within their local communities. The RFP process for local HFA and PAT programs will begin in April. Successful local program sites will also be chosen by a national external review committee. In the summer of 2007, key staff from the selected state/regional networks and the selected local HFA and PAT programs will be required to participate in 3-day training before local program implementation begins.

If your state has Circle of Parents® programs, we encourage you to contact the state or regional Circle of Parents contact as soon as possible. You can locate that representative by visiting www.circleofparents.org. If there is no Circle of Parents state/regional network office within your state, you will still have the advantage of learning more about involving and engaging fathers within HFA programs. The Circle of Parents and the Healthy Families America national staff are committed to sharing these new program strategies, lessons learned and materials developed through teleconference calls, conference workshops and media available across both networks.

For additional information about the project, please contact Circle of Parents national Training & Technical Assistance Manager Karen Schrader at circleofparents@northstate.net or 312-334-6841 or Cynthia Savage, CEO, at csavage@circleofparents.org or 312-334-6828. See the following diagram for a summary of the project.

Circle of Parents national office:
Leads and coordinates project activities
Provides T/TA
Awards state & local grants



- Circle of Parents state and regional networks: \$20,000 each**
- Help the project connect to the needs of the local organizations.
 - Ensure local organizations receive sufficient training and technical assistance so that father education/support programs
 - 1) are implemented according to the model,
 - 2) are operated effectively,
 - 3) meet the needs of the families, and
 - 4) are sustainable over time.



**Local community- and faith-based orgs:
(HFA & PAT) \$50,000 each local site**
Establish responsible fatherhood
education/support program

Prevent Child Abuse America News

HFA Training Update: Revision of Core Training Manuals

It has been five years since Core training materials were revised (with the exception of some updates on stats). A group of 22 trainers, peer reviewers, and SLAC members have been meeting to discuss and determine how changes can be made that will better meet the training needs of HFA programs. Under consideration is the development of a CD-ROM that would cover some of the basic topics from Day One of Core training. This CD could be used on-site by new staff (or as a refresher) prior to attending Core training. Also being discussed is expanding and/or editing some of the topics as well as developing competencies for topic areas. Language will be updated to adhere more closely to the language used in the credentialing standards.

Prenatal Train the Trainers

We are pleased to be able to offer a train the trainers for HFA and other program staff who provide support services to pregnant women. The training will be held on April 18-20, 2007, at 500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 200, Chicago, Illinois. A fee of \$225 covers lunch and a comprehensive manual and videos with activities which can be utilized in a number of settings. Hotel arrangements have been secured at Club Quarters (about three blocks south of the office) for \$131 per night (plus 15.4% taxes) for the smallest room (larger rooms run \$148 and \$168). Lunch will be provided. Folks who have attended the training have found it be an excellent source for improving their ability to provide support and expand their knowledge base in the

psycho-social arena. If you would like further information, please contact us directly at pmedrano@preventchildabuse.org or 312-334-6815. We look forward to partnering with you to enhance the lives of families.

HFA Credentialing Update: Seeking A Few Good Peers!

A new HFA Peer Training is being created to fit with the 2007 Self Assessment Tool and improvements to the Quality Assurance and Credentialing Process. We plan to send out applications by May 1, 2007 and will be holding up to three trainings this summer. We will be determining the locations of the trainings based on the areas of the country applicants are from, in an effort to cut down on costs to the attendees. Once the application is accepted, locations identified, trainees may choose the training they would like to attend. Initial plans for the training include a distance learning component prior to a 2-3 day in-person training.

Advocacy: President's Budget Requests Funding for Home Visitation

On February 5th, President Bush submitted his fiscal year (FY) 2008 budget request to Congress, marking the official beginning of the budget season. While most social services and prevention related programs are level-funded or cut in his budget, the President did request a \$10 million increase to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) research and demonstration grant to “provide incentives to states, local governments, or non-profit organizations to use a greater share of existing Federal and non-Federal funding streams to **adopt and expand evidence-based home visitation programs** for new low-income mothers and their children.”

The \$10 million increase comes under the heading *Investing in Nurse Home Visitation Programs*. Budget documents note that “research has demonstrated that home visitation using trained nurses and strong performance monitoring can reduce incidence of child abuse and neglect and improve other important outcomes for mothers and children.” However, the budget does not explicitly limit funding to nurse home visitation programs. Prevent Child Abuse America is pleased to see the Administration supporting early childhood home visitation. We will work with Congress and the Administration to ensure that, if appropriated, other quality home visitation models be eligible to participate.

Senators Bond and Clinton Re-introduce Home Visitation Bill

We are happy to report that Senators Kit Bond (R-MO) and Hillary Clinton (D-NY) re-introduced the Education Begins at Home Act (EBAH) on February 16th. EBAH would establish the first dedicated federal funding stream to support parents with newborns and young children through quality, voluntary home visitation. If enacted, this legislation would extend to a broad range of families the opportunity to benefit from home visiting programs like Healthy Families America.

Senators Bond and Clinton made some important changes from previous iterations of the Senate bill, including stronger language and support for program evaluation and the removal of any references to specific home visitation program models. These changes bring the legislation more closely aligned with the bill introduced in the House in the last Congress by Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL-7) and Todd Platts (R-PA-19).

Other changes from previous EBAH bills include:

- * New language to ensure greater participation of fathers;
- * New language clarifying that grandparents and other relatives serving as primary caregivers as well as foster parents would be eligible to receive home visitation services;
- * The addition of a new section requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a public education campaign regarding proper care for children under five and to ensure that parents of newborns are given the opportunity to participate in a single session parenting class with emphasis on infant child abuse awareness, through their hospital or birth center.

The new Senate bill number is S 667 - the text should be available online at thomas.loc.gov by early next week. Please stay tuned for action steps and updates.

EBAH Highlights:

- EBAH would authorize \$500 million over three years to help states expand and enhance quality home visiting programs serving parents of newborns and young children.
- The majority of funds, \$400 million, would go directly to states as a formula grant based on the number of children ages zero to five living in the state.
- States would use EBAH dollars to build upon existing models of home visiting to ensure that families with young children receive the most appropriate services to meet their particular needs.
- The remaining \$100 million would be divided between two competitive grants intended to enable home visiting programs to better reach military families and families with English language learners.

Share Your Stories with Us!

Prevent Child Abuse America sends out a monthly E-Newsletter for all our friends and network members. We have created a list of topics or themes that we will be using throughout the year and are looking for content including articles, success stories, images, and research facts. Please send your articles or ideas to Jenna Plakut at jplakut@preventchildabuse.org. Remember, all information should be sent electronically, and while there are specific deadlines for each month, please feel free to send information throughout the year. Thank you, we are looking forward to sharing your ideas and stories!

March - Sexual Abuse -- content should be received by March 7, 2007

April - Choices into Change (Child Abuse Prevention Month) -- content should be received by March 21, 2007

May - Motherhood -- content should be received by April 18, 2007

June - Fatherhood -- content should be received by May 23, 2007

July - Shaken Baby Syndrome -- content should be received by June 20, 2007

August - Back to School Safety -- content should be received by July 18, 2007

September - Neglect -- content should be received by August 22, 2007

October - Internet Safety -- content should be received by September 19, 2007

November - Emotional Abuse -- content should be received by October 24, 2007

December - The Value of Play -- content should be received by November 21, 2007

Research:

The National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research, a division of Prevent Child Abuse America, is pleased to announce its inaugural 2007 research teleconference series to be held bi-monthly beginning in March. This is a no cost, 75-minute, interactive telephone seminar series featuring six talented researchers discussing their work in child abuse prevention. Please register in advance with Javier Diaz at jdiaz@preventchildabuse.org

Thursday, March 1st, 11:00 a.m. (CDT): Shifting the Prevention Paradigm to Promote Child Well-Being

Presenters: Isaac Prilleltensky, Dean, Educational and Psychological Studies, School of Education, University of Miami

Geoffrey Nelson, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada

Respondent: Chris Greeley, MD, Medical Director, Child Maltreatment Program
Division of General Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University & PCA America Board of Directors

This teleconference describes a new paradigm to prevent child maltreatment and promote child wellness. Based on their respective work covering nearly two decades, Prilleltensky and Nelson have taken the lead visioning what is meant by the “public health approach” to prevention and health promotion. As Dr. Prilleltensky notes, “It is high time for a paradigm shift in health and human services...only a new approach that focuses on strengths, prevention, empowerment, and community conditions can make considerable progress towards the achievement of well-being for all.”

Wednesday, April 4th, 11:00 a.m. (CDT)--Why Have Child Maltreatment & Child Victimization Declined?

Presenters: David Finkelhor, Director, Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire

Respondents: Fred Wulczyn, Research Fellow, Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago

This teleconference will elaborate the findings from a recent article published by David Finkelhor and Lisa Jones in the *Journal of Social Issues*. Their argument is that the decline in various form of child abuse and victimization, “as much as 40-70% from 1993 until 2004” can be traced to multiple factors, particularly, “economic prosperity, increasing agents of social intervention, and psychiatric pharmacology have advantages over some of the other explanations in accounting for the breadth and timing of the improvements.”

Other teleconference topics forthcoming address the need for economic analysis in child maltreatment research and prevention programs; reasons behind disproportional racial entry into child welfare; determining best practices in prevention and accountability guidelines for evidence based programs; understanding the ecology of child maltreatment; and new technological advances in Healthy Families America.

Research from the Field

Newsletter Series Integrating Science and Practice in Home Visitation: *Building Bridges: Linking Practice and Research on Home Visitation* quarterly newsletter provided by LeCroy & Milligan Associates Inc (L&M) is an amazing new resource that all programs should be accessing. L&M is a Tucson-based research, evaluation and training firm with the goal to provide useful evaluation information to help organizations become more responsive and effective in delivering services. The Building Bridges newsletter comes out quarterly and can be found here: <http://www.healthyfamiliesarizona.org/Publications.aspx>

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Program Guide (MPG) has upgraded the HFA program to EFFECTIVE. The profile of the HFA program is available on the MPG Web site at the following address:
http://www.dsgonline.com/mpg2.5//TitleV_MPG_Table_Ind_Rec.asp?id=335

How to Talk Like a Researcher: Briefs for Practitioners Struggling with "Research Speak"
Practitioners know research is important to their work. But oftentimes, just trying to understand "research speak" discourages its use. Child Trends has written an easy-to-read, easy-to-understand glossary of common research and evaluation terms. Access your reference guide <http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=116117802&u=1115145>.

Logic Models can be powerful tools in designing, planning, and evaluating out-of-school time programs. Child Trends' newest research brief highlights what they are and why they are important. See:
<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=116117802&u=1115146>

Evaluating Parenting Programs

Parents who are at risk for child maltreatment may benefit from parent education and training programs targeted for the age of the children, the type of abuse or neglect that has placed the families at risk, or certain parental or family characteristics. A recent report that reviewed 150 studies of parenting programs for at-risk parents found, for instance, that home visiting programs held the most promise for parents of young children. Other programs were more effective with parents of older children, with ethnic minority families in low-income communities, with substance-abusing parents, or with parents at risk of neglecting their children.

The abundance of parent training programs and the lack of replicable outcomes in many cases may place an agency or practitioner in the difficult position of trying to identify the right program for a particular family. This report, *Assessing Parent Education Programs for Families Involved With Child Welfare Services: Evidence and Implications*, offers some guidance by discussing specific promising programs and providing program descriptions, outcomes, estimated costs, and contact information for each. Recommendations are also provided for contracting with parenting programs. In addition, the report places its findings in context by describing what is understood to be effective parenting, as well as parenting issues for families at risk for maltreatment. The report was written by Michelle A. Johnson et al. and is available on

the Center for Social Services Research website:
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/bassc/public/EvidenceForPractice5_Parenting_fullReport.pdf

New Public Policy Resources

Child Neglect: A Guide for Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention

Part of the Children's Bureau's Child Abuse and Neglect User Manual Series, the Child Neglect manual describes the root causes, symptoms, and consequences of neglect, as well as interdisciplinary ways to prevent both its occurrence and recurrence.

PDF: www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/neglect/neglect.pdf

Prenatal through Pre-K: Bright Futures is a new policy fact sheet published by the ZERO TO THREE Policy Center. The fact sheet describes policy recommendations for building a continuum of services for children prenatal through age 5, so that policy decisions support the optimal development of our youngest children. Read this fact sheet here:

<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/IKFRGNCKUM/AYFXGNCKWS/983297606>

NCCP Fact Sheet on Children's Mental Health

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) recently released a fact sheet for policymakers highlighting the mental health needs of children. The fact sheet illustrates the key components in a child's healthy development and how children need to be healthy in order to learn, grow, and lead productive lives. The fact sheet also focuses on the deficiency in services for children with mental health needs. Click here to download the fact sheet.

<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/IKFRGNCKUM/CXVRGNCKWW/983297606>

The Health and Well-Being of Rural Children: A Portrait of the Nation, 2006.

Maternal and Child Health Bureau. 2006 <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/pdf/01rh.pdf>

Michigan Takes Innovative Approach to Early Learning Guidelines

Basing their approach on New Zealand's work in early childhood curriculum and theory, Te Whariki (literally "woven mat"), the Michigan State Board of Education recently approved innovative early learning guidelines for infants and toddlers. In the early childhood context, Te Whariki refers to the interwoven principles and strands that together form the wahriki or framework for each child's development and learning. Using this framework to spur new thinking, Michigan's early childhood community rejected their initial attempt at using a typical framing approach based on developmental domains and began talking about weaving and braiding: development is not linear but is interwoven, and early developments contribute to later accomplishments. The result is a document with early learning standards and quality program standards for infants and toddlers that align with the state's pre-kindergarten standards. Read more here

<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/MPFXGPYYRC/FYQZGPYYVG/1025861006>

Chapin Hall's New Publication: "Home Visitation: Assessing Progress, Managing Expectations" reviews the evolution of and research evaluation home visitation programs, discusses improvements in home visiting programs and outlines expectations for home visitation programs moving forward. Authored by Deborah Daro.

http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1438&L2=61&L3=129

New Programmatic Resources

New Book for Home Visitors- “Home Visiting Strategies: A Case Management Guide for Caregivers”, authored by Terry Eisenberg Carrilio and published in July 2007. Rich with proven practical advice, this book is a comprehensive guide for in-home case management of vulnerable populations that without direct visits might not received needed interventions. For more information, contact the University of South Carolina Press, 1-800-768-2500 or www.sc.edu/uscpres.

Bright Futures Developmental Tools for Families and Providers are available online; single copies are free for download. What to Expect and When to Seek Help tools are based on the principle: "Every child and adolescent deserves to experience joy, have high self-esteem, have friends, acquire a sense of efficacy, and believe that she can succeed in life." Written in family-friendly language, the tools covering infancy through adolescence are useful to families and child development professionals in a range of disciplines. They are also available in Spanish. <http://www.brightfutures.org/tools>

New American Academy of Pediatrics Report Underscores Importance of Play

The American Academy of Pediatrics has released a new report highlighting the importance of free and unstructured play in the healthy development of children’s social, emotional and cognitive abilities. "The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds" (<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/BJPRGKRCNX/IHXOGKRCZG/953346496>) notes that that a loss of free time and a hurried lifestyle can cause stress, anxiety and depression in children. Click <http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/BJPRGKRCNX/DOLMGKRCZI/953346496/> for more information about child stress and the importance of play.

Common Protective Factors for Child Abuse and Neglect: FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, 2006.

This set of protective factors was adapted from the Washington Council on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. It is organized in five broad protective constructs considered key in prevention and describes the types of prevention program activities that promote the protective factors. <http://www.friendsnrc.org/outcome/toolkit/evalplan/why/protect.htm>

Conferences

Post Your Conference Notices on PCA America’s Website

PCA America Chapters and HFA program sites and state systems are invited to post information about your conferences on the PCA America website. Within the Conferences/Events section, there’s a [PCA America Networks' Conference Calendar](#) which will list the basic information about your event: name, dates, location, topic or guest speaker, and your website. For inclusion in the Conference Calendar, please send your information in this format to Ann Johnson – ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org

23rd National Symposium on Child Abuse- It's All About the Children

The National Children's Advocacy Center, March 20–23, Huntsville, AL
www.nationalcac.org/professionals/trainings/symposium.html

Parents as Teachers Conference 2007- Why Research Matters: Bringing Research and Practice to Daily Parenting, April 2–5, St. Louis, MO

www.parentsasteachers.org/site/apps/!k/content3.aspx?c=ekIRLcMZJxE&b=917509

25th Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect- Reconciliation in Child Welfare: Touchstones of Hope for Indigenous Children, Youth, and Families

National Indian Child Welfare Association, April 15–18, Oklahoma City, OK
www.nicwa.org/services/conferences/protecting/index.asp

16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect- Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families, and Preserving Communities

Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, April 16–21, Portland, OR
www.childwelfare.gov/calendar/cbconference/

One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare

The Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research at the University of Pennsylvania, May 30–June 1, Philadelphia, PA
www.sp2.upenn.edu/onechild/index.html

Call for Proposals: ZERO TO THREE invites proposals for presentations to the 22nd National Training Institute (NTI). These presentations may be symposia, posters, or case presentations. Both symposia and poster presentations should focus on lessons learned from practice, research, or public policy. Case presentations should focus on preventive, educational or therapeutic work with one infant or toddler and his or her family. For information and on-line application, click <http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/MPFXGPYYRC/EQEHPYYVH/1025861006>

8th National Conference on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention

Presented by The National Children's Advocacy Center- Dr. Sharon Cooper confirmed as Keynote Speaker. Dr. Cooper is CEO of Developmental and Forensic Pediatrics, PA, a consulting firm that provides medical care, training, and expert witness experience in child maltreatment cases, as well as medical care for children with disabilities. She works regularly with numerous national and international investigative agencies on Internet crimes against children cases. September 19 - 21, 2007, New Orleans Marriott Convention Center, New Orleans, LA Accepting Call for Papers through March 30, 2007

For additional information, visit our website at:

http://www.nationalcac.org/professionals/trainings/prevent_conference.html

Thanks for reading SCOOP! Feel free to send comments and suggestions to Lisa Schreiber at lschreiber@preventchildabuse.org. We'll see you again in June 2007.