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**➤ Q & A Corner**

This ongoing series is designed to address questions raised by HFA State Leaders regarding developing state systems for home visitation and taking HFA to scale. As part of the State Systems Scoop, we explore these questions and offer resources for additional information.

In the March 2002 Scoop, information was provided on what states are doing to find new revenue sources to balance state budgets and prevent funding cuts to critical social service programs, such as HFA. This month, we dive into the heart of welfare reauthorization, currently moving through Congress, and provide tools for how we can organize the HFA network and have our voices heard on this important issue.

In 1996, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This program was a major shift in our nation's welfare system and its current authorization ends in the fall of this year. Congress must pass, and the President must sign, legislation by October 1, 2002 for the program to continue.

**What Does Welfare Reauthorization Have To Do With HFA?**

The debate on welfare reauthorization has major implications for the funding of many HFA programs and state systems across the country. Currently, twenty-four out of thirty-nine states fund HFA and other HFA-like home visiting programs through TANF. Given the critical financial support TANF provides and the role that programs like HFA play in helping families achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, it is imperative that the HFA network play an active role in advocating for key provisions that will allow states to continue to use TANF to fund HFA and other family support programs.

**The Current State of Welfare Reform Discussions and Decisions**

As the welfare reauthorization process moves through Congress, staying apprised of each bill and its provisions can be an overwhelming task. Between the White House, the House of Representatives and the Senate, there are at least five different versions of welfare reauthorization bills currently under discussion on Capitol Hill.

While the status of these bills changes daily, there are some basic assumptions about the state of the welfare reform process that can help guide local, state and national efforts to ensure the well-

being of children and families. Below is a general overview of Congressional action on welfare reform and information on where and how to find up-to-date resources on this issue.

### **House of Representatives Action on Welfare Reform**

The House of Representatives has been very active with welfare reform this month. On May 16, 2002, the House passed H.R. 4737, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002. The House bill, decided largely along party lines, essentially mirrors the TANF reauthorization proposal released by President Bush in February. There are several major concerns with the House bill, many of which may impact children and families directly and immediately. The legislation, as currently written, will also potentially impact state funding for HFA through decreased state flexibility to use TANF funds. The major concerns include:

- **New work participation requirements**

The crux of the Administration and House's proposals is the imposition of new work requirements that significantly limit states' flexibility in designing their welfare-to-work programs. The bills both increase the required percentage of individuals participating in work activities (to 70% of TANF families by fiscal year 2007, up from 50% required under current law) and increase the number of hours per week those individuals must be working (to 40 hours a week for families with children age one or older, up from 30 hours under current law). In addition, the bills mandate that at least 24 of the 40 required work hours be spent participating in a narrow set of "direct work activities," including paid work and unpaid work, defined as "workfare." This mandate reduces the number of hours available for families to participate in supportive services to overcome limitations and disabilities that will help move them toward work. States would only be able to allow those families in substance abuse, rehabilitative or job readiness programs to count those services toward their work requirement for no more than one three-month period in any two-year period, with limited exceptions. This provision essentially forces states into a federally mandated workfare formula and limits state flexibility (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2002).

- **Frozen funding for the TANF and child care block grants**

By freezing the block grant amounts, state spending will not be able to keep up with demand, as inflation will eat away at the value of the funds at the same time that states are being asked to implement more stringent and expensive mandates. The Congressional Budget Office recently released a report placing a price tag of \$11 billion over the next five years for states to implement the 40-hour House bill work requirement. This financial burden will be added to state budgets already challenged by enormous revenue shortages, including 44 states that are currently in budget deficits.

- **"Full-family" sanctions**

A "full-family" sanction is when a state ends all financial support to a family (including the children) if the adult does not comply with TANF program requirements for two consecutive months. This provision also significantly limits states' flexibility to design their own sanction policies. This measure is particularly troubling given that in most cases states recognize the very real barriers that prevent parental compliance and that

research shows “full-family” sanctions potentially lead to an increase in child hunger and child maltreatment.

- **Narrow marriage-promotion programs**

The House bill designates \$300 million each year to support “healthy marriage” and abstinence-only sex education programs. Because the money is prohibited from being used for other family support programs, this presents a possible threat to funding for HFA and other broad programs that do not focus exclusively on marriage promotion. A last minute amendment does allow programs that address “responsible fatherhood” to be included under the “healthy marriage” initiative, keeping this door for HFA programs open.

- **Banned benefits to legal immigrants**

The House bill continues the current ban on financial support to legal immigrants.

- **The “super waiver” provision**

The “super waiver” provision of the final House bill was modified from the President’s original broad proposal partly because it became a major source of contention between Republicans and Democrats. This provision essentially gives states exemptions, or waivers, from certain laws that govern funding in the areas of child care, food stamps, public housing, job training and other social service funding areas. Due to their size, these waivers could essentially remove legislative decision-making from funding decisions for major social service spending.

### **Senate Action on Welfare Reform**

With the passage of the House bill, attention has turned to the Senate for action on welfare reauthorization. Earlier this month, the Senate Finance Committee announced a bipartisan welfare reform proposal that includes a mix of provisions supported by Democrats, Republicans and the Bush administration. The “Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act Amendments of 2002” or S.2052, introduced recently by Senator Rockefeller, includes moderate increases in the work requirement coupled with more state flexibility for activities that count toward work. In addition, the bill calls for a \$2.5 billion increase in the TANF block grant, a child poverty reduction bonus and increases to the Child Care Development and Social Services Block Grants. Other welfare bills to track include the “Education Works Act” (S.2548) and the “Pathways to Self Sufficiency Act” (S.2552), which were introduced on May 22, 2002. More detailed information on these bills can be found by entering the bill number into this website: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

On May 23, 2002, 17 Senate Democrats, led by Senator Kennedy, sent a memo to the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee detailing a set of “principles” to be incorporated into TANF legislation that shift the debate from punitive work requirements to other issues such as child poverty and well-being. To view these “principles” and the Senators who signed them, click here: <http://click.topica.com/maaanp0aaSh1na30MAfb/>.

## **HFA and Welfare Reauthorization**

The recent PCA America publication, “*TANF Reauthorization: Recommendations and Implications for Healthy Families America*,” outlines key advocacy recommendations to ensure that TANF remains a viable funding source for HFA. Many of these recommendations are in direct contrast to provisions outlined in the recently passed House bill. Therefore, advocacy at this juncture is more critical than ever.

Of the many policy recommendations in the HFA publication, the following lists some of the issues that are part of current political debate around reauthorization:

- The TANF block grant amount should be increased by an annual inflation adjustment (*the House bill calls for level funding with no annual inflation increase*);
- The inclusion of an express child and family poverty reduction goal in the purposes of TANF (*the House bill does not have an express stipulation on this issue*);
- The flexibility to allow home visitation and other supportive services to count toward work requirements (*current proposal further curtails state flexibility in defining what types of programs count toward work*);
- The restoration of benefits for non-citizens (*current proposal continues the ban on benefits to legal immigrants*);
- The continuation of efforts to reduce out-of-wedlock births and delaying subsequent pregnancies (*the availability of funding for such programs might be limited based on the programs that fall within the “healthy marriage” and abstinence education initiative*).

## **Immediate Action Steps**

The time for advocacy is now! With the passage of the House bill, activity now moves to the Senate. The majority of the negotiation between the two bills will take place over the summer, with the goal of sending the final bill to the President by late summer/early fall. During this important window of opportunity, PCA America has assembled a series of tools to help you advocate for HFA during welfare reauthorization.

- Obtain a copy of “*TANF Reauthorization: Recommendations and Implications for Healthy Families America*” By clicking here: <http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/publications/index.html>
- View a sample **letter to the editor** that can be used with your local media on TANF reauthorization by clicking here: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Send a **letter or email to your legislator** from the PCA America Legislative Action Center by clicking here: <http://capwiz.com/pca/issues/alert/?alertid=177201&type=COsage>

We recommend you personalize both the letter to the editor and the legislator letter to your specific community, including information about your Healthy Families or other family support programs that receive TANF funding. If your state does not receive TANF specifically for these purposes, please speak to the potential impact of the welfare legislation on the families your program serves.

You can make an enormous difference in your community by mobilizing families, program staff and others invested in the HFA program to advocate for a welfare bill that improves the well-being of children and families.

### **Resources on TANF Reauthorization**

Below you will find useful resources for more information on the various components of welfare reform.

***Ten Things Everyone Should Know About Welfare Reform***- This brief presents summary information on the welfare caseload, work and earnings, work support programs, poverty and child well-being, and family structure. HTML: <http://click.topica.com/maaamqtaaR74za30MAfb/>  
PDF: <http://click.topica.com/maaamqtaaR74Aa30MAfb/>

***The Research Forum on Children, Families, and the New Federalism*** has developed three matrices related to upcoming welfare reauthorization: submitted legislation, initial recommendations from major research and policy organizations, and research evidence related to proposed recommendations.

**Legislation:** <http://click.topica.com/maaamqtaaR74Ca30MAfb/>

**Recommendations :** <http://click.topica.com/maaamqtaaR74Da30MAfb/>

**Research:** <http://click.topica.com/maaamqtaaR74Ea30MAfb/>

### ***Child Welfare-Related Provisions in Recent TANF Reauthorization Proposals***

PDF: <http://click.topica.com/maaamqtaaR74Ja30MAfb/>

***“Reauthorization Issues: The Child Welfare Link.”*** New one-pager fact sheets provide recommendations for improving both the TANF and child welfare systems during TANF reauthorization. February 2002.

#### **What Are the Connections between Child Welfare and TANF? :**

<http://www.clasp.org/pubs/TANF/Fact%20Sheet%20on%20Connections%201-16-02.pdf>

#### **TANF and Child Welfare: What Are the Issues? :**

<http://www.clasp.org/pubs/TANF/Fact%20sheet%20on%20TANF-CW%20issues.pdf>

#### **TANF Reauthorization Recommendations Relating to Child Welfare :**

<http://www.clasp.org/pubs/TANF/Fact%20Sheet%20Recommendations.pdf>

### ➤ **PCA America News**

**New Technical Assistance Call Series on Research Innovations in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention!** HFA, Chapter Services and the National Family Support Roundtable have teamed up for their second collaborative conference call series. Call topics include:

***Call #1: The Art of Participatory Action Research***- featuring Dr. Kathy Tiner and David Drake from the Fielding Institute and Dr. Nancy Peddle from the National Research Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. *June 6, 2002 from 1:30-3:00 CST.*

**Call #2: *Interpreting Findings From Research in Family Support and the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect***- featuring Dr. Jenny Clark from James Bell Associates, Joe Galano and Lee Huntington, College of William and Mary. *June 24, 2002 from 1:30-3:00 CST.*

**Call #3: *Research Dissemination: How to Incorporate Research Findings into Programming and Policy***- featuring Dr. Larry Green, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Steve Scott, PCA Iowa. *July 17, 2002 from 1:30-3:00 CST.*

To register for these calls, please contact Greer Thornton at [gthornton@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:gthornton@preventchildabuse.org) or (312) 663-3520 x117

### **Quality Assurance News...**

We are proud to announce the hiring of a new HFA Quality Assurance/Credentialing Coordinator at PCA America. Holly Seymour has joined the division to provide technical assistance and support to programs in the HFA Network. Holly is new to the Credentialing Division but not new to PCA America. For the past year, she has served in the role of Conference Services Coordinator for the PCA America National Conference that took place in Dallas in March 2002. Holly can be reached at [hseymour@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:hseymour@preventchildabuse.org).

The next peer reviewer training is scheduled for August 1-3, 2002 at PCA America's offices. The goal of training is to equip reviewers with the information and confidence to conduct a thorough credentialing site review.

The refined credentialing standards have been completed. The Healthy Families Credentialing Site Self-Assessment Tool 2003 is available by emailing your respective HFA Quality Assurance/ Credentialing Coordinator, Holly Seymour, [hseymour@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:hseymour@preventchildabuse.org), or Cyd Wessell, [cwessell@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:cwessell@preventchildabuse.org)

### **Research News...**

#### **Healthy Families America: 2000 Profile of Program Sites - Now Available**

Findings from the most recent HFA Site Survey are now available on the PCA America website. [http://preventchildabuse.org/learn\\_more/research\\_docs/hfa\\_annual\\_profile\\_of\\_sites.pdf](http://preventchildabuse.org/learn_more/research_docs/hfa_annual_profile_of_sites.pdf)

#### **PCA America applies for CDC grant**

Staff of the Research Center, along with a cross-departmental team, developed a comprehensive proposal in response to a participatory action research (PAR) request for proposal offered through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If funded, this grant would provide an opportunity to conduct a multi-level, multi-disciplinary study using PAR to research effective dissemination and utilization strategies for the prevention of child maltreatment. The Research Center proposes to work with a total of seven communities who are implementing different prevention efforts through the Chapter Network. Kentucky, Massachusetts and Virginia were selected for year one. It is expected that three more states will be selected in year two. The seventh community is the Chapter Network who will be the recipients of a leadership initiative. Awards are expected to be announced this summer. Please contact John Holton ([jholton@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:jholton@preventchildabuse.org)), Nancy Peddle ([npeddle@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:npeddle@preventchildabuse.org)) or Lori Friedman ([lfriedman@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:lfriedman@preventchildabuse.org)) with any questions pertaining to this grant.

## ➤ **Funding Announcements**

### **Federal**

#### **Early Learning Opportunities Act Discretionary Grants (ELOA)**

The purposes of ELOA are:

- To increase the availability of voluntary programs, services, and activities that support early childhood development, increase parent effectiveness, and promote the learning readiness of young children so that young children enter school ready to learn;
- To support parents, child care providers, and caregivers who want to incorporate early learning activities into the daily lives of young children;
- To facilitate the development of community-based systems of collaborative service delivery models characterized by resource sharing, linkages between appropriate supports, and local planning for services.

For detailed information go to:

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002\\_register&docid=02-10105-filed](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-10105-filed)

#### **National Center on Child Welfare and Substance Abuse (PRESOL)**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services seeks Regional, State, and local child welfare and substance abuse agencies, including independent Tribal agencies and organizations to help communities identify gaps in services and develop integrated approaches to respond more effectively to families who come in contact with the child welfare system as a result of substance abuse and convene coalitions of policy makers, practitioners, researchers, consumers and family members from substance abuse and child welfare to define new directions and strategies. Requests for copies of the RFP must be made in writing to [ltantard@samhsa.gov](mailto:ltantard@samhsa.gov) or [mringo@samhsa.gov](mailto:mringo@samhsa.gov).

### **Foundations**

#### **Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation**

IAP is looking for projects that foster connections between communities and individuals, create partnerships with multiple organizations and those that enable beneficiaries to give as well as receive. The Foundation provides funding for a variety of interest areas. The quality, innovation, thoughtfulness and effectiveness of a project are of more importance than the specific interest area. That said, areas of interest for IAP are the arts, education, environment and social programs. For more information see:

<http://content.sciencewise.com/content/index.cfm?objectid=10765>

#### **The UPS Foundation**

The Foundation focuses its support on national programs in the areas of: Human Welfare, including programs for families and children in crisis, the economically or culturally disadvantaged, the physically or mentally challenged, and community development programs. Foundation dollars are put to use helping those struggling with systemic effects of illiteracy, hunger poverty and homelessness. For more information click here:

<http://www.community.ups.com/community/resources/foundation/grantguide.html>

### Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation

The Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation makes grants to help nonprofit organizations and coalitions build just and caring communities. The foundation is especially interested in work that seeks to assure the well-being of children, youth and families; bridge the fault lines of race and class; and invest in communities' human and natural resources. For more information go to:

<http://www.mrbf.org>

The 3M Contributions Program provides cash and product donation in health and human services focusing on strengthening families and youth development through parenting, job training and prevention programs

For detailed information go to: <http://www.3m.com/about3m/community/index.jhtml>

## ➤ **Conferences**

### **June**

**Head Start's 6th National Research Conference, "The First Eight Years: Pathways To The Future,"** US Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start Bureau

June 26-29, 2002, Washington, DC

**Contact:**

Bethany Chirico

(703) 821-3090 ext. 261

E-mail: [bchirico@xtria.com](mailto:bchirico@xtria.com), Web Site: <http://www.headstartresearchconf.net>

**Africamix Festival Promoting Global Awareness and Prevention On Child Abuse & Neglect,** June 29-30, 2002, Sacramento, CA

**Contact:**

Amede Kyumbwa

(916) 729-9342

E-mail: [volunteer@africamix.com](mailto:volunteer@africamix.com), Web Site: <http://www.africamix.org>

### **July**

**14th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect " Charting Our Progress Toward Protection of Children Worldwide"**

Kempe Children's Center and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, July 7-10, 2002, Denver, CO

**Contact:**

Donald Bross, Kempe Children's Center

(303) 864-5241

Web Site: <http://kempecenter.org>

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium and APSAC Advanced Training Institutes,** July 21-23, 2002.

Workshops and activities are designed to provide expertise for professionals in the fields of child protective services, law enforcement, the medical community, mental health, community services development, and education.

The registration brochure, including registration form, can be accessed through our the web site [www.preventchildabusega.org](http://www.preventchildabusega.org) or call (404) 870-6588 to request a brochure.

## ➤ **Websites/Resources**

### Family Support Evaluations

The new issue of "The Evaluation Exchange" from the Harvard Family Research Project focuses on family support evaluations and their role in moving the family support field forward. It features a conversation with Michael Quinn Patton about historical and emerging trends in evaluation practice, descriptions of national and local evaluations that are underway, a discussion of using "effect size" to measure program effectiveness, advice on how to bring family research to legislators' attention, a look at how data can help parents assess schools, and much more. Find the issue here: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval/issue18/index.html>.

### A New Resource on Caring For Newborns from HHS

The Department of Health and Human Services has released "Healthy Start, Grow Smart" a resource for new parents on how to care for a newborn baby. The booklet was produced in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Education. <http://click.topica.com/maaalWGaaR3eoa30MAfb/>

### Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse

The Welfare Reform Academy has just released a series of videotapes and other training materials on recognizing and reporting child abuse. This six-videotape series provides comprehensive training for the many professionals who are legally required to report suspected child abuse and neglect. <http://click.topica.com/maaalouaaRXsja30MAfb/>

### New Research Brief: "The Multiple Dimensions of Child Abuse and Neglect"

A new research brief from Child Trends points out serious gaps in our knowledge base of abused and neglected children and recommends ways to improve the scope and quality of information on some of the nation's most vulnerable children. Without information on key aspects of child development, decision-makers are ill-equipped to improve long-term prospects for abused and neglected children. View and download the brief at <http://www.childtrends.org/PDF/ChildAbuseRB.pdf>.

### Duration of Breastfeeding and its Link to Adult Intelligence

In the most definitive research to date, research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association concludes that breastfeeding through nine months contributes to a significant gain in intelligence into adulthood. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/issues/v287n18/abs/joc11087.html>

### Children Now Upgrades Advocacy Tools

The newly upgraded "Children Now Action Center" helps you share alerts with friends and customize letters to legislators in your district. <http://gal.org/childrennow/join>

### Take Time to Talk

One in 650 newborns are born with hearing loss, but newborn hearing screenings can help identify any hearing programs in the first few months. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Wal-Mart and Pampers Parenting Institute (PPI) have joined together to promote

newborn hearing screenings -- Take Time to Talk- toolkits are available at Wal-Mart stores nationwide. <http://www.aap.org/bfc/>

See you in July for the next edition of Scoop!