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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 May 2002 Scoop, information was provided on TANF reauthorization, the then recently passed House bill, and next steps for advocacy on the pending Senate bill. This issue of Scoop provides updates on the Senate bill approved by the Finance Committee in July of 2002; current reauthorization status; and implications for HFA funding and programs.

The Senate Finance Bill

In contrast to the House bill (widely viewed as heavily Republican), the Senate bill has garnered “tri-partisan” support and improves the more stringent House bill that has been largely criticized by social welfare proponents. Without funding for critical supports (child care, welfare-to-work training and supplemental supports) that enable families to work, a rising cost of living, and the current recession, gains made since the initial 1996 law are predicted to lose ground.

A report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities entitled “One Step Forward of Two Steps Back? Why the Bipartisan Senate Finance Bill Reflects a Better Approach to TANF Reauthorization than the House Bill” (found at www.cbpp.org/8-9-02tanf.html) lays out a thorough comparison of the two bills is laid out. While not ideal, the Senate bill clearly provides more opportunity for families to succeed. The following are key highlights from the report:

- Work-related requirements – The Senate Finance Bill sets more reasonable work hour requirements, emphasizes the need for a combination of employment, education and training, provides more flexibility for families with children who are ill or have disabilities, and requires that a family’s welfare-to-work plan is reviewed before they are sanctioned for non-compliance.
- Supporting working families – The Senate Finance Bill calls for \$4.5 billion more than the House bill in child care funding, provides

Medicaid coverage for low-income families leaving welfare to work, and addresses the need for supplemental housing benefits.

- Marriage and child support provisions – The Senate Finance Bill rewards two-parent families and seeks to change current child support enforcement to reach children directly rather than retained by the government.
- Funding flexibility – The Senate Finance Bill advocates for a “contingency fund” that more effectively provides additional TANF funding to states facing crises due to a recession. It also eliminates the “superwaiver” option that would give states authority to override federal law outlining the use of funding, thereby allowing states to arbitrarily cut resources for programs amid competing demands for funding.

It is important to note where the House and Senate bills are similar. Areas of congruence include maintaining the block grant structure and commitment to TANF funding at current levels, requiring participation in welfare to work, and adding resources for the promotion of marriage and family formation.

Where does reauthorization currently stand?

Congress returned from the August recess to a packed schedule and competing demands. TANF expires at the end of the federal fiscal year 2002 (September 30, 2002) and reauthorization is needed to ensure consistent funding and continuum of services. However, the full Senate has yet to vote on the Finance Committee bill. Despite Senator Daschle’s expressed commitment to moving the bill to the floor, and a sign-on letter circulated by Senators Lincoln and Snowe urging floor action, no further steps have occurred. Should the full Senate vote, the bill would likely be passed to a conference committee, where, given the disparities between the House and Senate bills, time-consuming floor debate could occur. Further slowing the process is Bush administration’s dissatisfaction with the Senate Finance Bill, and support of the House bill. However, it is rumored that members in both the House and Senate are eager to see reauthorization through. Advocates are preparing for the likelihood that major concessions will be made – predictions center on compromises around work requirements and child care funding.

Sources speculate that the departure date for Congress will be pushed into mid-October, with the possibility of a lame duck session after Election Day. A one-year extension of the current bill is highly likely.

What are the funding implications for HFA?

Whether reauthorization occurs or not, TANF funding will remain at current levels. Both the House and Senate bills maintain TANF funding, without adjusting for cost of living increases. Funding levels will fall short given the increasing impact of state budget deficits, rising unemployment, and increased need for social services. States may be

forced to divert TANF block grant funds away from supportive social programs such as HFA to accommodate burgeoning cash-assistance caseloads.

This increased competition for funding holds implications for HFA advocacy. Arguments for HFA will, more than ever, need to focus on cost-effectiveness and the comprehensive range of services provided to support the needs of families to attain and sustain self-sufficiency. HFA's commitment to the whole family and meeting the needs of both parents should be emphasized as they complement TANF's two-parent family and fatherhood focus.

HFA State Systems staff has received calls from several states regarding TANF cuts and the creative avenues being pursued, in conjunction with their state departments, to replace this funding. These approaches include shifts to Medicaid funding, using state general funds to pull down other federal funding sources, and exploring education, early intervention, maternal and infant mental health, crime prevention and labor funding. Now more than ever, diversified funding strategies are needed as the future of TANF hangs in the balance.

To stay informed of state-level aspects of welfare reform, the following websites are extremely informative: www.welfarenewsalert.org; www.cbpp.org; and www.clasp.org. Also, the Children's Defense Fund has issued a set of 50 state-specific fact sheets that explain in detail how the Senate Finance Committee bill is better for each individual state than the House-passed bill. The fact sheets are available through the Children's Defense Fund website at http://www.childrensdefense.org/fs_sbs_analyses.php.

What are the service delivery implications for families served by HFA?

The final TANF reauthorization bill will impact families who most utilize HFA and similar support services. The National Center for Children in Poverty, through state-level discussions, identified child care funding, work-related training, addressing barriers to employment, and work hour requirements as the most critical areas impacting service delivery. Parents who are expected to work full-time, and participate in education and training, will have less time to participate in other services. Limited definitions of what constitutes activities to address barriers to employment, reduces the number of families able to utilize HFA. Reduced child care funding means fewer referral resources. HFA programs have reported planning for reductions in other services such as health clinics, food pantries, mental health centers, treatment programs – all likely to face cutbacks due to reduced state spending. Reduction, or deletion of these services could hold strong implications for HFA's ability to meet the needs of the families we serve.

Action steps

It is critically important to make your voices heard. Because reauthorization is uncertain, recommendations must remain flexible. One certainty is that TANF is relevant to the work we do, and action should not be delayed.

What can you do immediately?

- Stay informed through web alerts and listservs providing updates on TANF. Examples include Children’s Defense Fund’s Take Action alerts (available by emailing cdftanf@newsletter.listbox.com) and PCA America’s *Prevention Advocate*, a bi-monthly update on critical legislation impacting children and families (contact han@preventchildabuse.org).
- Send a letter or email to your legislator from the PCA Legislative Action Center (<http://capwiz.com/pca/issues/alert/?alertid=333931&type=CO>) urging your senators to sign on the to Lincoln/Snowe letter and continue to push for action on the Senate Finance Bill.
- If you prefer to talk with a legislative aide to communicate the urgency of this issue, call the US Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Request your Senators, and ask to speak with the staffer responsible for social/welfare issues. Explain your role with HFA and the reasons why TANF reauthorization, modeled on the Senate amendments, is urgent and the potential negative impact on families should a temporary or insufficient extension be granted.
- Should TANF not make it to the floor before Congress adjourns and a lame duck session is scheduled, contact your members in their home districts while they are campaigning. Congress would resume activity after Election Day, and it is critical that they know TANF is important to their constituents.

What can you do if reauthorization does not occur?

- Document the effects on families caused by a lack of TANF resources during hard economic times. Encourage parents to write and testify on the impact this has on their families due to reduced resources, unemployment, and heightened stress. Effectively use this data to strengthen your continued arguments for increased TANF funding. Align yourself with other organizations facing similar challenges for a more unified and effective voice.
- Contact your senators and representatives on those issues that will likely be debated once the bill does reach the floor. Policy recommendations critical to HFA, from both service delivery and program funding perspectives, include:

Increase child care funding	Create work requirements sensitive to consideration multiple barriers to work
Increase flexibility in what activities constitute work in combination with flexibility for participation in services aimed to address barriers to self-sufficiency (ie. HFA)	Reduce harsh sanctions for non-compliance and encouraging thorough reviews with families to resolve underlying issues related to noncompliance

Increase flexibility in providing cash assistance without imposing premature time limits	Promote family formation and fatherhood involvement funding that targets risk factors such as teen pregnancy, and domestic violence
Promote provision for a contingency fund that would allow states to receive funding during deteriorating economic conditions and rising TANF caseloads	Allow states to provide consistent health care to families who become “working poor” upon leaving welfare

➤ **Resources**

State Budget Cuts: The key to effective advocacy for sustaining funding lies in using knowledge to be proactive. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that states already have aggregate FY02 budget deficits of \$44 billion. Under tax changes proposed by the Bush administration, 36 states would lose revenue under federal capital gains cuts. For policy and practice implications, and information on how this impacts you directly contact the Center at (202) 408-1080 or their website www.cbpp.org. Another great resource for state level budget information is www.stateline.org, which offers a free weekly update on key issues, the opportunity to gather state level budget information, and recent news on critical economic issues.

Local initiatives advocating for investment in children: The National League of Cities, the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States, has listed “investing in children,” as a key advocacy priority, despite bleak fiscal conditions throughout the country. How do they aim to do this? NLC supports the “creation of a permanent federal funding source for children and youth programs, reauthorization and full funding of the Child Care Development Block Grant and TANF block grant, and formation of a President’s national youth cabinet to create a comprehensive national policy for children.” A great advocacy tactic would be to contact your local city representative through www.nlc.org to ensure they know of HFA programs in your community, and sign on to their initiative. And be sure to invite your representative to be part of your task force, collaborations, and advocacy events! Key contacts made through municipal governments can ensure that you are better informed of locally disbursed funding.

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children: The Center for the Study of Social Policy is conducting a four-city (Cedar Rapids, IA; Jacksonville, FL; Louisville, KY; and St. Louis, MO) initiative to “fundamentally change the way [these cities] address the problems of child abuse and neglect.” This shift is expected to occur through the development of community partnerships in which civic and voluntary organizations join with public agencies to improve child safety, strengthen families and increase community participation in child protection. For lessons learned from this project, visit www.cssp.org/current.html. To replicate this strengths-focused model in your own community utilize their publication entitled Creating a Community Partnership: Guidance from the Field.

Family Strengths Research Brief: A research brief entitled Family Strengths: Often Overlooked, But Real, “presents information on family relationships and the processes that take place within families that help children thrive,” expanding understanding of protective factors for child well-being. The brief is available at www.childtrends.org/PDF/FamilyStrengths.pdf

Collaborations Catalogue: A Report on Charitable Choice Implementation in 15 States: This recent publication, as part of the Hudson Institute’s Faith in Communities Initiative, found that in states where faith-based organizations are awarded new contracts through charitable choice implementation, social welfare business is being conducted in new and creative ways. Evidence suggests that governments are turning to FBO’s for a wider diversity of social services, including those working with children and families. Funding for these initiatives is still considered modest, but has grown exponentially over the last few years and indicates a strong likelihood for continued growth as a viable service delivery model with secure funding. This holds strong implications and opportunity for HFA in communities with strong faith-based support. The full report can be viewed at www.hudsonfaithincommunities.org.

The Fragile Families and Child Well-being Study: A national longitudinal study of the impacts of marriage and father involvement upon children’s development and well-being is now in its second year of data collection. Baseline data on families in major U.S. cities, all of which are represented by an HFA program, can be viewed at <http://crcw.princeton.edu/fragilefamilies> under Publications and by clicking on National and City Reports. As more emphasis is placed on two-parent and fatherhood initiatives, city data from the study could assist you in your advocacy efforts to gain funding through TANF funds targeted specifically to the goal of family formation.

Children’s Defense Fund’s Report Card on Congressmen: The Children’s Defense Fund has issued report cards for the top 10 best and worst senators and representatives for children, based on their voting records on critical issues impacting children and families. As Election Day nears, arm yourself with knowledge of how your elected officials make choices given the option of supporting families during these times of competing legislative priorities. Don’t forget to recognize and thank those elected officials who promote issues relevant to HFA – and be sure to invite them for a site visit while in town during election season. To view go to www.cdfactioncouncil.org/2001_bw_senators.htm.

➤ **PCA America News**

State Systems

We are pleased to announce that Laura Galbraith has joined the State Systems team as the new coordinator for state systems development and HFA advocacy. Laura will provide technical assistance to states around funding sustainability for HFA programs, strengthen state and national advocacy efforts, and facilitate collaborations between HFA and other

leaders in family support programs. Please contact her at lgalbraith@preventchildabuse.org with any questions or feedback as she plans advocacy priorities for the remainder of this year and 2003.

Effective September 17, 2002, Susan Frankel transitioned to a part-time consultant position working exclusively with the Regional Resource Center (RRC) implementation process. Lisa Cashion has been promoted to Manager of State Systems Support and will manage administrative responsibilities of the division and ongoing technical assistance projects.

State Leader's Advisory Committee (SLAC) Update

SLAC's mission is to work in partnership with Prevent Child Abuse America/Healthy Families America to strengthen and develop a national network of state systems and local Healthy Families America programs and to ensure the growth and sustainability of a comprehensive array of services for children and families. Established in 1999, SLAC aims to address the following strategic objectives for 2002:

- Initiating and facilitating collaboration with other 0-5 family support programs.
- Helping networks sustain funding through advocacy, marketing tools and leadership initiatives.
- Providing "easy-to-use" compilations of research findings and evaluation studies that can be used to demonstrate the benefits of home visiting.

2002 SLAC Members

Gail Breakey – Hawaii *

Joyce Poore-Burkenes – Iowa *

Lea Butterfield – California *

Deborah Callins – Alabama *

Laura Carmichael – Maine

Christine Deyss – New York

Linda Dunphy – Virginia

Michael Foley – Michigan

Gaylord Gieske – Illinois

Phyllis Kikendall – Indiana

Carol McNally - Florida

Heather Murray – Georgia *

Debbie Richardson - Oklahoma

Sarita Rogers - Massachusetts

Rebecca Ruffner - Arizona

(* indicates new SLAC member elected 9/02)

The next SLAC meeting will be held in Chicago on October 17-18, 2002. If you would like to provide ideas for that meeting or would like additional information on SLAC, please call Lisa Cashion, 312-663-3520 x160 or lcashion@preventchildabuse.org .

Training

The prenatal project, "**Great Beginnings Start Before Birth,**" funded by Ronald McDonald House Charities has moved into the implementation phase. Areas highlighted in this training include father involvement, prenatal bonding and stimulation, and stress reduction. In late July, three states, including eight trainers, were identified to participate in the pilot training and evaluation for the recently completed prenatal training module. These states (Ohio, New York and Virginia) will begin training pilot sites in late October.

An evaluation component will also be implemented and is expected to include approximately 250 families. For more information contact Helen Reif at [href@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:hreif@preventchildabuse.org).

Advocacy

PCA America is currently seeking to fill two positions in the advocacy department. Both an experienced and effective vice president for advocacy and policy analyst are needed to ensure our commitment to the organization's legislative priorities promoting the voice of prevention. For more information contact Michelle Rieff (mrieff@preventchildabuse.org) or Robert Allen (rallen@preventchildabuse.org). Please also check for updates on PCA America's website for further information: www.preventchildabuse.org/learn_more/job_openings.html.

Research

In conjunction with the State Systems Department, the Research Center is compiling an advocacy tool aimed to address the growing demand for outcomes and evidence-based research. The new leave-behind informational folder will include: one-page highlights of outcomes in child health, school readiness, self-sufficiency, and improved parenting and reduction of child maltreatment; a one-page Rationale for State Systems; an executive summary of results from state-level evaluations; a bibliography of research related to HFA; and a one-page document entitled, Healthy Families America: A Distinctive Home Visiting Program. We hope these outcomes data will be directly useful in advocacy pursuits. For more information contact Lisa Cashion (lcashion@preventchildabuse.org) or Lori Friedman (lfriedman@preventchildabuse.org).

Marketing/Communications

The National Family Support Roundtable and PCA America have adopted the name **Circle of Parents** and the tag line "**Sharing Ideas. Sharing Support**" to represent the parent self-help mutual support model funded through OCAN. The name **STAGES** and the tag line "**Understanding your child's development,**" have been chosen to represent the pediatrician education program developed in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics. For more information contact Julie Rowe at jrowe@preventchildabuse.org.

Circle of Parents

Statewide organizations in Missouri, North Carolina and South Dakota join the Circle of Parents project beginning October 1 to create new state networks of parent self-help support groups. Volunteers of America/Dakotas, PCA Missouri and PCA North Carolina all received \$25,000 grants to strengthen and expand parent support groups and to work with PCA America and the Roundtable to promote the Circle of Parents model. Circle of Parents programs are now available in 22 states, represented by 23 statewide and regional networks. Three more grants to build statewide networks will be available during 2003. For more information contact Barbara Shaffer at bshaffer@preventchildabuse.org. Circle

of Parents has also released a new children's program manual and a parent handbook. For more information, contact Sue Campbell at scampbell@preventchildabuse.org .

➤ Conferences

PCA America Leadership Conference

Prevent Child Abuse America is pleased to announce the 2003 Leadership Conference, "Prevention Leadership in Times of Change." The conference will be held March 1-5, 2003 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, and will bring together network leaders from the Chapters Network, HFA State Leaders, and the National Family Support Roundtable. The conference will offer an exciting combination of keynote speakers, workshops, a showcase of promising prevention initiatives from across the country, and – something new – Prevention Work Summits, where attendees will roll up their sleeves and tackle an issue of significance with a small group of colleagues. This is a chance to demonstrate leadership in action by going beyond listening and learning to brainstorming, strategizing, and developing a plan of action. Keynote speaker Dr. David Chadwick will speak on the Authentic Voices movement as a means to *Ending Child Abuse*. For more information, please contact Ann Johnson, conference manager, at (312) 663-3520 ext. 145 or ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org.

"Safety in Numbers: Working Together from Research into Practice"

Centered on strengthening violence prevention research and practice. Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services, CDC Injury Prevention, the conference will take place in Atlanta, GA; April 28-29, 2003. Contact: Trevia Pereira, Phone: 770-488-4665, email: TPereira@cdc.gov.

The 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: "Gateways to Prevention"

Sponsored by the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect / Children's Bureau / ACYF / U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 31-April 5, 2003. For more information call (703) 528-0435 or email 14conf@pal-tech.com.

Zero the Three National Training Institute: "Babies Can't Wait: Critical Issues for the Infant/Family Field"

Featuring keynote speaker, Dr. Berry Brazelton. Washington, DC, Dec. 6-8, 2002. Check out www.zerotothree.org/nti00/registration_frame.html for an on-line program and registration. Congratulations to our own Arizona state leader, Kate Whitaker, who will be presenting *Strengths-Based Supervision + Good Management = Quality Services*.

2002 Biennial Leadership Summit: Leadership, Community and Social Change – Putting Children First

Sponsored by the Child Welfare League of America. San Diego, CA, October 9-12, 2002. For more information visit www.cwla.org/conferences/2002biennial.htm.

Communities Connecting for Youth: Research, Innovations and Trends in Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention

Sponsored by the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention. San Diego, CA, November 20-23, 2002. Contact NOAPPP at (202) 294-8370 or via email at noappp@noappp.org .

➤ **Funding Opportunities/Collaborations**

The Build Initiative

Has your state system thought of becoming involved in early child development and school readiness collaboratives? The Build Initiative provides \$350,000 grants to ensure that children from birth through age five are ready to succeed in school. They believe this occurs through state coordinated systems of programs, policies and services, with similar aims to respond to the needs of parents; careful use of public and private resources; and effective preparation of young children for a successful future. Currently IL, MN, NJ, and OH receive funding that supports activities such as developing quality standards, professional development, and program evaluation. Grants go to public/private collaborations in each state, with new states likely to be chosen in 2004. Log on to www.buildinitiative.org for more information and updates on upcoming opportunities.

Young Children: Priority One

Local Kiwanis clubs throughout the country are participating in a national initiative called Young Children: Priority One, addressing the needs of children prenatal through age five. All clubs are urged to carry out at least two projects each year. Contact your local or county program, listed in the phone book or via www.kiwanis.org and tell them all the ways your local Healthy Families program meets their interests and criteria. Kiwanis is a great way not only to secure funding, but also to network and become known in the community!

Foundation for Child Development

The Foundation for Child Development offers grants that support research or policy activities improving support for children and families and leadership development of advocates for this same population. Recently, \$3.6 million was awarded for 54 grants. Contact the foundation at www.ffcd.org or (212) 213-5897.

Finance Project

The finance project provides general information on strategies for seeking funding, with a focus on welfare funds and use of federal dollars by state and local governments. This information can be found under “Hot Topics” and “Publications” at www.financeproject.org.

See you in December for the next issue of SCOOP!