



HFA Scoop Newsletter

January 2008

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**Q & A Corner: The Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the
Community Releases its Special Issue on Healthy Families America
Joe Galano, PhD, Editor**

Prevent Child Abuse America and Healthy Families America is thrilled to announce the recent release of a peer-review journal exclusively focused on HFA-- *The Healthy Families America Initiative: Integrating Research, Theory and Practice*. This contemporary and comprehensive summary of research and practice contains five empirical articles at the national, state, and multi-state levels, scholarly reviews, insights into HFA challenges and successes, and commentaries about the future for HFA. This detailed study of HFA is a roadmap for prevention efforts of the future, discussing in detail its past and present, the benefits and challenges of researcher/practitioner partnerships, and expert suggestions to improve practice.

“PIONEERING. . . (The Volume) Contributes to deepening our understanding of the important national initiative, Healthy Families America (HFA), and to add to developing and integrating theory, research, and . . . Reflects on what can be learned from successes and failures and how the first ten years of HFA can help to guide the next phase of child abuse and neglect prevention. . . An ESSENTIAL book for those interested in formulating policy, conducting community-based research, or implementing community-based child abuse and neglect prevention services.”

- Abe Wandersman, Dept of Psychology, University of South Carolina

The articles in this volume deepen our understanding of HFA and contribute to the development and integration of theory, research, and action. The authors represent a wide array of disciplines, agencies, and roles at the local, state, and national levels working together to plan, implement, evaluate, and sustain child abuse and neglect prevention programs. Their collective commitment deserves high praise. Much can be learned from

their success and failures. Their reflections on the HFA experience can help to guide the future of prevention.

The volume, edited by Joe Galano, PhD, focuses on both the HFA Research Network and the national home-visitation initiative. The volume summarizes the historical antecedents and theoretical assumptions that guide the HFA initiative and presents the most comprehensive summary of emerging outcomes available to date. The volume also examines implementation issues such as fidelity to the program model and local adaptations in the face of complex, shifting, structural challenges; the role of state systems in developing and advocating for sustainable and effective programs; and the analytic, methodological, sociopolitical challenges confronted by community researchers conducting action research. Finally, lessons learned from the last decade are summarized and recommendations are made for public policy that can strengthen the initiative.

Journal Contents

The contributors of this volume have many years of distinguished contribution to the goals of HFA. They are individuals who value partnerships and who are deeply committed to the success of HFA. In the words of Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

The first two articles provide an important historical and national context for understanding both practice and research in HFA. The first article, “Healthy Families America: Ruminations on an Implementation Strategy for Child Abuse Prevention” by Holton and Harding, provides the reader with an understanding of the history of HFA, HFA’s relationship with PCA America, and an insider’s view of the challenges associated with HFA’s rapid ascension (25 sites in 1992 to 430 in 2003) as a national prevention initiative. A strength of the article is its frank assessment of implementation challenges, limitations, and external critiques. The authors explain HFA’s internal credentialing process and discuss the way the credentialing process contributes to implementation fidelity, concluding with lessons learned and a thoughtful set of recommendations intended to advance existing models of home visiting.

The second article, “The Healthy Families America Research Practice Network: A Unique Partnership to Integrate Prevention Science and Practice” by Galano and Schellenbach, represents the first published account of the history and accomplishments of the HFA Research to Practice Network (RPN). Attempting to integrate researchers and practitioners on this scale is rare. This article provides a glimpse inside PCA America’s attempt to create a new paradigm of collaboration. The authors acknowledge the limitations of past and current research paradigms in the social sciences, especially the tendency to dichotomize research and practice and to devalue “real-world” researchers. The authors describe the evolution of the network from exclusively researchers to researchers and practitioners and the benefits accrued from working together. They examine what was learned about this rare experiment in creating practitioner-scientist partnerships and offer a detailed plan for strengthening the RPN in the future.

The next three articles describe HFA's attempt to support state systems development, and two exemplary statewide home visiting programs, Every Child Succeeds (Ohio and northern Kentucky) and Healthy Families Arizona. Friedman and Schreiber, in their article "Healthy Families America State Systems Development: An Emerging Practice to Ensure Program Growth and Sustainability," examine HFA's efforts in state systems development in the context of the diffusion of innovation and program replication literatures. They consider the research base for their systems approach. The authors describe why having a centralized and efficient infrastructure is critical during an era of fiscal constraints and increased accountability. Benefits of a well-functioning infrastructure include helping states reduce duplication of services, creating economies of scale, coordinating resources, supporting high-quality site development, and promoting the self-sufficiency and growth of community-based programs. The article concludes with the discussion of the state systems benefits and challenges and lessons learned.

The next articles by Ammerman et al. and Krysik and LeCroy deal with the development, implementation, and evaluation of a multi-site and statewide HFA program. Their work is exciting because it is grounded in theory and research but also recognizes the practical constraints and complexities of conducting action-oriented evaluation research in the real-world settings. These evaluations span a 10-year period and provide insights into how researcher-practitioner partnerships mediate program success. Both of these programs developed strong evaluator-practitioner partnerships from the beginning, employed evaluation for quality improvement, and contributed to positive intermediate outcomes, preparing each initiative to go to scale statewide and gradually employ more rigorous evaluation methods. In fact, having well-documented accounts of the evaluation processes that contributed to the development of these statewide initiatives represents a welcome shift away from the exclusive focus on best practices or evidence-based practice as the only path to program improvement. These papers provide a needed corrective, adding to our understanding of how researcher-practitioner relationships may also mediate program successes, just as the doctor-patient relationship is as important as the active ingredients in a pill.

"Development and Implementation of a Quality Assurance Infrastructure in a Multisite Home Visitation Program in Ohio and Kentucky" by Ammerman et al. describes the origins and implementation of Every Child Succeeds, a multi-site home visitation program in southwestern Ohio and northern Kentucky. When home visitation programs go to scale, numerous challenges are faced in implementation and quality assurance. Drawing on models in business and industry, the authors designed a Web-based system (eECS) to optimize quality assurance and generate new learning for the field by systematically collecting and using data to document outcomes and identify clinical needs (such as high levels of maternal depression at enrollment) that can undermine home visitation. They describe the pilot testing of an augmented module to treat depressed mothers, present promising preliminary results, and discuss challenges encountered.

In their article "The Evaluation of Healthy Families Arizona: A Multi-Site Home Visitation Program," Krysik and LeCroy describe the history of HFAz, from two sites in

1991 to 48 sites in urban, rural, and tribal regions of AZ by 2004. HFAz is a broadly implemented home visitation program aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect, improving child health and development, and promoting positive parent/child interaction. The authors describe how a unique administrative structure and collaboration between evaluation and quality assurance helped overcome many of the problems familiar to home visitation programs. The evaluation team describes how a systematic focus to improve processes and outcomes has positioned the program for a randomized longitudinal study, highlights key components of the program, and presents encouraging evaluation results.

The final four articles bring together perspectives that are more national or ecological in their scope. The first, “The Promise of Primary Prevention Home Visiting Programs: A Review of Potential Outcomes” by Russell, Britner, and Woolard, reviews the literature on home visiting outcomes. The authors review traditional outcome domains (e.g., child maltreatment, child health, school-readiness) from the literature on HV, as well as nontraditional outcome domains (e.g., community connection, maternal life course, resilience, child/family wellness) that may be relevant for future evaluations. The authors identify some of the key impediments to effectiveness, including program fidelity, client risk level, intensity of services, and the failure to address community and organizational-level risks. They conclude that home visitation is a promising but largely untested service delivery model. The authors assert that programs that document their implementation and study their outcomes through a thoughtful, planned process may capture important and much needed information on strengthening families through HV.

The second, “Healthy Families America Outcomes: Emerging Research Findings and Implications for the Field” by Harding, Galano, Martin, Huntington, and Schellenbach, describes the most contemporary and comprehensive summary of HFA outcomes to date. Since the inception of HFA, there has been a growing demand for research on its effectiveness. This paper reviews 33 evaluations (distilled from over 100 evaluation reports) of affiliated HFA sites, nearly half of which include a randomized control or comparison group. Outcome domains include child health and development, maternal life course, parenting, and child abuse and neglect. Parenting outcomes (such as parent-child interaction and parenting attitudes) show the most consistent positive impacts. Results in other domains indicate the need for in-depth research to identify key practices. The authors discuss several factors that may contribute to differences in outcomes, including recent augmentations to program design, and variability in site implementation and quality and in family risk levels at enrollment. The paper also includes highlights from two evaluations of programs that have gone to scale, one community-wide (Hampton, Virginia) and one statewide (Indiana), to illustrate the innovative approaches to evaluation found in HFA research.

The final two articles are unusual because they move to the macro level to explain how physical and social aspects of the environment impact child abuse prevention programs and how future solutions must go beyond traditional attempts to fix the individual and embrace more public health approaches. The first, “The Role of Community in Facilitating Service Utilization” by Daro et al., examines the role community

characteristics play in influencing a parent's decision to use voluntary child abuse prevention programs. Nine programs serving families in six states were participants. Multiple regression techniques were used to determine if community characteristics, such as neighborhood distress and the community's ratio of caregivers to those in need of care, predict service utilization. The authors' findings suggest that certain community characteristics are significant predictors of the extent to which families utilize voluntary family supports. Contrary to the authors' assumptions, however, new parents living in the most disorganized communities received more home visits than program participants living in more organized communities. The authors recommend using community capacity building to improve participant retention.

The final article, "Potential Lessons from Public Health and Health Promotion for the Prevention of Child Abuse" by Martin, Green, and Gielen, reviewed two of the most successful public health efforts of the last third of the 20th century — tobacco control and automobile injury control — to understand how changes occur and to generalize from those arenas to child abuse and neglect prevention. The article identifies potential lessons for the field of child abuse prevention. The authors distill the lessons learned and provide five specific recommendations for child abuse and neglect prevention professionals: Investigate varied logic models or conceptual frameworks to identify new opportunities for effective intervention; use a multi-disciplinary, multi-sector approach; normalize desired behaviors and reduce undesirable behaviors; balance efficacy, feasibility, and cultural appropriateness; and develop strategies for effective policy advocacy based upon who benefits and who shoulders most of the burden. The authors conclude with suggestions about how to frame child abuse and neglect prevention to best impact citizens and public policy.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Joseph Galano, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of William and Mary and a core faculty member in the Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Galano was awarded Fellow status in the Society for Community Research and Action (APA Division 27). In recognition of his career accomplishments, the American Psychological Association honored him with the 1996 Distinguished Contribution to Practice in Community Psychology award.

Dr. Galano has worked at the local, state, and national levels to prevent child abuse and neglect. He has consulted with Hampton, Virginia's Healthy Families Partnership for over fifteen years. Since 1995, he has worked with Prevent Child Abuse Virginia to develop Virginia's statewide child abuse prevention initiative, Healthy Families Virginia. He was a member of the steering committee that developed the Blue Ribbon Plan to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect in Virginia and currently serves on Healthy Families Virginia's Advisory Council. Since 1992 he has been a member of the Healthy Families America (HFA) Research Practice Network and is a member of the HFA State Leaders Network.

Dr. Galano's greatest professional satisfaction has been to help prepare the next generation of "preventionists". He has helped hundreds of undergraduate and graduate

students become involved in community service and public health careers. He was twice nominated for both the President's Award for Service at the College of William and Mary and the Outstanding Faculty Award of the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia.

We thank Dr. Galano extensively for his commitment to the volume and for his years of dedication to HFA. **Follow this link to Haworth Press to purchase electronic copies of the individual journal articles:**

http://www.haworthpress.com/store/Toc_views.asp?sid=4R7AGWELAJLF9PXWE S4ELH76VARH5R48&TOCName=J005v34n01%5FTOC&desc=Volume%3A%2034%20Issue%3A%201%2F2

Follow this link to purchase the entire volume in book form:

<http://www.haworthpress.com/store/product.asp?sid=4R7AGWELAJLF9PXWES4 ELH76VARH5R48&sku=6098>

Prevent Child Abuse America News



Connecting the Dots ... Turning Knowledge into Action. Prevent Child Abuse America's national conference will be held May 19-22, 2008 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As the ONLY national level conference devoted to prevention, there will be 100+ workshops on topics related to effective prevention strategies; research, knowledge and innovation; practical applications for direct service provision; parent education and leadership; non-profit management, capacity building, and wellness. There is also an impressive roster of expert speakers providing keynotes and standout sessions. As always, plenty of networking opportunities and CEUs will be available! The low Early Bird Registration rate of \$310 is available only through March 31st – so don't delay! To learn more, visit the conference website:

<http://www.preventchildabuse.org/events/conference/index.shtml>

Celebrate 15 Years of HFA at the National Conference!

Join us in celebrating HFA's accomplishments on Tuesday May 20th at 5:30pm at the Hilton Hotel's Monarch Ballroom for a reception for anyone involved with HFA at the local, state or regional levels. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating together. If you are interested in attending, please send an RSVP to Lisa Schreiber at lschreiber@preventchildabuse.org.

HFA Training Updates: New DVD on Motivational Interviewing Coming Soon

Motivation is a key ingredient to changing any behavior and Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a style of interacting with families or individuals that hopefully will inspire them to be more motivated to change problem behaviors. Through the generosity of the Pritzker Early Childhood Foundation, PCA America has produced a DVD which provides a brief overview of some of the ways in which a home visitor might use MI with his/her families when discussing difficult issues.

The DVD “Putting Ideas Into Practice” will be distributed to Healthy Families sites within the next few months. Suggestions on how to use this DVD will be included. While the DVD is not intended as a training on MI, we hope it will provide program staff with some additional ideas for working with families. For further information please contact Helen Reif at [href@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:hreif@preventchildabuse.org)

HFA Quality Assurance and Accreditation

HFA Credentialing has officially changed its name to HFA Quality Assurance and Accreditation. The decision to do this was strongly endorsed by the HFA Credentialing Panel and PCA America’s President and CEO Jim Hmurovich. This name more accurately reflects the quality assurance process HFA has in place and allows those outside the HFA realm to connect HFA’s process with other accreditation processes in other fields of work, i.e., hospitals, universities, child care centers, etc.

2007 proved to be a very exciting year for HFA Accreditation. An updated and modernized Self Assessment Tool was introduced to the network. The tool now includes intents of standards and tips to assist programs with implementation. The process is more program-centered, less paper intensive and involves interactive interviews, allowing staff to share examples of their work during interviews. Overall the network is pleased with the new and improved process.

In conjunction with the changes to the Self Assessment Tool, HFA Peer Reviewers were trained on the “new” process. This training was done through the use of distance learning modules, home work, and a follow-up conference call to ensure implementation of knowledge. Thirty new peers were trained and trainings were held all in Illinois, Virginia and Oregon.

We will be holding two HFA Peer Reviewer Trainings this year, should demand allow. The first training will be held the week of July 28th – 30th, 2008 and the second will be held September 15th-17th 2008. Locations will be determined based on the peers who are selected for peer training. Applications will be going out in the near future.

Please visit our website at

http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/network_resources/credentialing.shtml after February 15 to download the 2008 standards. Programs with site visits after July 1, 2008 will be held to these standards. Most changes involved clarification and additions to intent of standards, re-writes of some rating indicators and minor additions. A crosswalk of the changes can also be found on the website. Contact Cyd Wessel for more information at cwessel@preventchildabuse.org

Advocacy Department Update- The Education Begins at Home Act

Congressional support for The Education Begins at Home Act (EBAH) continued to build in the first session of the 110th Congress. In 2008, PCA America and the National Home Visiting Coalition will work aggressively with our Congressional champions to move the legislation towards enactment. Take Action on EBAH at: http://member.preventchildabuse.org/site/PageServer?pagename=adv_edu_home_splash.

PCA America Embarks on Prevention Planning Across the States

A statewide prevention planning committee has been formed by CEO Jim Hmurovich. The goal of the committee is to think through what prevention planning really means, and to develop a "new way of thinking" about prevention in each of the 50 states so abuse and neglect does not happen in the first place. The working committee consists of members of the National Office a representative who serves on the National Board of Directors and 7 state chapter Executive Directors. Their immediate task is to think through comprehensive and consistent strategic goals to prevent the abuse and neglect. This planning initiative will have a positive contribution to multiple facets of PCA America, including HFA. Statewide prevention planning and execution may focus on having a medical home for all children, healthy child development and the provision and availability of adequate services that are culturally and linguistically competent to ensure services are available for all families when they need them. The committee is still in the assessment and information gathering phase, so what the process looks like and what will be the deliverables are still being determined.

Research from the Field

New APA Publication on HFA! The Division 37 of the American Psychological Association's Child and Family Policy and Practice Review is now available online. This issue entitled: *Practice, Research, and Policy Agendas for Healthy Families America: A Program Designed to Prevent Child Maltreatment* is devoted entirely to HFA and compliments the content of the Special Issue of the Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community (Joe Galano, Editor)

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- You can access it at:

<http://www.apa.org/divisions/div37/APA37CFPPRWinter2007.pdf>

Series of New Scientific Briefs Provide Simple Take on Research

The National Scientific Council on the Developing Child released seven new briefs focusing on new studies developed in the areas of neuroscience and developmental/behavioral science. These short briefs

(<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/HAREHXXCRX/ETFEHYDJIR/1604541816>)

provide central findings, methodology, and implications for the knowledge base on early

childhood. Topics include: "How Early Child Care Affects Later Development" and "Prenatal and Infant Exposure to an Environmental Pollutant Damages Brain Architecture and Plasticity."

National Scientific Council is also featuring articles about early childhood program evaluation. A new paper on "The Benefits and Costs of Head Start" for Social Policy Report by Deborah Phillips of Georgetown University and Jens Ludwig of the University of Chicago argues that Head Start's impact on children will likely generate benefits for participants and society that outweigh the program's cost. Download it at:

<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/HAREHXXCRX/HXYSHYDJIS/1604541816>.

Healthy Families New York Profile Updated on Promising Practices Network Website

The study on which the updated HFNY program summary is based found that this "Proven" program continued to reduce child abuse and neglect in the second year of the study. The study finds significant and sizeable effects at a much lower cost than models that rely exclusively on nurses. Read more about the HFNY program:

<http://www.promisingpractices.net/program.asp?programid=147>

New Public Policy Resources

Moving the Infant-Toddler Policy Agenda Forward Together: Strategies to Build Successful Coalitions

At the local, state and federal levels, advocates are increasingly working together to bring the voice of infants, toddlers and their families to public policy. In many cases, they have formed coalitions or alliances of distinct partners who come together temporarily to take joint action in support of an infant-toddler policy agenda. Working in coalition can have many advantages for advocates, as it allows partners to have a larger impact with fewer resources. It is also a method by which diverse partners can come together around a common issue, and provide a united, clear message to policymakers about what is best for very young children. This article provides practical strategies and examples to help you build effective coalitions to improve policies for infants and toddlers in your state or community.

<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/OBROHVOVCF/EMPSHVTCLC/1550312546>

Home Visiting: Strengthening Families by Promoting Parenting Success.

National Human Services Assembly. Family Strengthening Policy Center, 2007
Childhood success begins with parenting at its best. This new practice/policy brief from the Family Strengthening Policy Center reports that home visiting can have positive effects for some families facing parenting and child-rearing challenges.

<http://www.nassembly.org/fspc/documents/FSPBrief23FINAL.pdf>

State Child Welfare Legislation: 2006

<<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/childwelfarelaws06.htm>> This report describes significant State legislation related to child welfare issues that was enacted

during calendar year 2006. It also includes citations and summaries of specific child-welfare-related laws in each State. To ensure broad availability, the CB has placed the report on the NCSL Web site, with a link to it from the Children's Bureau Web site.

New Programmatic Resources

The Effects of Childhood Stress on Health Across the Lifespan summarizes the research on childhood stress and its implications for adult health and well-being. Of particular interest is the stress caused by child abuse, neglect, and repeated exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV). This publication provides violence prevention practitioners with ideas about how to incorporate information on childhood stress into their work. You can access this publication at:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/effects_of_childhood_stress.htm

New Report on Children of Immigrants

The Foundation for Child Development has released their 2007 Annual Report, *All our Children? Health and Education of Children of Immigrants*. The focal point is an essay written by Alexandra Fuenmayor Starr, "The Dividends of Investing Early: Why We Need to Help the Youngest Children of Immigrants" which discusses the important influence that young children of immigrants will have on the cultural and economic future of the United States.

<http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/OBROHVOVCF/NXYZHVTCCLH/1550312546>

Teenagers and Their Babies: A Perinatal Home Visitor's Guide

 by Ida Cardone, Linda Gilkerson, and Nick Wechsler

This guide helps home-based infant/parent workers conduct a series of prenatal and postnatal activities that will help teen parents bond with their baby. Based on the concepts and strategies of the Community-Based FANA. ISBN: 9781934019160
Item: 368-OLB, \$29.95

<http://www.zerotothree.org/site/R?i=mJWEQmJXeQvYMVPHnVcmSg>

The FRIENDS National Resource Center announces the launch of their Online Learning Center, a resource designed to meet the demands of providing high quality, subject specific training in a cost effective manner for the child abuse prevention community. The Online Learning Center is designed to offer accessible continuing education and professional development opportunities that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may access the FRIENDS Online Learning Center through a link on the following website: www.friendsnrc.org/resources/onlinelearn.htm. Contact Linda Baker for more information at lbaker2@nc.rr.com

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National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome (NCSBS) will be hosting the Seventh North American Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome (Abusive Head Trauma), October 5 - 8, 2008. This conference program is designed for medical, law enforcement, social work, legal professions, family members, and victim advocates. See www.dontshake.org.

Call for 2008 National Training Institute Proposals

ZERO TO THREE invites proposals for presentations to the 23rd National Training Institute (NTI), December 5th through 7th, 2008 in Los Angeles, California. These presentations may be field, case or poster presentations. Both field and case presentations should focus on lessons learned; best practices; and innovations from practice, research, or public policy in the infant-family field. The submission deadline is February 21, 2008. Go to <http://capwiz.com/zerotothree/utr/1/AEAAHZYULP/AJLQIAELNX/1681609606>