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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 State Systems Scoop, we explore these questions and offer resources for additional information.

Since our last issue, the political and economic landscape has changed significantly. Congress and many state governments have experienced a shift towards Republican leadership, and states continue to struggle with their worst budget deficits since World War II. Due to the impending war with Iraq, the state of the economy and the strong likelihood of state funding cuts for social services, 2003 promises to be a challenging year. As a result, motivating public will and maintaining strong voices for prevention is critical. In this issue we provide you with information and tools to effectively advocate for HFA through a climate rife with challenges.

A Rough Road Ahead...Advocacy for 2003**Key federal-level legislation – How is my program impacted?**

The complexity of federal legislation is enough to cause even the savviest advocate to question, “How does this impact my program and the families we serve?” The key is to educate yourself and be persistent, because federal level activity greatly affects the work of your HFA program. Decisions around policy, service delivery, and funding can all be traced back to the work of our Congressional leaders. Federal level advocacy is critical as decisions, made with immediate economic recovery in mind, are setting long-term priorities with enduring impacts. The bottom line –advocacy is more important than ever.

The 107th Congress adjourned at the end of 2002 without taking action on several key pieces of legislation impacting children and families. As you recall, the re-authorization of TANF was not brought to a vote. With the change in Senate leadership and the Bush Administration’s re-emphasis on tough work requirements, it is uncertain when Congress will address TANF in 2003. Currently, state TANF programs are being funded through continuing resolutions which maintain funding at the original \$16.5 billion block grant amount.

In the last few weeks, two significant steps at the federal level have occurred. The President announced his new economic stimulus package, critically reviewed as largely serving the wealthy and reducing resources to services assisting children and families. On Thursday January 23, the Senate passed a \$385 billion omnibus bill, including appropriations bills that fund several departments critical to HFA funding such as; the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Education. The Senate bill includes across-the-board cuts in essential children’s services, including \$60.9 million below FY 2002 levels in child care discretionary funds. Funds for several key programs and services for abused and neglected children would be cut by approximately \$13 million below FY 2002 levels, and funds for

Children's Mental Health would be cut by approximately \$3 million below last year's level. Should the House vote to approve these funding levels, programs will face significant cuts to their funding bases.

Another area of legislation holding potential implications for HFA funding is the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), expected to be reauthorized in February 2003. CAPTA could contain language authorizing home visiting as a core service funded through the Title II community-based prevention program.

TANF, the economic stimulus package, appropriations and CAPTA all impact HFA funding on a state and local level. Clearly, direct federal funding is at risk. Less obvious however, is the frequent co-mingling of federal and state dollars which occurs at many state departments through which HFA programs receive funding. While you may associate HFA funding with a state agency, such as your Department of Human Services, this funding most likely results originates from federal legislation – frequently TANF, or other federal sources. Should your state departments lose funding through these sources, services could be at-risk. In addition, federal funding sources are important to state administrators because they carry matching dollars, which add to the pool of program resources. It is important for HFA programs to advocate for the maintenance and availability of federal funding streams.

Child and family policy experts agree that federal level activity in 2003 will unquestionably impact programs serving families. The federal budget has gone from surplus to deficit and most states are in dire crisis. At the same time, legislation not passed earlier (such as those listed above) need action. Such demands on a system operating with limited time and money, may lead to permanent program cutbacks. Experts also suggest that the role of government in providing supports to families will be fodder for political debate. The Bush Administration emphasizes the role of communities and private organizations in supporting social services. As a result, increased focus on faith-based funding is likely. Marriage incentive funding may also impact states where HFA programs operate, as the government pilots states to roll-out this initiative.

For sample letters and action alerts, guiding responses to these critical measures, HFA programs can continue monitoring federal legislation and contacting members of Congress, through PCA America's Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/pca/issues/alert/?alertid=1200746&ctype=CO>.

Several other key pieces of legislation impacting the stability and self-sufficiency of families served by HFA are up for authorization or enactment. The following resources can assist in learning more about their impact on families and advocacy efforts on behalf of the issue:

- *The Act to Leave No Child Behind: <http://www.cdfactioncouncil.org/act.htm> (It is important to note that this bill is not the same as President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act, which focuses solely on education.)
- *The Child Care and Development Block Grant: http://www.naeyc.org/childrens_champions/sept6.htm
- *WIC – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children and the School Breakfast Program: <http://www.secondharvest.org/policy/policy.html>
- *The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act – Title V: <http://www.cwla.org>

Challenges at the state level

Specific and direct impacts on HFA are expected given current state fiscal realities. Because most states are required by law to balance their budgets, severe cuts are being made. States have

yet to see a plan for emergency fiscal relief from the federal government, and many governors are holding to promises to not increase taxes. Due to their flexibility, states are utilizing TANF maintenance of effort (match funds direct to states), Medicaid and Tobacco Settlement funding streams for a myriad of needs beyond social service programs, pitting HFA directly against competing priorities.

Home visiting and early childhood programs, in concert with the National Governors Association, have advocated for increased state funding for social services and education. They are concerned about cutbacks in resources and depleting funds due to the new federal standards of President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act. Visit www.nga.org to learn more about NGA's strategy and ways to join their advocacy efforts.

Policy experts agree that states should also weigh in on the federal economic stimulus package since tax cuts have a long-term impact on state level economies. According to The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the President's economic growth plan could cost states in reduced revenue, deeper spending cuts and/or tax increases, undercutting efforts to spur growth and create jobs, and raised costs of state and local borrowing due to dividend tax cuts. (For a full report and analysis visit <http://www.cbpp.org/1-11-03econstimpack.pdf>.) Since state fiscal recovery typically lags behind federal recovery by at least one year, advocacy at the state level is urgent. Go to www.connectforkids.org/usr_doc/map_final.html to stay abreast of fiscal issues in your state.

Advocacy Tactics in Times of Crisis

Whether on the state or federal level, HFA programs can join other child and family advocates in calling for economic recovery that reaches all families of young children. Equally important, are informing elected officials of the long-term implications of crisis-oriented decisions locking in inadequate policies affecting children and families for years to come. To articulate this message, advocacy in 2003 calls for strategy and creativity around several tried and true tactics

- 1. Educate your new political leadership** - With the 2002 elections bringing in new faces, be certain to contact and educate members early on. Contact new legislators and officials before you have an immediate issue to be addressed and proactively articulate your priorities. Invite officials to legislative breakfasts, arrange site visits, bring an HFA delegation to their office to present on the outcomes and effectiveness of your local programs.
- 2. Don't over-promise results** - The current economic downturn may heighten a sense of urgency; however beware of damaging your credibility by inflating results or making broken promises. Prepare accurate information that speaks to what your program does best. Use state and local evaluations that demonstrate strong results. Emphasize positive outcomes by using data from the HFA Research Folder, a compilation of outcome data spanning the program's ten-year history (http://www.preventchildabuse.org/learn_more/research_docs/hfa_research_folder.html).
- 3. Recognize economic realities and be open to negotiation** - Strong competition exists for limited funds. Advocates need to carefully balance their "ask" with economic realities in mind. Be open to "unlikely" or creative funding streams that are attached to high-priority legislation. Develop relationships with administrators at the state and county level who can accurately identify funding sources and amounts available.

4. Participate in coalitions and community initiatives - Working with allies arms you with power and influence. The current landscape is forcing those in decision-making roles to seek comprehensive interventions that reduce duplication of services. Work in concert to create a unified voice regarding the impact of economic downturn on children and families. Argue for prevention strategies that decrease long-term costs to society.

5. Be generous with praise - Proponents who rise above deserve significant praise. Be certain to thank, both publicly and privately, those advocates who make your issue a priority among many. Ensure constituencies understand their priorities are being heard by their elected officials.

HFA has a ten year history of success serving children and families. Programs throughout the country have repeatedly and successfully met political, financial and technical challenges. Through concerted advocacy and mobilization, we can continue to achieve sustainability of the program.

**Information for this piece drawn from Connect for Kids, "A Tough Climate for Kids in 2003" by Jan Richter (http://www.connectforkids.org/benton_topics1544/benton_topics_show.htm?doc_id=141403), CWLA's Children's Monitor (<http://www.cwla.org/advocacy/monitor0301.htm>) and information gleaned from the Center on Law and Social Policy's audio conference series highlighting the impacts of financial crisis on programs serving low-income families (www.clasp.org) **

➤ *Resources*

"Preventing Family Violence: Community Engagement Makes the Difference" - This new resource from the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF) explores community-based efforts to address family violence highlighting the "real-life" experiences of programs as they work to change social norms and engage their communities in violence prevention. The booklet also includes recommendations for effective community engagement to prevent family violence and resources for programs. It and is available online at: www.endabuse.org/children.

Understanding and Preventing Violence in the Lives of Children and Youth - *The Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* devoted its August 2002 issue to the problems of violence in young lives. Research includes articles on: mothers' and health care providers' perspectives on screening for intimate partner violence in a pediatric emergency department; children who witness violence, and parent report of children's behavior; a 12-year prospective study on the long-term effects of early child physical maltreatment on psychological, behavioral, and academic problems in adolescence; and effects of abuse on health. The issue can be found at <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/issues/current/toc.html>.

Meld for African American Young Moms Project Expansion - MELD hopes to train staff from other organizations to replicate the Meld for African American Young Moms (MAAYM) program in a number of new locations, through the provision of training, program and evaluation manuals, curriculum materials, and technical assistance. A subset of the national population served will be part of a national evaluation to measure effectiveness in reducing child abuse and neglect. Participating sites will have access to the results for use in their communities. For more information, visit www.meld.org/training.cfm?pageID=2055.

Kids Count Census Data - Now Includes 108th Congressional District Data - The KIDS COUNT Census 2000 interactive database now includes characteristics of new Congressional Districts for the 108th Congress. For up-to-date baseline statistics for outcome

measures in your state, or to obtain a profile of any Congressional district, or rank selected districts based on a variety of characteristics, visit www.aecf.org/kidscount/census.

New Program Promotes Healthy Parenting for Fathers While Addressing Past Violence - A new program, The Fathering After Violence Project, addresses the role of fatherhood with men who have been violent in intimate partner relationships. Organized by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the project will develop materials to help men who have been abusive talk to their children about their violent pasts, make amends and heal their relationships with their children when possible and appropriate. The materials, developed in English and in Spanish, will be culturally appropriate for diverse populations. Implementation of the project's materials will be piloted and evaluated in early 2003 - soon after the materials will be made available to programs throughout the country. To learn more visit <http://www.fvfp.org/newsflash>.

"The Effect of Volunteer Home Visitation for Adolescent Mothers on Parenting and Mental Health Outcomes: A Randomized Trial" - According to this recent study (December 2002) in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Mothers*, teenage mothers participating in a volunteer model home visitation program "influenced parenting behavior in a significant positive direction," however "the program did not have a positive impact on teenagers' reported social support, parenting stress, or poor mental health." A policy implication suggested by the authors: volunteer-based home visitation can be complementary to a comprehensive service delivery approach for teenagers, but not substitute for a host of interventions needed to support young mothers with multiple risk factors. (Barnet B, Duggan AK, Devoe M, et al. 2002. The effect of volunteer home visitation for adolescent mothers on parenting and mental health outcomes: A randomized trial. *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* 156(12):1216-1222.)

➤ *PCA America News*

Leadership Conference is Right Around the Corner!

If you haven't already registered for the PCA America Leadership Conference, do it now! The conference theme, *Prevention Leadership in Times of Change*, speaks to the challenges being faced by all PCA America leaders, and we have some dynamite conference programming planned to help you meet those challenges. Here's the final list of workshops:

Series A – Sunday morning, March 2nd

A1 – *Sustaining Federal and State Funding*

A2 – *From Theory to Practice: Effective Interdisciplinary Prevention Programming*

A3 – *Healthy Families America Evaluation Results*

Series B – Sunday afternoon, March 2nd

B1 – *Building the Board that Can Go the Distance*

B2 – *Engaging our Communities: A Participatory Approach to Creating a National Prevention Research Agenda*

B3 – *Building Volunteer Leadership*

Series C – Monday afternoon, March 3rd

C1 – *Funding and Accountability in Complex Times (foundation funding)*

C2 – *Meeting the Collaboration Challenge*

C3 – *Collaborating with Faith-Based Organizations for Prevention*

Series D – Tuesday morning, March 4th

D1 – *Information Technology as a Bridge to Opportunity*

D2 – *Strategies and Successes in State-Level Advocacy*

D3 – *Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education Initiative*

You can download the conference registration materials from our website and then mail or fax the registration form to us with payment – www.preventchildabuse.org/news/conference.htm
Please get your registration forms in to us by February 15th, if at all possible. You must make your hotel reservation no later than February 7th in order to get the special Leadership Conference rate of \$135/night. **Call the Adam's Mark Jacksonville at 904-633-9095 no later than February 7 and mention the PCA America conference.**

Please contact Ann Johnson, Conference Manager, with any questions about the Leadership Conference – 312-663-3520 ext. 145 or ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org

We look forward to seeing you in sunny Jacksonville this March!

State Systems

State Leaders Meeting

As part of PCA America's Leadership Conference, all HFA State Leaders are invited to attend the **2003 HFA State Leaders Meeting** on March 3rd, 2003 from 1:00 pm- 5:30 pm. This annual meeting brings together a variety of leaders from the HFA initiative including program administrators, evaluators, trainers, quality assurance specialists and those involved in program advocacy. This year, the meeting will be facilitated by the State Leader's Advisory Committee (SLAC) and will include important discussions on next steps in research for the HFA initiative, HFA's advocacy strategy for 2003 and networking opportunities for state leader's on topics relevant to these challenging fiscal times. If you haven't already, please email Lisa Cashion (lcashion@preventchildabuse.org) if you will be attending the State Leader's Meeting.

Collaborations

State Systems is proud to announce that **collaborations** with the national offices of **HIPPY** (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youth)– www.hippyusa.org – and **Parents as Teachers** –www.patnc.org – are progressing. Presentations at conferences, case studies of programs working collaboratively on a local level, and joint advocacy promoting the home visitation field are current priorities. For technical assistance on working with these programs at the state and local level, contact Laura Galbraith at lgalbraith@preventchildabuse.org or 312-663-3520 ext. 173.

Through a grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation, NACo (the National Association of Counties – www.naco.org) is promoting HFA as a model program as part of their year-long Early Childhood and School Readiness initiative. Resources through this collaboration include access to county officials to educate and inform them about HFA, ways to fund county level programs, ways to build comprehensive community initiatives, and public awareness for HFA programs with successful county implementation. NACo has highlighted Healthy Families Virginia (<http://www.naco.org/pubs/cnews/02-10-28/Articles/14Budget.html>) and Healthy Families Florida (<http://www.naco.org/pubs/cnews/current/Articles/10Healthy.html>) in recent months through their County Cares newsletter. For more information on the initiative and/or access to NACo's technical assistance, please contact Hye Sook Chung at hchung@naco.org or 202-661-8841.

Technical Assistance

How can we be more responsive to technical assistance needs of the network? In conjunction with SLAC, State Systems wants to ensure the technical assistance provided is timely and meeting the timely needs of the HFA network. Feedback from state leaders is critical to our ability to provide responsive, targeted assistance. Please consider the following questions:

- What are you doing in your state in the face of massive budget deficits and what advice would you pass on to others?
- What resources do you find yourself needing as the political and economic landscape changes?
- What funding sources have remained stable despite cutbacks?

These questions will be re-visited during the State Leaders Meeting in March, but we also encourage your feedback and recommendations by contacting us at lgalbraith@preventchildabuse.org or 312-663-3520 ext. 173.

Research

Now available! A new one-pager, *Characteristics of Effective Home Visitors*, has been created as an addition to the recently released HFA Research Folder. The piece describes the educational and experiential characteristics of HFA home visitors as well as the high quality training and ongoing supervision provided to ensure families get the services and support they need. To download visit:

http://www.preventchildabuse.org/learn_more/research_docs/hfa_research_folder.html.

The HFA Research Folder has received wide acclaim – both from our network and external policy and research audiences. The new publication has been highlighted in several national newsletters and listserv publications, such as the Maternal and Child Health Alert, the Washington Memorandum and Reauthorization Roundup. To order copies, please contact Lisa Cashion at lcashion@preventchildabuse.org or call 312-663-3520 ext. 160. The folder is also available through

http://www.preventchildabuse.org/learn_more/research_docs/hfa_research_folder.html.

All are invited to attend the Think Tank Session at OCAN's 14th Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect entitled, Formulating a Multidisciplinary Comprehensive Research Agenda for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment, on Tuesday, April 1st, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(http://www.calib.com/nccanch/calendar/calendar_dsp.cfm). The purpose of this session will be to solicit input on a national research agenda that will ultimately result in our finding the "answers" to preventing the abuse and neglect of our children. Participation by members of the HFA network is vitally important to ensure the research needs of this program are voiced. Early registration deadline for the conference is January 27, 2003. Please contact npeddle@preventchildabuse.org for more information.

Coming Soon: PIMS Version 5.0.0 - PIMS (Program Information management System) is a data collection, management, and reporting tool designed to enable HFA sites to manage and report on the community programs and participant services they provide. What is new about PIMS 5.0? Improved privacy protection of participant records and increased security of database to help programs comply with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Regulations as well as reports updated to comply with new credentialing standards. Beginning 2003, current PIMS sites will be contacted by the national office or their state agency about upgrade availability and training events. To learn more about PIMS, please contact rreid@preventchildabuse.org.

Quality Assurance/Credentialing

The HFA Quality Assurance Division is pleased to welcome Jessica Cohen as Programs Specialist. Jessica is replacing Kimberly Gardiner who left PCA America last March. Jessica can be reached at extension 184 and via e-mail at jcohen@preventchildabuse.org.

The Quality Assurance Division is now fully staffed and is preparing for a very busy 2003. A total of 44 peer site visits took place in 2002 and the calendar for 2003 is quickly filling up. A new peer training is tentatively set for the spring and late summer. The revised 2003 Credentialing Standards officially went into effect this month and updates to the Credentialing and Peer Manuals are currently in the works. To receive a copy of the revised Credentialing Standards, or if you have questions, please contact the credentialing staff person responsible for your state or region. Holly Seymour hseymour@preventchildabuse.org: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin or Cyd Wessel cwessel@preventchildabuse.org: California, Canada, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon and Texas.

➤ *Conferences*

Children's Defense Fund

Join others at this National Conference to "Leave No Child Behind" by focusing on child advocacy. April 8th-11th, 2003 in Washington, DC, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. Registration by March 8th, 2003. Information and online registration is available at www.childrensdefense.org.

HIPPY USA

"Parents: The Heart of HIPPY", their 15th Anniversary National Conference highlighting parent leadership and involvement, will be held March 30-April 2, 2003 in New York City. For more information contact Elena Andriolo at 1.888-.35-.HIPPY ext. 231 or eandriolo@hippyusa.org.

Parents as Teachers

The 12th Annual "Born to Learn" Conference will be held April 27th-April 29th 2003 in St. Louis, MO. Drawing more than 1500 participants, the conference will focus on partnerships in early childhood development; promising practices and research findings; and facilitating the exchange of information across disciplines. Registration ends April 19th, 2003. For more information visit: <http://www.patnc.org/conference/default.asp> or email sarah.lifka@patnc.org.

OCAN

The 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, "Gateways to Prevention," includes PCA America's Research Center heading up discussion on the formulation of a national research agenda for the prevention of child maltreatment. March 31st - April 5th, 2003. 'Adams Mark Hotel, St. Louis, MO ; Contact: Bianca Ronquillo at 703-528-0435 or via e-mail at bronquillo@pal-tech.com, Web site: <http://www.calib.com/nccanch/cbconference/index.cfm>.

ARC

The Conference on the Abuse of Children and Adults with Disabilities, the only on-going national conference dedicated to this population, will be held in Riverside, CA March 10th-12th, 2003. Registration is due by February 11th, 2003. For more information email arcriver@aol.com or call Sharon Martinez at 1-888-818-6298.

National Head Start Association

30th Annual Training Conference, May 27th-May 30th, 2003. New York, NY. Registration is due by April 23rd, 2003. Contact: NHSA at 703-739-0875 or view their web site:

<http://www.nhsa.org>

Success by Six

“Engaging Leaders: Building Bright Futures for Young Children,” celebrates fifteen years of early childhood and public engagement initiatives. May 21st-23rd, 2003 in Charlotte, NC.

Registration is due by March 15th, 2003. For more information call 1-800-279-3244 or visit

<http://national.unitedway.org/sb6/>.

➤ ***Funding Opportunities***

“Thinking Broadly: Financing Strategies for Comprehensive Child and Family Initiatives,” is currently available through The Finance Project. The report outlines an array of approaches to financing comprehensive community initiatives, by providing strategy around:

- Maximizing existing resources,
- Maximizing federal and state revenue,
- Create more flexibility in existing categorical funding,
- Building public-private partnerships, and
- Creating new dedicated revenue streams.

Currently available at <http://www.financeproject.org/earlychild.html>.

\$9.4 Million in grants to study school-readiness programs for Pre-K children -- Through the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Administration for Children and Families, and the Department of Education, grants will fund scientific research by nonprofits into the effectiveness of early childhood interventions in promoting school readiness among children ages 0-5. The letter of intent deadline is March 25th followed by a grant deadline of April 25th. Visit the grant notice at <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-03-003.html>.

\$2.2 Million for Maternal and Child Health Studies – Through the Health Resources and Services Administration, grants will support applied research by nonprofits relating to maternal and child health services that will help advance MCH care and services. The deadlines are March 3rd and August 15th. For more information and applications visit <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/grants> or email kwadhwan@hrsa.gov.

The following large foundations were listed by the **Children and Youth Funding Report** as some of the best in their commitment to children and youth priorities.

*The **Dr. Scholl Foundation** awards \$15K - \$50K grants in priority areas such as children and social services. The deadline is May 1st. Visit: www.drschollfoundation.com.

*The **Aetna Foundation** focuses on prevention and health promotion, with particular interest in Hispanic communities. Grants range from \$5K-\$10K. For more information contact Kellie Miller, Program Consultant, at 1.860-.273-.6382 or visit www.aetna.com/foundation.

*Including your HFA program in a community initiative? The **Allstate Foundation** focuses on community development with most grants ranging from \$1K-\$10K. Contact Jan Epstein, 1.847-402-5502 or visit www.allstate.com/foundation.

As always, please feel free to contact State Systems Staff with any questions or feedback:

Lisa Cashion, Manager, State Systems Support, lcashion@preventchildabuse.org
Laura Galbraith, Coordinator, State Systems Support, lgalbraith@preventchildabuse.org
or [312-663-3520](tel:312-663-3520)

See you again in April 2003!!