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➤ ***Q&A Corner: Home Visitation and Parent Mutual Support Groups: Natural Partners***

To effectively address the complex interplay of stressors and social factors impacting families at-risk for abusing their children, research endorses a comprehensive continuum. Findings published in the *Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect* found that participation in parent support groups resulted in increased participation in voluntary home visitation; improvement in parents' ability to read their child's cues; and parent-reported benefits to themselves and their children.¹ An array of supportive services arm parents with the resources, contacts, and communication outlets needed to deal with the most stressful parenting challenges. PCA America is fortunate to house two national initiatives – Healthy Families America & Circle of Parents™ – our home visitation and parent mutual support programs which complement one another, maximize benefits to families and efficiently streamline administration of programs through sharing financial and structural resources.

Circle of Parents™ is a mutual support self-help program for parents. The project represents a collaboration between PCA America and the National Family Support Roundtable, which supports a national network of mutual self-help parent support programs and expands programs into underserved communities. These groups are modeled on the philosophical framework of shared leadership, mutual respect, and shared ownership and inclusiveness. The groups work to prevent child abuse and neglect by helping to reduce isolation, build the self-esteem of parents, and reassure parents that other families share the challenges they face. The groups are free, confidential, non-judgmental and promote positive parenting. Shared leadership is practiced among facilitators and parents so that participants both receive and provide help.

¹ Constantino, J, et al. "Supplementation of Urban Home Visitation with a Series of Group Meetings for Parents and Infants: Results of a 'Real-World' Randomized, Controlled Trial." *Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect*. 25 (2001) 1571-1581.

Healthy Families America and Circle of Parents: What do they have in common?

Both programs:

- Are voluntary and confidential;
- Fall under the umbrella of family support programs and embrace the tenets of community-level programs meeting the specific needs of their respective parenting populations;
- Are grounded in comprehensive training and the use of curriculum ;
- Effectively and strategically advocate for their programs, increasing their recognition and public will;
- Receive technical assistance from a national office that serves as a clearinghouse for funding, advocacy, training and quality assurance.

What can parent mutual support groups provide and what can home visiting programs learn from them?

Parent mutual support groups can enhance the home-visiting component **for parents**, by:

- Reducing the isolation felt by parents who are receiving services in the home;
- Providing a social outlet to meet other parents and share advice, support, and resources;
- Being held accountable by a group of peers;
- Providing personal development through problem -solving around parenting challenges and the sense of empowerment that comes from being a parent leader with responsibilities to help others in the group;
- Having an open, confidential forum with peers rather than solely talking with someone via a professional relationship;
- Amplifying the home visitor's contact by providing support between visits and reinforcing suggested parenting strategies; and
- Providing a program for children during groups that is structured around developmentally appropriate play, self-esteem and confidence building.

Parent mutual support groups can enhance home-visiting **programming** by:

- Helping Healthy Families America programs see the value of parent leadership and ways to provide parents with personal development opportunities;
- Offering joint trainings; and
- Improving the likelihood of sustained funding by showing a commitment to efficient use of funds and reduced duplication of effort.

How can working with Healthy Families America enhance parent mutual support programs?

- Helping Circle of Parents offer specific groups to prenatal families and parents of children ages birth to three;

- Providing more intense services to a family in need of structured guidance and/or linkage to services;
- Sharing funding strategies and resources;
- Providing guidance on developing an infrastructure to maintain a rapidly expanding network.

Staff from the national offices of Healthy Families America and Circle of Parents recently asked select states about the collaborative relationship between the two programs in their respective states. Overall, collaborations between the two programs exist at the initial introduction stage. This initial stage includes establishing relationships, assessing the needs of the community, referring families to one another and strengthening network ties between the two programs at the state level. While some states expressed concerns over the current funding and staffing landscape, these initial collaborative activities are viewed as manageable, beneficial and cost-effective means to beginning collaborative efforts.

Bridging Two Programs

In Florida, both Healthy Families Florida (HFF) and Circle of Parents are co-located in the Ounce of Prevention Fund Florida. Christie Ferris, Prevention Services Director, is the Circle of Parents program director and works collaboratively with Carol McNally, Executive Director for HFF. According to Ferris, the two programs share resources to provide technical assistance, meet on a regular basis both individually and in program meetings, and plan trainings in order to cross train those sites interested in pursuing parent mutual self-help support groups.

In the past year, Ferris created a “Welcome Packet”, modeled after other Circle of Parents programs, which is sent to all organizations, HFF sites included, who express interest in obtaining Circle of Parents information. The packet includes an introduction to the Circle of Parents program, promotional methods for starting support groups, national network standards, and technical assistance information. The “Readiness Assessment” form, which Ferris derived from the Circle of Parents Georgia assessment tool, asks those questions pertaining to the feasibility of and interest in support groups at the site. This assessment has created a starting point in collaboration for each HFF site.

In July of this year, McNally invited Ferris to conduct a workshop on the Circle of Parents program at HFF’s Semi-Annual Program Managers Conference. Local HFF sites from Pinellas County, where they have implemented the Circle of Parents program, co-conducted workshops to over 40 Program Managers, Supervisors, and Family Support Workers. As a result of these workshops, more HFF sites expressed interest in having Ferris visit their programs.

Future collaboration is taking shape through on-going training collaboration. Ferris and McNally may coordinate additional training at the next HFF Semi-Annual Program Managers meeting and provide an additional conference day for those seeking to attend an eight hour Circle of Parents training.

As with many states, funding in Florida for Circle of Parents and HFF are generated from different sources, however, at the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida by combining Circle of Parents and HFF trainings, paid partially by HFF's training budget. This efficiency allows Ferris the opportunity to travel to HFF sites, conduct trainings, and organize larger trainings tailored for HFF staff.

The Site Perspective – Bringing Parents Together

According to Sue Caddell, Operational Management Consultant for HFF St. Petersburg, HFF staff has organized parenting groups for five years, however, the Circle of Parents model was introduced to this site last spring. HFF staff transitioned to training and materials supplied by Circle of Parents. New groups will begin this fall.

Since the spring of this year, the HFF site hosted five parent mutual support groups serving Pinellas County's diverse populations. Two groups focus on Spanish-speaking and teen parents. FSW's who have been cross-trained organize the parent support groups, which are open only to HFF families. In addition to the role of facilitator, FSW's operate and coordinate the children's program for Circle of Parents. Caddell believes one reason for the success of this collaboration is due to staff cross-training because it demonstrates HFF St. Petersburg's vested interest in improving services to their families and developing the skills of FSW's. HFF St. Petersburg overcame transportation, childcare, and food obstacles by coordinating transportation to and from the groups; receiving in-kind contributions from local restaurants and/or hosting potlucks; and developing the children's program.

Caddell believes that parent self-help support groups are important to the success of HFF families. This is visible in the parents' increased involvement and leadership development via the Parent Committee, which is responsible for setting the agenda for groups, including selection of topics and speakers. According to Caddell, the programs can work together because "workers feel good and HFF families feel like they own it."

Lessons Learned in Collaboration

The following key elements were suggested as best practices in collaboration between HFA and Circle of Parents. (It is important to note that these elements are recommended by current HFA states who are adding Circle of Parents to an existing HFA site):

- **Bridge the two programs.** While recognizing two different models, focus on the similarities that link the two programs, including the shared strength-based focus and parent leadership.
- **Take inventory.** Research what parent support groups are currently operating in your local areas. Identify programs with and without existing relationships with parent support groups and strategize ways to build off existing groups and introduce the Circle of Parents model.
- **Know your audience.** Assess HFA site's need for and capacity to deliver Circle of Parents. At the community level, include referral organizations who might utilize both programs. The audience can also include community and program stakeholders in addition to county and state government officials.
- **Advocate.** Generate understanding and support for the collaboration. The initial buy-in may take time, yet this commitment is crucial to the long-term viability and success of the collaboration.
- **Educate.** Create educational materials that can be used at the site and state level that demonstrate how these programs can collaborate successfully.
- **Training** Look for cross-training opportunities for joint in-service training. Organize larger trainings in place of individual site training in order to accommodate a larger number of participants.
- **Research.** Build quality assurance, data collection and evaluation components into groups, with particular linkage to HFA outcome measures. Look for ways to measure the success of families involved in both programs.
- **Planning.** Include parents and community stakeholders throughout the collaborative process.
- **Patience.** Recognize that this is an evolving process. States expressed difficulties and setbacks ranging from gaining vested support from other organizations to keeping parents motivated.
- **Funding.** Look for ways to combine events for both programs. Identify those budget line items that can be shared. Seek funding to provide a continuum of services and reduce duplication of services.

As you look toward the future of your program, we encourage each state to consider how home visitation and parent mutual support groups can work together in maximizing the services and resources available. If you would like more information about the Circle of Parents model visit their website at www.circleofparents.org. To locate your state's primary contact, view the "Find Your Circle of Parents" page, or contact Cynthia Savage, Project Director at csavage@preventchildabuse.org.

➤ *PCA America News*

NEW AND IMPROVED HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA WEBSITE!!!

We have revamped the HFA website to reflect the growing needs of HFA. The new website was launched the first week in August. Visit www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org to view the variety of new resources, information about the program and tools to help you in your advocacy and funding sustainability efforts. In particular, we urge you to utilize the Peer Mentoring Network and Innovative Strategies sections to gain technical assistance in an efficient manner and learn from other programs across the country.

The **Peer Mentoring Network** is an interactive technical assistance tool that facilitates the use of relevant funding and advocacy information between home visiting programs. Users of this tool can:

- ✓ Find those in the Healthy Families America network who can provide advice, lessons learned and point you in the right direction when implementing new or improved strategies
- ✓ Find follow-up resources that will assist you in researching your options, plan your next steps, and make contacts with regional and state experts
- ✓ Find guiding questions as you explore funding streams and advocacy strategies

The **Innovative Strategies** database is a forum for sharing innovative ideas designed to assist home visiting programs and prevention professionals on topics such as advocacy, collaboration, fatherhood engagement, family retention, marketing, staff retention and staff supervision.

DON'T WAIT – CHECK IT OUT TODAY!!!!

2004 PCA America National Conference

- PCA America's National Conference will be held May 14-19, 2004 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Florida. The conference theme is ***Spreading the Magic of Prevention***. The conference will feature nationally renowned keynote speakers; over 80 high-quality workshops on a variety of aspects of child abuse prevention and family support; a Resource Marketplace with over 60 exhibitors; structured and informal networking opportunities; and a host of other activities. Look for information on Registration fees, hotel accommodations and the latest developments at www.preventchildabuse.org.
- Aside from attending this fantastic event, the national office is also seeking workshop proposals. The Conference Planning Committee is hoping to receive a diversity of proposals representing the many facets of child abuse prevention, home visiting and family support. Submissions are encouraged from members of the PCA America networks such as Healthy Families America, Chapters, Circle of Parents, and the Research Network. We also hope to receive proposals from professionals and parents in related fields, such as family violence prevention, child welfare, and education. Proposals are due by September 29th and may be submitted either by mail or e-mail. See the Call for Proposals

document on the PCA America website (www.preventchildabuse.org) for all details and instructions. Please contact the conference staff with any questions: Ann Johnson ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org or Rebecca Loden rloden@preventchildabuse.org

- Additionally, in an effort to make the 2004 National Conference the biggest and the best, we are asking for your help. If you have attended or will be attending any conferences in the future which offer exhibitors, and/or a program or product that has caught your eye and would be valuable to include in the exhibitors hall, please forward the information to: Buddy Allen, rallen@preventchildabuse.org.

State Systems

- PCA America is beginning to explore the Bush Administration's "**Healthy Marriage Initiative**" and how it may intersect with child abuse prevention programs. A conference call on the topic was held on June 9, 2003 with representatives from HFA, Circle of Parents and PCA America's Chapter Network to explore information on and feelings about the "healthy marriage initiative." The call explored programmatic pilot ideas that could be implemented for a certain population that may be interested in marriage education. Such ideas included:
 - Examine healthy marriage curricula to see what complements HFA and Circle of Parents;
 - Encourage father involvement – collaborate with those strategies, build on successful programs and explore lessons learned;
 - Promote group work that links couple's communication skills with the communication between parents and children;
 - Supplement teen parenting curricula with information on the value of marriage, relationship skills and financial management skills;
 - Explore ways to incorporate marriage goals into Individual Family Support Plans, when appropriate;
 - Create special events/programs that address marriage issues;
 - Build healthy marriage information into existing Circle of Parents groups.

The call concluded with recommendations that PCA America delve deeper into research that promotes marriage, continue to educate members of the Administration on our prevention programs and monitor state and federal activities around healthy marriage and potential program funding sources.

There will be a subsequent conversation on the "healthy marriage initiative" on **September 16, 2003 from 2:00-3:30 CST** with Mr. Bill Coffin, Special Assistant for Marriage Education, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. To

register for the call or for more information on the “healthy marriage initiative”, contact Lisa Cashion at lcashion@preventchildabuse.org.

- Two additional tools are available as ready additions to the HFA Research Folder. **“How are HFA Programs Funded” & “Frequently Asked Questions about HFA Funding”** provide information on the ways programs are funded from a federal and state perspective; average program budgets; average cost per families; and many other answers to those questions elected officials often ask. To download, visit the Funding section of the Healthy Families America website at www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org. For more information about these resources contact Laura Galbraith at lgalbraith@preventchildabuse.org

HFA Regional Resource Centers

- On January 20, 2003 the Western Regional Resource Center (WRRC) and the Midwest Regional Resource Center (MWRRC) officially “opened” their doors. With support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Mailman Foundation and the Pritzker Cousins Foundation, PCA America and the RRC’s have begun laying the foundation for achieving a vision for expanding capacity, improving the quality of training & technical assistance and increasing the number of sites providing quality services for families within the HFA network. The RRC’s have spent the past six months developing and implementing the infrastructure necessary for supporting these Centers. This work has ranged from hiring staff, establishing office space and fundraising, to conducting outreach and needs assessments with the various sites and states housed within the regions and establishing processes for linking sites and states with the resources they need.
- Both Centers hosted their first Advisory Committee Meetings in July 2003 with fourteen states participating – nine representing the MWRRC and five representing the WRRC. The MWRRC spent one and one-half days in Cincinnati, OH conducting a strategic planning process that helped to establish a framework for their work going forward, identify key partners for conducting this work and to develop key priority areas and strategic outcomes. The WRRC met for two and one-half days in Sedona, AZ to further identify the needs of the region, outline strengths and define key priorities, outcomes and goals for the Center.
- Each region is outlined below with complete contact information. If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact Susan Frankel, sfrankel@preventchildabuse.org or contact the RRC Directors.

Midwest Regional Resource Center

The following states are included in the Midwest Region:

Michigan
Iowa
Missouri
Indiana
Kentucky
Ohio
Illinois
Minnesota
Wisconsin

Western Regional Resource Center

The following states are included in the Western Region:

Arizona
Idaho
California
Texas
Alaska
Nevada
Oklahoma
Utah
Hawaii
New Mexico
Oregon
Wyoming

Contact Information:

HFA Midwest Regional Resource Center
Kathleen Strader, Director
44405 Woodward Avenue, H-700
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 988-8990
(248) 644-6747 FAX
straderk@trinity-health.org

HFA Western Regional Resource Center
Kate Whitaker, Director
620 North Country Club, Suite #B
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 323-5022
(520) 326-5155 FAX
www.hfa-wrrc.org
hfazkate@earthlink.net

Training

- The next Advanced Training Institute using the new “Great Beginnings Start Before Birth” prenatal training curriculum will be held in Lisle, IL from September 10-12, 2003. For more information contact Phyllis Medrano at pmedrano@preventchildabuse.org.

Research

- The HFA Research-Practice Council (RPC) met in Chicago August 7-8, 2003, for its fourth and final bi-annual meeting on HFA quality improvement. The project is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Gerber Foundation. The RPC represents a collaboration of researchers and practitioners from 13 states. Over the past two and a half years, the group has collaboratively identified critical issues in the delivery of home visiting services and have worked together to develop and address a series of research questions on the intensity and duration of home visiting services, the content of home visits, and staff retention and supervision. Staff of the research center presented

preliminary results of data compiled from RPC States with detailed data systems capable of addressing questions on HFA service characteristics. The answers to these questions will provide important benchmarks for HFA quality assurance and help the field of home visiting in general. For more information on the RPC meeting, please call Kathryn Harding at 312.663.3520 ext. 101.

Circle of Parents

- In anticipation of the September 2004 termination of the OCAN grant that supports Circle of Parents, a committee was organized in the spring of 2002 to develop a proposal for the future of the relationship between the National Family Support Roundtable (Roundtable) and PCA America. Known as the **Relationship Committee**, the first phase of its work was completed in July 2003. Members of the Roundtable approved the committee's recommendation that **the Roundtable shall be formed into a 501 c (3), non-profit organization**. The committee further advised that the Roundtable and PCA America should continue to work in collaborative relationship to maximize the network's ability to achieve good outcomes in its work to support parents and families. During the next year, the committee will be expanded and take responsibility for implementing the necessary actions that will ensure the new organization's ability to develop resources and support the continuous operation and growth of the network. The committee will focus on: governance and management, fund-raising, quality assurance, advocacy and network expansion. Sub-committees will build upon the work already completed by the existing Circle of Parents teams including, Infrastructure, Capacity Building, Training and Technical Assistance and Parents as Leaders. For additional information, you may contact Cynthia Savage, Project Manager at csavage@preventchildabuse.org.
- Announcing the "Everything you always wanted to know about..." Technical Assistance Series. Developed in response to Circle of Parents network requests and information gathered from meetings with CBFRS programs, calls on Children's Programming, Parent Leadership and Public Relations have received positive and overwhelming response. Participation spanned across the United States (including Puerto Rico) and the Philippines. Attendees have included representatives of Healthy Families America, Circle of Parents and Community Based Family Resource and Support programs. Expert speakers were selected from within and outside of the Circle of Parents network. The **Children's Programming** call will be repeated on **Tuesday, September 16, from 2:30-4:00pm Central**. Speakers will address critical issues such as funding and recruitment, training and support of volunteer and paid staff, and will share information on the "how-to's" of program operation. If you are interested in participating on the call or would like to learn more about resources shared during the call series, please contact Sue Campbell at scampbell@preventchildabuse.org.

- Circle of Parents is happy to announce that their **Parent Handbook** is now available in Spanish as well as English. The publication offers information on parent support groups, setting and reaching goals, discipline issues and other parenting topics. These booklets are a handy pocket size and are available from the national office for Circle of Parents. In addition, Circle of Parents has added **Parent Tips Sheets** to their website. Easily reproducible to hand out to groups or individuals, these tips can be downloaded from www.circleofparents.org.

➤ **Resources**

“Planning for Success: Mapping Goals, Services, and Outcomes for Program Improvement” - The most recent issue in the **Ounce of Prevention’s** Birth to Five Best Practices series describes the uses and many benefits of developing a logic model for programs serving young children and their families. The brief provides information on what a logic model is, the key elements of a logic model, how to develop a logic model or refine an existing model, and how the model can be used to continually improve program services. For a downloadable copy, visit http://www.ounceofprevention.org/downloads/publications/OPF_BT5_PlanningForSuccess.pdf.

Potential Block Grants Impact States ~ You have likely heard the recent buzz about potential changes to Medicaid and Title IVE funding. To learn more about how this could potentially impact funding sustainability for your state, the following publications offer succinct and easy-to-read overviews. Utilize these resources to better clarify where you stand on the issue, guiding your advocacy with state and federal representatives.

- “Block Grants: A Bad Bargain for States and Families” ~ The Bush Administration is proposing to change the way the federal government funds and oversees a wide variety of critical social programs. In this commentary, Connect for Kids' Jan Richter warns of the potential costs of these proposals. http://www.connectforkids.org/benton_topics1544/benton_topics_show.htm?doc_id=174643.
- “Ending the Safety Net As We Know It? Assessing the New Federal Block Grant Proposals” ~ This set of papers and presentations explores the implications of proposals to "block grant" federal funding for several social and safety net services, shifting the balance of power and resources from the federal government to the states. Many advocates fear the block grant proposals, which cap federal funding amounts, are Washington lingo for cuts in services and will hurt states and communities struggling to make ends meet. http://www.brook.edu/es/urban/speeches/20030613_blockgrants.htm.

“Enhancing Partnerships Between Title V, Medicaid, and Local Health Departments Through EPSDT” ~ On September 10, 2003 the Maternal and Child Health Bureau will

sponsor a Webcast discussion, featuring multiple presenters from federal, state and local agencies focusing on experiences and recommendations for improving Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program (EPSDT) rates through state and local partnerships. The Webcast requires prior online registration. The agenda and information on how to register are available at www.mchcom.com/epsdt_frame.htm.

“Financing Early Care and Education: A Primer for County Leaders” ~ The **National Association of Counties** recently released this new addition to their Early Childhood Development Tool Kit for County Leaders. Based on recent research into best practices, this tool includes details on major funding sources. The primer also specifies types of early care and education programs, roles county leaders can play, and first steps they can take to get involved with early care and education finance. For more information contact HyeSook Chung, at 202-661-8841 or hchung@naco.org.

“Protecting Personal Health Information in Research: Understanding the HIPAA Privacy Rule” is now available on SAMHSA's NCADI Web site. This booklet contains information about the "Privacy Rule," a Federal regulation under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 that protects certain health information. To access the booklet online visit <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/order.aspx?p=web&id=3286>. For more information on HIPAA compliance in relation to your state-level evaluation and through the use of PIMS, contact Rob Reid at rreid@preventchildabuse.org.

“Strengthening Services for Refugee Parents: Guidelines and Resources” ~ Does your HFA program serve refugee families? The Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services project has created a comprehensive manual to assist agencies that work with refugee parents. BRYCS interviewed 28 agencies from 13 states across the U.S. to learn more about service strengths and challenges in their work with refugee parents. For an overview, read the [Executive Summary](#) and if interested in purchasing a copy of this manual, send an e-mail to TA@brycs.org. Link to [Consultation](#) for information on their free, on-site refugee parent services consultation, guided by the manual Strengthening Services for Refugee Parents.

Healthy Families America partners with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to Bring Health Insurance to Low -Income Families ~ Healthy Families America is getting the word out about the "Covering Kids and Families" initiative, a public awareness campaign to let families know of ways to secure health insurance. Access planning and promotional materials to piggyback your local back-to-school events, expanding insurance for low-wage kids and families after the national Covering Kids and Families: <http://www.coveringkids.org/communications/bts/>.

The Bonding with Baby Year One Literacy Kits, consisting of a series of wordless picture books and a ten minute English/Spanish Parent Education Video may become

available to you next year, free of charge. These kits, which were demonstrated in research to bring parents and infants closer together and to foster an early love of books and learning, are published by Developing Hearts Systems, a non-profit agency.

The publisher is currently seeking additional grants to expand the free Kit distribution in 2004 beyond all the current Healthy Families sites in VA, MD, CT and Washington, D.C., to all Healthy Families sites that will use them. If you are interested in receiving the Bonding with Baby Kits free of charge, please respond to Barbara Rawn, brawn@preventchildabuse.org, as soon as possible and provide a reasonable estimate of how many kits you may need for the NEW families with newborns you project to be entering the program in 2004. See www.bondingwithbaby.org for more information.

Fatherhood Project Launched ~ Dads Unlimited, a new initiative shaped by educator and father Allan Shedlin, based on the results of thousands of hours of interviews with dads and kids, hopes to support good "daddy" beginning with parenting consulting and school-home liaison services. He is offering pro bono consulting at local family clinics. Visit <http://www.daddy.com>.

Celebrate National Family Week! ~ November 23rd-29th, 2003, is National Family Week, sponsored by the Alliance for Children and Families. This year's theme is Connections Count, and events are expected to focus on the connections between families, community members and agencies, and within families, that strengthen them. For more information on registered events, prior events, and how to celebrate National Family Week in your county, visit www.nationalfamilyweek.org
<<http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org>.

"Just in Time" Parenting Information: State-Specific Newsletters ~ These age-specific parent information newsletters, produced and distributed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Extension Family Life Specialists, cover the first year of a child's life. Some states cover parenting up to age 5, many are available in Spanish as well. Visit <http://www.parentinginfo.org/>.

New Spider-Man® Comic Focuses on Bullying Prevention ~ Now available through Channing-Bete, the just-for-kids resource that helps young people work together to end teasing and bullying...while helping educators address a youth issue with serious and far-reaching effects. To order call 1-800-835-2671 or e-mail PCAAmerica@channing-bete.com.

➤ **Conferences**

Child Welfare League of America "2003 Community Building and Child Welfare Symposium: Building Communities for 21st Century Child Welfare." September 22-24,

2003, Albany, NY. For more information visit
www.cwla.org/conferences/2003cbsymposium.htm

National Council on the Prevention of Crime

“Power of Prevention, United for a Stronger America,” features a track on “Protecting Children, Strengthening Families” and plenty of opportunities to network with other prevention like-minded experts in the field. October 11-14, 2003; Washington, DC. Visit www.ncpc.org.

5th Annual Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center Conference on Child Abuse

This conference will help to enhance prevention efforts, identification and treatment issues related to child abuse, and will promote the well-being of children using a multidisciplinary approach. Get an [online copy](#) of the conference program and registration brochure. For more information contact Kim Martinez at (651) 220-6065 or e-mail her at kim.martinez@childrenshc.org. November 4-6, 2003; Bloomington, MN.

Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, 15th Annual Conference

“Families Deserve the Best...Promising Interventions and Best Practices for Serving Children with Mental Health Needs.” November 21-23, 2003, Washington DC. For more information visit: www.ffcmh.org.

The National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention, Inc.

“Blueprint for Success: Emerging Programs, Themes and Policies,” is about sharing information and ideas on the building blocks and foundations for successful programs and policies that ultimately result in healthier adolescents and children of young parents. Includes tracks on maximizing potential for the children of teen parents and engaging parents, families and communities. November 10-13, 2003, Arlington, VA. Visit www.noapp.org/services/conference/2003_conference.htm.

National Association for the Education of Young Children 2003 Annual Conference

The NAEYC Annual Conference comes to Chicago, November 5-8, 2003. Visit the NAEYC Web site to learn about some of the hundreds of sessions and workshops, and explore the Virtual Exhibit Hall. You'll also be able to get registration and hotel information, at www.naeyc.org/conferences/annual/2003/
<<http://www.naeyc.org/conferences/annual/2003/>.

Save the Date! The 2004 PCA America National Conference will be held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, May 14-19th, 2004. For more information contact Ann Johnson, Conference Manager, ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org or Rebecca Loden, Conference Services Coordinator, rloden@preventchildabuse.org. or visit the PCA America website for more information, www.preventchildabuse.org.

➤ ***Funding Opportunities***

Grants Alert for Nonprofits ~ Grants Alert has a searchable database to help nonprofits, especially those collaborating on educational goals for young children, find sources for the funds they need. Visit <http://www.grantsalert.com/education.cfm>.

Creative Funding for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Programs ~ A new publication, **Funding the Work: Community Efforts to End Domestic Violence and Child Abuse**, provides valuable information for community organizations seeking to end domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. Primarily focused on Federal funding opportunities from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), the document also offers suggestions for seeking funding from State and local governments, private foundations, and corporations. This paper arose out of the Greenbook Initiative- a collaboration between HHS and DOJ to address the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment in six pilot sites. It is available online, along with further information about the Greenbook Initiative, at www.thegreenbook.info.

Western Union Foundation funds in the area of basic human services grants with a history of supporting advocacy around child abuse and neglect. Grants range from \$1,000-\$25,000, with quarterly deadlines (Sept. 1, Dec.1, March 1, June 1). The application guidelines are downloadable at www.firstdatawesternunion.org/pdf/FDWU_grant.pdf.

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.

See you again in Fall 2003!!