

Did you know...

Each Day in America

- » 2,383 children are confirmed as abused or neglected
- » 5 children or teens commit suicide
- » 4,302 children are arrested
- » 17,132 public school students are suspended
- » 2,261 high school students drop out

The Costs:

- » **\$8,044:** To educate one child, per year
- » **\$22,523:** To incarcerate one child per year

Facts from Children's Defense Fund

To learn more about Florida's juvenile justice advocacy and reform efforts, visit <http://cscf.fmhi.usf.edu/flkc/fmhi08programs.htm>

From the CFS Chair

It goes without saying, change can sometimes create opportunities. I am confident that the recent changes at USF with the creation of a new college will open new doors for FMHI and in particular for our Department. We will join a larger team of Departments who all share the goal of improving the lives of individuals and communities. This new team will be led by Dean Junius Gonzales. His challenge, as well as ours, is to bring each Department together into a unified college. The new college consists of FMHI and three existing Departments (Child and Family Studies, Aging and Mental Health, and Mental Health Law and Policy), and five departments from the College of Arts and Sciences (the School of Aging Studies, the School of Social Work, Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Criminology). I am confident that our new college will provide CFS with opportunities to share knowledge and expertise across our disciplines and areas of study. Being part of shaping the direction and identity of a college doesn't come often, and it is exciting to be at FMHI during this historic time.

I remember the talk about FMHI closing in the "olden days" when I was an FMHI graduate student. Later, while living in California and contemplating a move back home to Tampa, my Dad would warn me with news stories describing the end of FMHI. Well, we are still here and kicking with a powerful research agenda that has national and international influence. The diversity of our grant/contract base, our talent, and the enormity

of the partners we have across the country will all sustain us. I believe that our passion for improving communities and in caring for people with challenges is the real secret of our success. The excellent business practices that support our work allow us to direct our passion in a sustainable manner.

In this *Quarterly*, we take a retrospective look at our roots and acknowledge two magnificent women who have been friends of FMHI since its inception. We pay tribute to the late Gwen Iding Brogden, who dedicated her life to making certain that people with mental illnesses and other disabilities received the care, treatment, and understanding in order to live productive lives. Also, we are pleased to share memories from Colleen Bevis, a person who has been honored many times for being a driving force for the interests of children and youth. Both Gwen and Colleen served on FMHI's Advisory Board during its infancy, and have been instrumental in helping FMHI become nationally recognized. Of note, both of these Floridian women embody the best spirit of our state. We can only hope that the next generation of advocates can fill their shoes!

Also in this *Quarterly* we give special focus to parents who exemplify the energy and dedication of Gwen and Colleen. The parents highlighted in this edition work within CFS. As a Department, we frequently rely on their guidance to promote effective service and community improvement strategies. It is important to understand the profound change that has happened in attitudes among professionals who now work with parents as partners. In FMHI "olden days," such a partnership wouldn't have been allowed. Imagine how threatening it must

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On behalf of the de la Parte Family

A Message from David de la Parte

I was invited recently by Dean Gonzales to comment on how I thought my father, Louis de la Parte, would view the realignment at USF and its effects on the Institute. If there was a single goal that Dad had in public office it was to restructure the way government serves the needs of children, families and the elderly. Dad served in the House of Representatives and in the Florida Senate from 1962-1974, ending his political career as Florida Senate President. Throughout those 12 years in public office, Dad was consistent in his efforts to secure adequate funding for services to Florida's neediest citizens. He was also consistent in his efforts to design, and in some cases restructure, state and local government to provide integrated and efficient social services. I know Dad would consider his efforts to establish the Florida Mental Health Institute at USF as one of his greatest successes. He understood that an academic center dedicated to research, education and

the development of innovative programs for the state's social service and criminal justice systems would be a critical resource to providers and policymakers in furtherance of a continuum of integrated social services. Dad would be proud of the leadership role the Institute has played over the years in shaping both state and national policy in this regard. He would also be excited about the opportunities created by the recent realignment of the Institute with other USF schools and departments. As we know, developing solutions in mental health, juvenile delinquency and criminal justice require collaboration and a multi-disciplinary approach. I

believe Dad would view the realignment as providing a greater opportunity for collaboration among the various disciplines in aging, mental health, children and families, social work and criminology, all working together toward a common theme, reducing human suffering and creating opportunities for more productive lives. The recent creation of a new College can only enhance the Institute's work in fulfilling its mission.

"We can not take a complex human being, put him into pieces according to narrow criteria, place those pieces under artificially created divisional microscopes, fit them back together again and expect to come up with a client much improved from the one we started with."

—Louis de la Parte, 1975

The need is great, not only for the children, but for the families involved who are often receiving services from multiple systems including child welfare, education, substance abuse, mental health and criminal justice. Dad believed that discrete solutions to social problems and the methods to coordinate services among the various disciplines should be scientifically based. He would see great promise in finding those solutions under the new college structure, particularly in these challenging financial times.

As an amateur sailor, I equate it to sharing a single larger boat rather than attempting to go it alone in many smaller ones on a big and sometimes treacherous sea. The de la Parte family continues to be honored by its affiliation with the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, faculty and staff and see a very bright future for the Institute.



L. David de la Parte is the son of Louis de la Parte. He is Executive Vice President/General Counsel at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute at USF. David has been active in juvenile rehabilitation and social services for over 20 years serving on various non-profit and public boards and commissions.

—L. David de la Parte

Reflections from Colleen Bevis



Colleen Bevis
Photo courtesy of Hillsborough County
Children's Board.

My interest in what was eventually to become FMHI began before it even had an identity. It was evident however that we had an opportunity to impact the direction of mental health care for children if the planning went well. I was actually on the committees choosing (or recommending) the top leadership of FMHI three times.

At the time, most of the state of Florida was hospitalizing children, and our great hope was that our children would not have to leave the community to receive care. As plans were being defined, it was apparent that the Department of Child and Family Studies was to be one of the entities which would stay ahead of the curve. As the community began to realize that hospitalizing children was not the best answer, CFS was already working with school programs to reach children early in a setting more natural—the schoolroom. CFS demonstrated and trained staff to be ready to incorporate these practices within the school setting. CFS was spreading its expertise beyond its walls to schools and to families themselves.

In fact, through the annual conference on effective practices planned by CFS and held in Tampa, CFS helped to spread best practices nationwide, and literally put FMHI on the physical map. Professionals seeking better ways to increase their knowledge and upgrade training for families had found a better source for sharing information.

Those volunteer years of work with FMHI were intensely interesting and personally gratifying. FMHI was the instigator of the first award I received for mental health for children, and later for the second place for a national award. The school that was present for years on campus was named for me. However I assisted Luanne Panacek, the Children's Board director, to close it when the Institute determined it should be part of the regular school system rather than an isolated entity.

As change continues, I am glad to see the professional field shows much more insight and willingness to grow and change than it did in the past. New young professionals should keep their minds and interests wide open—never accepting that we have found all the answers. They should be willing to risk challenging the status quo. There is such a need for clear thinking in this field. But above all there is the greatest need for caring about those children who will be affected. This is a profession for the future.

Continued From the Chair

have first been to those early professionals who were asked to work hand in hand with families. Today this is a standard practice at CFS, and we should be proud to have led the way for this inclusion.

The message from David de la Parte encourages us to embrace change, stay positive, and maintain our focus: our commitment to improving the well-being of individuals, children, and families within communities across the country through promoting respect, inclusion, development, achievement, mental health, and an optimum quality of life.

I look forward to the many new, exciting and rewarding opportunities that are ahead as we embrace these changing times.

—Mario Hernandez, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, CFS



Special guest speaker and former first lady Rosalynn Carter shares a special moment with Gwen Iding Brogden during the inauguration of the *Gwen Iding Brogden Distinguished Lecture Series*

A Special Tribute to Gwen Iding Brogden

Gwen Iding Brogden, a special friend of the institute for many years, lost her long battle with Parkinson's Disease in November 2007. Throughout the years, Gwen received numerous awards for her advocacy in the mental health arena. She will be remembered for her many efforts to advocate on behalf of the mentally ill. Among them: Gwen worked to promote the establishment of Boley Manor in St. Petersburg, Florida, one of the first psychiatric rehabilitation facilities in the nation; helped to found the first hospice in Florida in Pinellas County; led the way as President of the Mental Health Association of Florida to raise awareness and acceptance of patient and consumer empowerment of people with mental illness and encouraged their meaningful participation in the Mental Health Association. Gwen led a coalition of state mental health organizations in a successful effort to rewrite the State Mental Health Code to further protect the human rights of people hospitalized in State Mental Health institutions and to ensure greater priority for the mental health needs of children and youth. She lobbied Members of the Florida State Legislature, the Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services, and the Department of Education to establish the Florida Mental Health

Gwen was a woman of great passion, determination, courage, and vision. Without her efforts, FMHI might very well not be here today.

recalled when she and Gwen sat in a restaurant and wrote FMHI's first mission statement on a napkin!) Later, Gwen served on the national advisory board for the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, a federally funded Center housed within CFS since 1984, which seeks to address the need for improved services

and outcomes for children with serious emotional/behavioral disabilities and their families.

"At times when FMHI's future was in doubt, it was Gwen that really

rose to the occasion and fought for us," said Dr. Bob Friedman, director and Principal Investigator of the Center. "When we got the first RTC grant in 1984, Gwen was one of the first to congratulate us and viewed it as a validation of all she had been doing to advocate for the institute in preparation of a national leadership role."

In recognition of her significant contributions to the field, the Center's 1994 annual conference paid a special tribute to Gwen. Special guest speaker and former first lady Rosalynn Carter inaugurated the *Gwen Iding Distinguished Lecture series*, which to this day honors Iding's work as a citizen advocate. Speakers who are known for their significant contributions to children's mental health policy are invited to share their national perspectives with conference participants and guests.

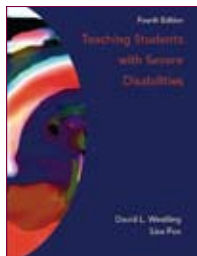
"Gwen was a woman of great passion, determination, courage, and vision," added Friedman. "Without her efforts, FMHI might very well not be here today. She was a great inspiration to all of us and we are delighted to be able to honor her contributions each year through our Gwen Iding Brogden Distinguished Lecture Series."

Institute as a research-oriented facility, and eventually served on the very first FMHI Board of Advisors. (Dr. Pat Robinson, the Institute's State Liaison Coordinator,

Recently Published...

Lise Fox Authors 4th Edition of Textbook: *Teaching Students with Severe Disabilities*

This updated edition is written in a way that makes the most complex findings of research understandable and usable in the real educational world and offers comprehensive coverage of all of the issues that are pertinent to teaching students with severe disabilities. Contact Lise Fox at 813-974-6100.



Improving Access to Mental Health Services: New Monograph Details Front Porch Approach to Crossing Cultural, Linguistic, and Other Barriers

A new monograph by Linda M. Callejas, M.A., Teresa Nesman, Ph.D., Debra Mowery, Ph.D., and Mario Hernandez, Ph.D. aims to increase awareness of the impact of culture on access to mental health services with the goal

of reducing the burden of care for culturally/racially diverse families. Access strategies were identified through interviews conducted with personnel from selected organizations that met criteria for providing culturally competent services and supports for racially/ethnically diverse children and families. This monograph is part of a series outlining successful strategies for increasing access, availability, and utilization of services at the organizational and direct service levels. Contact Debra Mowery at 813-974-6191.

Drs. Al Duchnowski and Krista Kutash Author Guidebook to Assist Schools in Developing Safe Learning Environments

CFS faculty Drs. Duchnowski and Kutash authored *The Role of Mental Health Services in Promoting Safe and Secure Schools*, which provides an overview of research-based school mental health models and offers guidance for school personnel and others on implementing mental health-related services. The guide is part of a series identifying several components that, when effectively addressed, provide schools with the foundation and building blocks needed to create and maintain safe schools. Each of the guidebooks can be downloaded at <http://www.hamfish.org/>.

Dr. Hewitt B "Rusty" Clark serves as Editor of Special Journal Issue on Transition to Adulthood

Dr. Clark served as editor of the October Special Issue of the *Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research*, which presents research findings to improve services and supports for youth and young adults with serious mental health disorders.

Building on knowledge gained from working on this monograph, author Linda Callejas is working on a new project funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (funding provided to the National Latino Behavioral Health Association, NLBHA, in partnership with the National Network to Eliminate Disparities, NNED, in Behavioral Health.) The Community-Defined Evidence Project (CDEP) will continue efforts to eliminate disparities in behavioral health for the Latino population. This project represents one major step toward achieving that goal by discovering and developing measurement criteria to find what really works for Latinos within the context of their own communities and culture.

staffNOTES

René Anderson Approved by Governor Crist to Serve as Member of the Florida Statewide Advocacy Council

René Anderson will work to ensure equality in the delivery of services to individuals being served through programs such as foster care, day care, economic self-sufficiency, adult services and human subject research proposals.

Dr. Karen Berkman Selected by Governor Crist as Task Force Member on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Dr. Karen Berkman was selected by Florida Governor Charlie Crist to be on a new Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dr. Berkman is Director of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities-USF (CARD-USF), housed at the Department of Child and Family Studies (CFS).

Richard Briscoe Receives National Honor

NeighborWorks® America, the nation's leading trainer of community development and affordable housing professionals, awards the Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership each year to recognize eight community leaders from around the country and their outstanding contributions to their communities. Dr. Briscoe, who will be presented with the award in December during the NeighborWorks® Training Institute, was instrumental in the founding of CDC of Tampa more than 15 years ago, and the formation of its focus on affordable housing, jobs, and capital to expand the local business community.

Dr. Norin Dollard Among FMHI Faculty Selected to Attend NIH Summer Institute on Health Services Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the primary federal agency for conducting and supporting medical research, selected three faculty members from FMHI to participate in a summer research institute aimed at improving services for individuals involved in multiple health service systems. Congratulations to CFS's Dr. Norin Dollard, as well as FMHI Drs. Annette Christy (MHLP), and Amber Gum (AMH).

Mario Hernandez Receives National Appointment and is Recognized for University Contributions

CFS Chair Mario Hernandez was unanimously elected as President of the Board of the National Alliance of Multi-Ethnic Behavioral Health Association (NAMBHA), a non-profit organization representing four racial/ethnic behavioral health associations. NAMBHA works to increase the effectiveness of advocacy, ensure a positive impact on the use of resources, and share expertise on behavioral health issues that significantly affect people of color.

Dr. Hernandez was also selected as the faculty recipient of the 2008 *USF Pride Award* for contributions made to the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. The award was presented to him at the Fourth Annual USF GALA Reception and Awards event held April 16 at the USF Alumni Center.

Dr. Sharon Hodges Selected to Attend NSF Course on Social Network Analysis

Dr. Sharon Hodges was selected to participate in a Social Network Analysis course at the Duke University Marine Labs in Beaufort, NC from July 21-25th. The program, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, *Short Courses on Research Methods (SCRM)* provides 5-day intensive courses in research methods for PhD-level anthropologists. Social Network Analysis is used to better understand the structure of human relations with regard to a variety of social and behavioral outcomes of interest.

Amanda Keating and Bobbie Vaughn Receive Outstanding Volunteer Achievement Award from FAVACA

The Florida Association of Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) sends Floridian professionals to assist similar institutions in the Caribbean and the Americas in developing or improving standards, practices and procedures. For the past three years, Keating and Vaughn have visited Jamaica to share their expertise about supporting children with disabilities who display significant behavior challenges in their school, home, and community settings.

PROFILES

Our special focus this quarter is on several of the parent staff members in CFS who share their learned experiences with us. Their contributions are invaluable as we work together to promote more effective services for not only their children—but all children with mental and developmental challenges.



Frank Reyes

When Frank Reyes joined CFS, he brought years of experience – both lived and professional. He grew up in California with a brother with special needs, took the knowledge

gained from his family's years in the system, and entered the mental retardation technician program at St. Petersburg Junior College. After working in the field for several years, Frank was contracted to help with a grant application for the establishment of Pasco Association for Retarded Citizens and their daycare programs. In 1975 Frank was asked to write a grant to support the beginning of Angels Unaware, a residential care program with facilities and services for the severe and profound Developmentally Disabled of Tampa (Since 1975, Angels Unaware has grown to include eight group homes). In 1977 he came to FMHI's residential program, and then to CFS in 1995.

While at the institute, almost 18 years ago, Frank's son Michael was born with Downs Syndrome.

"Being at CFS helped us. We knew how to register him with the Florida Department of Children and Families, Developmental Disabilities Division. Because we did, he was one of the earlier ones placed on the HCBS Medicaid Waiver to receive services. The only service we've consistently utilized has been speech therapy."

"Much of the work I do at CFS is to monitor kids in residential programs. It's easier for me because I know what it's supposed to look like."

Frank is currently working as a member of the Out Of Home Care project (OOHC) with Dr. Norin Dollard which looks at the various levels of residential care (STFC, TGH, and SIPP) provided to Florida's youth. Additionally he is a member of the Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Plan (CW-PMHP) evaluation team with Amy Vargo.

Outside of work, Frank has been involved in the Challenger Little League program for many years. The program provides modified baseball to all special needs youth ages 5 years to 21 years. He organizes a "buddy program" which pairs local athletes—some from little league or others from school baseball teams—with the special needs players.

"The more 'normal life' issues they can experience, the better for them to handle things that come up in their lives," said Frank. "They may not have the capacity to understand and reason at our levels, but these everyday experiences can teach them to rely on solutions that worked for them in the past."

Jean Caldicott

"The first thing that hits is total denial," said Jean Caldicott, when told that her 2½ year old daughter had autism in 1992. "I could not understand why the doctor was using the word 'autism.'"

At that time for Jean, the main tools for information were the library, magazines and book stores. She also called many friends, including one who had been through USF's early childhood Ph.D. program.

Jean ended up with a whole notebook of resources. The name of Glen Dunlap at CFS came up. He put her in touch with Mary Reed, which led to a home visit from Mary and Suzanne Shahan, both from CFS's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD). More than a year passed before Jean agreed to have Suzanne (now retired from CFS) visit her home again to provide instruction and coaching.

"Within 20 minutes Suzanne had Annie talking, and showed us how to help increase her communication. She didn't want to let autism win and I am so grateful."

From there, Suzanne contributed as Annie's team developed an individualized education plan (IEP) for school, and Annie then moved under the umbrella of CFS's Bobbie Vaughn when she attended Mort Elementary School. As part of CARD services, Dr. Vaughn was providing assistance in positive behavior support training.

"I learned a lot about working with professionals and it gave me a whole new outlook about being a parent advocate," said Jean.

Jean began working for the Family Network on Disabilities, and in 2003 a Human Services Program Specialist position became available in CARD. With her background as a librarian, combined with her experiences as a parent of a child with autism, it was an ideal job for her.

Annie, who now prefers to be called "Anna," is 18 and loves anything to do with events, dances and performances.

"Even football," said Jean. "She came home one day saying 'football Friday' and the next thing we knew we had t-shirts and ponchos, going to every game on Friday night. Now we've got season tickets to the Bulls!"

Anna has also found a way to be on stage herself, after getting her start playing hand-bells in the Chamberlain Chorus. Two years ago, while at Chamberlain, she saw a flyer announcing auditions for "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." After discussions with Anna's ESE teacher Sandra Marra and the drama teacher, Anna was given the opportunity to try out and got the part of a dancing oompah-loompah. She fell in love with the stage and continues to pursue additional roles and dancing. She now attends Hillsborough High School, where she is enrolled in regular education drama classes.

Last year, Jean nominated Sandra Marra for an award that she won – the ESE Secondary category of the Annual Excellence in Action Awards, sponsored by the Families and Educators in Action Together (FEAT) and the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS). Nominated by families, the award is for individuals who have touched the life of a student with special needs.

"I am thankful for the incredible teachers. These people spend an amazing amount of time thinking, planning and working with our kids. With support from individuals like Sandra Marra, Anna has learned to draw from the universe what she needs."

"I also have such deep regard for what Anna has become, due in large part to the early support from many current and former staff at CARD, including Suzanne Shahan, Bobbie Vaughn, Mindy Stevens, Ellie Weber, and Amanda Keating. Because of Suzanne's early example, I learned to relax and see the kid in there behind the label, and that's something you can't buy."

Amazing Community Theatre Project

CARD is partnering on a local program designed to provide a performing arts experience for children and adolescents diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Dramatic play, dramatic enactment, music, movement, visual arts and performance activities will be planned weekly from late August to early May. Contact Krystal McFee at 813-974-8470 or Loretta Gallo-Lopez at 813-231-2520.



Anna with Jean Caldicott at a school performance.



René Anderson reviews materials with Gwen Hinson, Program Specialist for the Federation of Families CMH Hillsborough County Chapter.

René Anderson

René Anderson, now a Human Services Program Specialist for CFS, has seen many changes in Tampa since she first began looking for services for her daughter in 1997. After moving here to care for her ailing father, René soon realized services for children with emotional disturbances were not as readily available as they had been in Colorado where her daughter attended a day treatment setting, with a 5 to 12 student teacher ratio. “Everything was done in day treatment center,” said René. “The schools, hospitals, and social service agencies collaborated through the center.”

After a number of challenging experiences in traditional school settings, her daughter became one of the first to enroll in the E. Henry

Academy. Established in 1999, the Academy serves emotionally troubled students in grades Pre K -12, providing mental health therapy and support services that include individual and group counseling, case management, parent education and psychiatric consultation.

As René gained an understanding of the needs in Tampa, she was often asked to attend meetings and share parent perspectives. She eventually joined the local THINK grant team, which led to a position at CFS, where she has contributed to numerous projects related to systems of care research. René also served as president of the Tampa Federation of Families chapter until 2007 and was then invited to be on the National Federation of Families Board. In addition, she has provided important input to the State Mental Health Planning Council, Tampa Bay Academy, contributed to various training curriculums for parents, and provides ongoing assistance to parents struggling to navigate the child welfare and mental health systems.

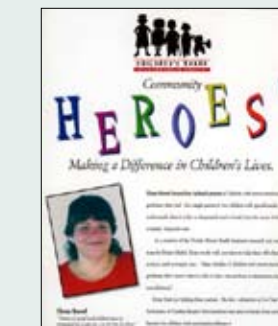
“Working here has had such a positive impact on my life,” said René. Bob Friedman’s dream—the System of Care framework—has had a tremendous impact in the lives of so many families, who without it, would be lost. The work of FMHI is so vital to families in the community. We need their continued efforts in shaping policy that betters serves our children.”

Eloise Boterf

Eloise Boterf was getting her early childhood degree at USF and took a class in Special Education from CFS faculty member Kathy Armstrong. During class discussions, Eloise shared experiences regarding her children and their severe emotional problems.

“One day Kathy approached me and said she would like to talk after class. She explained that she was working on a research project to determine successful mental health and educational programs that help at-risk children and their families. She said they needed parents on the project and asked if I would help.”

Eloise worked on the project for a year and realized that she loved the research side. In 2000, she started working full time at CFS, splitting her time between two projects. She worked with CFS’s Norin Dollard, principal investigator of the Hillsborough Integrated Network for Kids (THINK) grant, created by Congress to help states demonstrate and promote



more effective ways to organize, coordinate, and deliver mental health services and supports for the increasing number of children and their families who need help from more than one service system. She also worked with CFS’s Dianne Powell on the Success by 6 initiative to ensure children under the age of six enter school prepared to be successful. She continued working on additional research projects aimed at offering family-friendly services, such as respite care. In 2000, she received a “Community Hero” Award from the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, which recognized her efforts to develop respite care programs.

“Many families of children

with severe emotional problems seldom have even an hour to themselves,” said Eloise. “Based on my own experiences, I knew there was a real need to develop community programs providing respite care.”

Displayed in her office, the award plaque reads:

“Eloise knows how isolated parents of children with severe emotional problems often feel. As a single parent of two children with special needs, she understands what it is like to desperately need a break from the stress of their constant long-term care. Eloise finds joy helping these parents. She also volunteers as co-chair for the Federation of Family Respite subcommittee that aims to break down system barriers for children with emotional problems.”

For the past few years, Eloise has served as Parent Liaison/Community Resource Specialist for the GEAR UP program, which provides an array of educational, academic and enrichment supports for middle and high school students who are low-income, minority, and/or at risk of dropping out of high school.

Nila Benito

Nila Benito, journalist by trade, has been very successful in voicing the need to better support the lives of individuals with developmental and complex behavioral challenges. As a mother of two teenage sons Vincent & Joseph, both diagnosed with autism, Nila has worked on numerous projects and initiatives that support people with disabilities to live self-determined lives.

Since 1994, Nila has worked with CFS in various capacities, and is currently Coordinator of Community Supports within the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities. She has also served on many select committees and task forces for the state of Florida. She has strongly supported the field of positive behavior support (PBS) and the practice of inclusion for people with significant disabilities in education, employment, and the community. PBS teaches behavioral expectations and rewards individuals for following them. It is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding.

“I’ve had extensive experience in the field of PBS both personally and professionally,” said Nila. “In my most important role as mom, I use all the tools of PBS and person-centered planning to support my sons and others like them to have a quality of life and opportunities where they can live, learn, work and play in the community.”

Nila has co-authored professional journal publications and often provides training in the areas of family/professional collaboration, inclusion, peer supports, transition, customized employment, and positive behavior supports.

“Many people are moved by her knowledge and advocacy efforts,” wrote parent Shari Krishnan when nominating Nila as a board member of the Association of Positive Behavior Support. “Her words and delivery are powerful. Her actions are genuine.”

Vincent, now in high school, was quite the media boy several years ago. He was profiled in both the *St. Petersburg Times* and *People Magazine* in a story regarding his involvement in a peer support program at his middle school. The program focused on increasing inclusion and building relationships at the school and giving students with significant disabilities opportunities to be members of regular education classes with the support of peers without disabilities.

“Each of us, with or without a disability, has the same hopes and aspirations to work, play and participate in life experiences as valued members of our community,” said Nila. “Both Vincent and Joseph benefit greatly from school and community inclusion programs. We have developed wonderful partnerships along the way. By sharing the journey through partnership, commitment, mutual respect, skill and love, you can achieve great things.”



POSITIVE youth development



Tampa's Hispanic-American Youth See Leadership in Their Future

Hispanic-American children and youth are often torn between two worlds—one at home where their parents speak the language and continue the customs of their home country; the other at school where it is often difficult adjusting to the bicultural and bilingual environment. A local program designed to build a bridge between heritage and culture is having great success. TICH (meaning teach for the majority of Hispanic-Americans; and also the abbreviation for Taller Inter-Cultural Hispano-Americano in Spanish) is the result of efforts by Tampa Bay area residents Maria Esther Carrillo and Francisco Carrillo, who left Colombia for the United States in 1990 to escape the violence in their country. Upon realizing the importance of multicultural competence in positive development and academic success of Hispanic-American children and youth, they sought to create for their children the conditions that would foster this competence. Today, TICH continues to be developed under the leadership of the Carrillos and other community members, and now offers a broader range of products and services that contribute to the prevention and diminishes problems in the Hispanic juvenile community such as the high rate of school dropout, teenage pregnancy, gangs, lack of intra-family communication caused in great part by identity problems, lack of role models and difficulty in adjusting to the bicultural and bilingual environment.

Last fall, CFS partnered with TICH, providing support for an organizational evaluation conducted by Myriam Monsalve-Serna, a nationally recognized expert in the development of culturally competent services for US Latinas/os. Working with CFS's Dr. David Acevedo, TICH obtained funding from the Children's Board of Hillsborough County to provide training for its board and develop its first strategic plan, building on the organizational strengths and needs noted by the evaluation.

Dr. Acevedo has also spent much time with the TICH youth. Several recently visited CFS to work with him on the planning for this year's Hispanic American Youth Congress of Tampa Bay.

"There is a unique quality to the youth involved with TICH," said Dr. Acevedo. "They are dedicated to improving their community and understand that they have a valuable role in making this happen."

This October, the youth involved in TICH will put on the third edition of its Hispanic Youth Congress, which is focused on facilitating the educational achievement of local Hispanic-American youth and providing them with the skills and motivation to take leadership in improving their communities. Dr. Acevedo will provide a repeat performance of a workshop that received high praise last year, *Latinalo Youth on Trial*, a mock trial in which attendees are asked to defend their role in their community. The workshop was a great success last year in helping local Hispanic youth realize they can and do make the difference in communities through their leadership and educational achievement. For additional information about the TICH – CFS partnership, contact its executive director, Maria Esther Carrillo at founder@tichonline.org.

"TICH taught me how to be a leader and how to keep my Hispanic heritage alive." —*Farah Valcarree*

"I learned about the skills I had that I had not discovered before entering TICH" —*Sebastian Rios*

Faces of Gear Up: Hillsborough High School Students Shine with Success



GEAR UP staff from left to right: Ms. Leslie-Ann Pagan, Ms. Ruby Joseph, Ms. Electa Davis, Dr. Joko Sengova, and Mr. Roderick Barnes

There has been much news lately about Florida's low graduation rates for Hispanic and African American students, but a program at Tampa's Hillsborough High School (HHS) not only helps to ensure these students stay in school and graduate, it also provides support to

ensure they meet all requirements to qualify for college opportunities.

This year, the first group of students completing the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) graduated from HHS. GEAR UP is a federal grant program that has been jointly funded by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County to increase the number of minority and low income students who are prepared to succeed in college. Children typically enroll in 7th grade, and participate throughout their high-school years. GEAR UP provides case management services, in-class and after-school tutoring, Saturday program workshops for parents and students, college test prep classes, college field trips, and community volunteer activities. GEAR UP also awards college scholarships.

Recently, a select group of HHS students and case managers shared insights on their experiences in GEAR UP. Students shared strong views about the program's positive influence on their thinking. Most had never considered the possibility of college; many are now weighing scholarship opportunities.

Recent graduates Malachi Adebayo, Gabriel Rodriguez, and Breanna Smith benefited from participation in GEAR UP and are now working toward their college degrees. Malachi will be attending the HCC/Dale Mabry campus through a Sallie Mae Fund scholarship and has already determined that he wants to major in sociology and work in family social work. Breanna has been awarded a GEAR UP Florida Prepaid Scholarship and will attend Hillsborough Community College. Gabriel is attending Schiller International University in Madrid Spain to pursue his dream of going into diplomacy and having the opportunity to study abroad.

"Our case managers and staff should be proud of their dedication and the positive changes they have made in so many adolescent lives," said director Ruby Joseph. Visit <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/news-events.cfm> for complete story.

As the grant cycle for GEAR UP draws to an end, Ruby Joseph, Joko Sengova and other staff have outlined a model of support for producing positive academic and social outcomes for youth. The *Supporting and Providing Opportunities to Keep Education Sustained (SPOKES)* model is based on staff experiences over a six-year period of implementing GEAR UP, and the belief that it takes a village to raise a child. This model connects the different stakeholders, like spokes on a bicycle, to the students who are the central hub of that wheel. Contact Ruby Joseph at 813-974-9339 for more information.



Malachi Adebayo



Gabriel Rodriguez



Breanna Smith

KnowHow2Go Tampa Bay

The KnowHow2GO Tampa Bay program, directed by FMHI's Associate Dean Catherine Batsche, was officially launched recently at a "College Pep Rally," complete with cheerleaders, college mascots, a step team performance and students from community youth agencies. Sponsored by the American Council on Education (ACE), Lumina Foundation for Education and the Ad Council, the KnowHow2GO campaign helps young people—particularly low-income students and those who are the first in their families to pursue higher education—navigate the process of preparing for college. Among speakers at the event were USF President Judy Genshaft, HCC VP of Student Services Kenneth Ray, Superintendent of Hillsborough County Schools Mary Ellen Elia, Temple Terrace major Joe Affronti, Sr., and USF football player Delbert Alvarado. Visit: <http://knowhow2go.fmhi.usf.edu/>



USF football player Delbert Alvarado

Linking School and Mental Health Systems

In 2007, the U.S. Department of Education provided funding to the Hillsborough County Public Schools to develop innovative approaches that link the county school and mental health systems. Subcontracts with FMHI are utilizing the expertise of CFS staff. In January 2008, an evaluation team led by CFS's Dr. Tom Massey developed a resource/asset mapping analysis which included an online survey for selected school staff to complete. The survey findings have been shared with the various teams involved in the project to help guide service linkage protocol development at three discrete levels: the teacher-service level, that offers procedural guidelines for teachers and student services staff to follow when service needs arise; the school-agency coordination level, that offers procedural guidelines for schools that deal with identifying, organizing, and implementing new services or for modifying services for students within the school area; and at the District–interagency level (IAA), that establishes the overarching policies and understanding among service agencies and the school district. In addition, CFS faculty Drs. Al Duchnowski and Krista Kutash are providing technical assistance. CFS Chair Dr. Mario Hernandez is providing expertise to ensure that the grant activities and products reflect a commitment to culturally competent and linguistically appropriate systems and services. Larry English, director of the local Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, housed at CFS, is also contracted to provide assistance.

"The partnership between the school district and the university is a great demonstration of the 'engaged university' model, where USF is actively involved with the local community and school district," said Dr. Kutash.

A Note from Governance Council Chair Kathleen Ferreira

The Inaugural CFS Governance Council includes 13 CFS representatives:

- » René Anderson
- » Shirley Baer
- » Sharon Denninger
Vice Chair
- » Norín Dollard
FMHI Faculty Council
Representative
- » Sandra Dwinell
Recorder
- » Kathleen Ferreira
Chair
- » Bob Friedman
- » Heather George
- » Michael Greeson
- » Ruby Joseph
- » Ray Miltenberger
- » Don Policella
- » Janis Prince-Inniss
- » Tim Weil
FMHI Faculty Council
Representative

The CFS Governance Council is very busy with start-up activities. The CFS Governance document specifies that the purpose of the Council is to review key policy issues, actively participate in decisions affecting the Department, and provide input and recommendations to the Department Chair and Leadership Team regarding issues such as strategic planning, budget/financial accounts, hiring/layoffs, functional units or other organizational support structures, space allocation, and other matters relevant to faculty and staff. Mario Hernandez and Catherine Batsche have attended meetings to offer information related to the budget and realignment as well as to engage in discussions around priority activities for the Council. In addition, Junius Gonzales attended the August meeting to answer questions about realignment and the future of FMHI.

The council has formed a faculty committee to address issues such as Assigned Faculty Duties; a staff committee to address issues related to USPS, A&P, and OPS employees; and a committee to identify and prioritize goals for the CFS Governance Council.

With the many changes that are occurring within FMHI and USF, the Governance Council is currently meeting the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00-11:30. Our next meeting will be on September 3rd. This meeting is open to all CFS employees. In addition, all employees are encouraged to raise CFS questions or concerns with a Governance Council member, who will then bring the issue to the Council.

Florida Center for Inclusive Communities

The FCIC, established in October 2005, works with individuals with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers in projects that provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing, with a focus on building the capacity of communities to sustain all their citizens. Visit <http://flfcic.fmhi.usf.edu> to learn more about the 16 FCIC currently funded projects, including:

- *National Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI)*, a five-year grant from the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that establishes a national center for improving the social, emotional, and behavioral functioning of young children with or at risk for developmental delays or disabilities. Contact Marc Tasse 813-974-1360.
- *Toward Healthcare Parity for Persons with Disabilities: Training Healthcare Providers*, a collaborative effort on a Center for Disease Control and Prevention funded project with the University of Florida and the USF College of Medicine that focuses on training medical students about the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. Contact Dr. Susan M. Havercamp at 813-974-7076.
- *Evidence-based Intervention for Severe Behavior Problems: The Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR) Model*. This four-year project is being funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to evaluate a school-based intervention model used for students who present some of the most severe problem behaviors. Two hundred students from kindergarten through eighth grade will be selected from the Hillsborough County (FL), Pinellas County (FL), and the Denver (CO) Public School systems. Contact Dr. Don Kincaid at 813-974-7684.

An Early Start to Good Behavior

Dr. Lise Fox is teaming with Vanderbilt University to provide data on the outcomes associated with a classroom intervention model designed to promote young children's social and emotional development and reduce challenging behavior. The Teaching Pyramid Model was developed in 2003 to provide early educators with a prevention, promotion, intervention model of practices to promote young children's social emotional development and address challenging behavior.

Now recognized as a promising practice, additional funding from the US Department of Education/Institute of Education Sciences (IES) will allow the team to further develop the intervention and then conduct an initial evaluation in 40 public preschool classrooms in Tennessee and Florida. Teachers randomly assigned will be provided with training, technical assistance, and materials needed for the intervention and will be compared to teachers who are implementing "business as usual" practices. Fox and the CFS team will randomly select preschools in Pinellas County. Findings will reveal whether intervention classrooms have improved teacher and child outcomes compared to control classrooms.

"Our pilot studies of the Teaching Pyramid model have shown promising results in the past," said Fox. "It is our hope further research will result in the model being designated as an important evidence-based practice for expanded use in the field."

Upcoming CFS Events

Many Faces of Trauma: Community Engaged Trauma Research

October 20-21, 2008
Renaissance Hotel Tampa, Florida

The 22nd Annual Research Conference

March 1-4, 2009
Tampa Marriott Waterside

CFS Faculty Expertise in 2007

- Presented or conducted 242 presentations, workshops, and keynotes at 138 conferences.
- Published, or had in press 69 journal articles (Seventeen of the forty journals (42%) are in the top ten of their respective categories).
- Authored 30 book chapters and monographs.
- Prepared with Institute faculty 54 technical reports.

*Take Action: Do Your Part
to Prevent Suicide in Florida*
<http://preventsuicide.fmhi.usf.edu/>

Please consider partnering with us to generate hope and solutions for the complex issues confronting individuals, children, and families. Donations to the Department of Child and Family Studies support our commitment to enhance the development, mental health and well-being of children and families through leadership in integrating research, theory & practice. To find out more about donations or sponsoring one of our annual conferences or special events, visit our website at <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu>, or contact Sandra Dwinell at 813-974-0342 or sdwinell@fmhi.usf.edu.

Fall Academics at CFS

In-Service Training: On-line Learning for Education and Training in Children's Mental Health

CFS is pleased to announce an innovative self-contained in-service training program in children's mental health designed for those seeking CEUs or for organizations interested in training for behavioral health staff. Content addresses the application of key values and principles of systems of care in a real world context. For more information: <http://www.soccommunities.com/>, Carol MacKinnon-Lewis at 813-974-2075 or Catherine Newman at 813-974-8429.

On-Line Graduate Certificate in Children's Mental Health

This program provides current knowledge about effective service delivery to graduate students seeking specialized training in children's mental health, as well as professionals in need of retooling in order to keep pace with the fundamental changes that have taken place in the field. Online courses are taught by faculty, both within USF and external to the university, who have years of experience researching, consulting, and shaping service delivery for children with mental health needs and their families. Contact Carol MacKinnon-Lewis at 813-974-2075 or Catherine Newman at 813-974-8429.

Master's Program in Applied Behavior Analysis

Designed to prepare students to meet the standards to be Board Certified Behavior Analysts, the 46-credit-hour master's degree in ABA is interdisciplinary and provides coursework and practical supervision across three colleges (College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, and the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute). Visit <http://aba.grad.usf.edu/>

Graduate Studies In Behavioral Health

FMHI, in collaboration with the USF College of Public Health (COPH), jointly offer a specialty Behavioral Health Concentration as part of the Master's (MPH & MSPH) and Doctoral Degree programs (PhD) in the Department of Community & Family Health, COPH. Nationally, this specialty focus in behavioral health is only offered in two of the 40 accredited schools of public health.

Started approximately four years ago, the Graduate Studies in Behavioral Health Program has steadily grown to include a Behavioral Health Concentration option in the MSW/MPH Dual Degree program at USF. The Graduate Studies in Behavioral Health Program has already produced graduates in the MPH Degree Program, the MSPH Degree Program, and in the MSW/MPH Dual Degree program. This past December, 2007, Roger Casey was the first graduate of a doctoral degree with a focus in Behavioral Health. For more information regarding the Graduate Studies in Behavioral Health Program, please contact Dr. Bruce Lubotsky Levin at (813) 974-6400, blevin@health.usf.edu.

*Questions or comments about the CFS Quarterly can be directed to
Storie Miller at 813-974-5468 or smiller@fmhi.usf.edu.*



Department of Child & Family Studies
Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
University of South Florida
13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612-3807