

Improving the well-being of individuals, children, and families within communities across the country

Did you know...

CFS faculty and staff are nationally recognized and in high demand for research, training and education expertise.

CFS's external annual funding is currently at \$15,240,746, placing us third among all USF departments.

CFS has received funding to support 8 national research and training centers and 4 centers supporting the state of Florida.

CFS is home to two nationally recognized peer-reviewed journals, the Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders and the Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research.

Many faculty serve on editorial boards, as associate editors for journals, on influential national and state taskforces, workgroups, committees, and advisory boards in the child mental health and disabilities field.

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Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the CFS Quarterly. In this issue, we introduce you to our most current programs, projects, and products aimed at improving the well-being of individuals, children and families within communities across the country. Often, our departmental faculty and staff are asked, "What is it that you do?" We'll reply with an academic response and throw in a report or two on our latest research, but often it takes reading between the academic and research language to get to the heart of our work. We hope the *CFS Quarterly* will convey that heart.

We are proud to work with an outstanding CFS leadership team who oversees and manages over 75 individual grants and contracts from a variety of local, state, and federal agencies. We are fortunate to work with so many individuals, as you will learn in the following pages, are dedicated to shaping state and federal policies and improving services and supports for children, families and adults with special challenges.

At CFS, we believe that families and communities are the foundation for the well-being of their members and of society as a whole. Our department promotes respect, inclusion, achievement, mental health, and an optimum quality of life for the people our research and training work is focused upon.

As we launch this newsletter, we welcome your feedback, and hope you will find the CFS Quarterly to be a valuable resource.

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Louis de la Parte Florida Mental
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Gonzales



Hernandez

On behalf of the de la Parte Family

A Message from Helen de la Parte



Helen de la Parte



Louis de la Parte

My husband was committed to bettering the lives of Florida's most vulnerable citizens during his years of service as Assistant State Attorney, Florida House Member and Senator. Throughout those years and the ones that followed in his private law practice, Louis advocated for those without a voice, creating various programs for the disabled, underprivileged, disenfranchised youth and others. We are very proud of his many efforts to improve social and mental health services. We are proud of the efforts of the Institute which carries his name. We applaud the Institute's Department of Child & Family Studies (CFS), as their goals are so closely aligned with Louis's desire to support Florida's most vulnerable citizens.

Throughout the year, as I attend a number of events representing various project of the Institute, I am always impressed with how their research and training activities have impacted people's lives on so many levels, from increasing support in the local community to influencing and shaping national policy.

Over the years, I have heard many questions concerning social services. How can we provide better support to enhance the lifestyles of individuals with disabilities? Are communities providing appropriate support for children at-risk and their families? Are we providing adequate mental health services in the schools? Are we helping young adults transitioning out of foster care or schools where they received support? Are families being served in a culturally competent manner?

As part of their mission, CFS addresses those questions daily. Funds provided locally, through the Florida Legislature and federal agencies are helping many of CFS's programs to be implemented in the schools, at home with the family, in public agencies and in other organizations. We strongly support their efforts. The number of individuals needing mental, social and behavioral support continues to grow at an alarming rate and the funds to support the mission of CFS must also grow. We encourage all local, state and federal funding sources to continue and expand their support to meet the growing needs of Florida's most vulnerable citizens.



CFS's Jordan Knab (front left) with keynote speaker Comedian Josh Blue and 2007 DCDT conference planning committee.

CFS Team From National Center on Youth Transition Presents at Council For Exceptional Children Conference

An important focus of CFS is to improve service systems for the 3 million transition-age youth in America today who are struggling with Serious Emotional Disturbance or Severe Mental Illness (SED/SMI). At the age of 18, these youth – who have relied on relevant services from child-serving organizations such as schools, foster care, mental health, detention and corrections – may no longer be eligible for those services. Confusing differences in eligibility rules and a shortage of developmentally appropriate services pose huge obstacles and can create many risks and challenges that hinder successful transition to independent adulthood.

To share what they have learned in their efforts to improve access to services, team members from CFS's National Center on Youth Transition recently presented at a conference sponsored by the National Council for Exceptional Children/Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT). DCDT promotes active engagement and policy change in transition services and activities for youth and young adults with disabilities. CFS's Jordan Knab also served as Chair of the Program Committee.

The opening keynote speaker was Josh Blue, winner of Last Comic Standing's first series. Josh shared with the audience his experiences growing up with Cerebral Palsy, some of which he uses as his comedic material. For more information, email jknab@fmhi.usf.edu.

The CARD Connection: Now Serving 2000 Families

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at USF (CARD-USF) is currently serving over 2000 families in their 14-county region with 18 full and part time staff members. Funded by the Florida Legislature, CARD's work focuses on providing communities, organizations, agencies, service providers and families with the knowledge and skills to support children and adults with autism and related disabilities across settings.

As part of Autism Awareness Month in April 2008, CARD is launching a new product called a "quick kit," which will provide families and professionals with a starter supply of materials based on a particular theme. The first two kits will tackle the topic of promoting communication for young children and screening young children by medical professionals. CARD will be working on kits for older children as resources allow. In addition, CARD is creating a product for newly diagnosed families that walks parents through the typical questions that are asked regarding communication abilities, skill development, social relationships, etc. For additional information, visit <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/> or email card-usf@fmhi.usf.edu.



Karen Berkman, CARD Director



Ray Miltenberger

Dr. Ray Miltenberger to Receive Award for Distinguished Contributions to Applied Behavior Analysis

Congratulations to Ray Miltenberger, who has been selected to receive the 2008 Distinguished Contributions to Applied Behavior Analysis Award. The award is given by the American Psychological Association's Division 25 to individuals for their innovative and important research on applications of behavioral principles to address socially significant human behavior. Dr. Miltenberger's contributions to the field will be recognized at the 2008 APA Convention, to be held August 14-17, 2008 in Boston.

ABA Students to Provide 30,000 Community Service Hours

Headed by Dr. Miltenberger, the USF Applied Behavior Analysis Masters Program (ABA) was reborn in 2006 under the leadership of FMHI, and prepares graduates to work with individuals with challenging behaviors in a variety of fields including education, developmental disabilities, child protective services, mental health, residential supports and rehabilitation. Consistent with USF goals to create distinctive academic programs that promote community engagement and address the changing needs of society, the ABA program could be a university poster child. In one year, 19 USF students provided more than 15,000 hours of needed services in the Tampa Bay community, and an additional 30,000 will be provided by the end of the 2008 summer semester. These hours are part of the practicum training required for certification.

"Our first year has been a great success," said Dr. Miltenberger. "The students gained valuable information and experience and most are currently planning their thesis research based on practicum experiences."

In their thesis work, students address a range of relevant social issues, including evaluations of safety skills training to help children prevent abduction, behavioral intervention for eating disorders, teaching parenting skills to foster parents, firearm injuries prevention, and training programs to enhance the performance of staff who work with people with disabilities. For additional information, visit the website at <http://aba.grad.usf.edu/> or email abausf@fmhi.usf.edu.



2007 ABA Students

Norin Dollard Receives Grant from USF Division of Sponsored Research

Congratulations to CFS's Dr. Norin Dollard, who along with Dr. Colleen Clark successfully applied for a Conference Support Grant from the USF Division of Sponsored Research. The grant will provide for ongoing efforts of the USF Community Trauma Research Group to share the best available knowledge in trauma prevention, assessment and treatment. Funding will specifically support a fall conference featuring invited speakers who are national leaders in various areas of trauma research including the effects of physical and sexual abuse, interpersonal violence, disasters, and war.



Norin Dollard

"This is a great opportunity to increase USF's capacity to be a center for engaged community-focused trauma research," said Dr. Dollard. "The importance of trauma research and practice reaches all USF colleges, institutes and centers, and compels a partnership with the health and social service organizations that serve those affected by trauma."

National Center at USF Improves the Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities and Their Families

Established through a University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service grant award from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC) at USF supports individuals with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers in projects designed to increase independence, productivity, and community integration for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Innovations that emerge from individual UCEDDs are then shared through the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), allowing best practices to be adopted in communities across the nation.

"FCIC provides consistent values, organization supports and capacity building opportunities for our 35 projects and nearly 120 staff committed to enabling individuals with disabilities to live productive, independent, and integrated lives in their communities," said Director Lise Fox, Ph.D. For more information, visit the website at <http://flfcic.fmhi.usf.edu/index.htm>, or email tclarke@fmhi.usf.edu.

Community and University Define Priorities for Children and Families in Tampa Bay

More than 100 individuals representing USF researchers, community leaders, non-profit executives and concerned citizens and youth attended a Community-University Summit on Priorities (CUSP) February 6th to identify the top vital issues influencing the well-being of children and families in the Tampa Bay community, and set 24 priorities for research addressing their top issues. Hosted by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and the USF Collaborative for Children, Families and Communities, CUSP brought together university and community perspectives regarding what's most important for research and action. For more information, visit <http://usfcollab.fmhi.usf.edu/>.



The Season of Giving



CFS Santas 2007

"The kids and I are deeply moved by your incredibly generous donation of time, resources, and love. Your holiday spirit will not soon be forgotten."

After the first year, the CFS team was so moved by helping the students that they wanted to provide support throughout the year. They gathered boxes of clothes and necessities to start a clothes closet at the school and have made scheduled deliveries since then.

Since 2004, a CFS team has partnered with Tomlin Middle School in Plant City to provide holiday cheer for students in need and their families. Each year, the "CFS Santas" have teamed up with teacher Natasha Subko, who takes the time out of her busy schedule to coordinate with families and provide a "wish list" to CFS.

"I am astounded by the incredible generosity the people at FMHI manage each year," said Natasha



Mrs. Subko with Tomlin Students 2007

New Publications From the Center for the Study of Children's Futures

- In 2005, nearly 1/4 of Florida's population was under the age of 18.
- 42.8 percent of Florida's babies were born to unwed mothers.
- In Florida, there were more than 31,000 divorces with minor children affected, and there were more than 53,000 high school dropouts.



The statistics above and more on state and individual county profiles can be found in the latest 2007 edition of *Florida's Children at a Glance*, produced by the Center for the Study of Children's Futures (CSCF) at the USF Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute and supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Based on 2005/06 data, this publication strives to raise public awareness of children's issues and promote public accountability for improving outcomes for children and families. Visit the center website at <http://www.floridakidscount.org>.



"Hopefully, this publication and all efforts of the Center will continue to provide a sense of direction for collaborative efforts, assuring a brighter future for all Floridians."

—Director Susan Weitzel.

4th Printing for Suicide Prevention School-Based Guide

Thanks to funding provided by the Center for the Study of Children's Futures, a 4th printing was made possible for the Suicide Prevention School-Based Guide. Since 2003, the Guide has served as a valuable resource for many schools and organizations addressing the alarming problem of youth suicide. For more information about the Guide, visit <http://theguide.fmhi.usf.edu/>, or contact Stephen Roggenbaum at roggenba@fmhi.usf.edu.



Going Beyond the Schools

In addition to their efforts in the school environment, CFS staff are collaborating with the Florida Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and the Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to support Florida's goal to decrease suicides by one third by the end of 2010. The *Suicide Stops Here Project* includes the development of a new website offering prevention implementation guidelines for communities, as well as ideas, activities and resources to assist at each step of the implementation process.

Visit <http://preventsuicide.fmhi.usf.edu/default.cfm>

CFS: An Overview

CFS has received funding to support 8 national research and training centers and 4 centers supporting the state of Florida, including:

- ▶ The National Center on Youth Transition (<http://ncyt.fmhi.usf.edu/index.cfm>), the only US center of its kind.
- ▶ The National Implementation Research Network (<http://nirn.fmhi.usf.edu>), the only US center providing leadership advancing the science of implementation, is engaged federally with all three national centers from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- ▶ The National Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health (<http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/>), funded for over 20 years by NIDRR and SAMHSA, provides primary research support to community-based systems of care across all 50 states, 2 territories, and the District of Columbia.
- ▶ Florida's Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice funded through the Florida Department of Children and Families, focuses on best practices for child welfare workers and provides cutting edge web-based knowledge transfer important to Florida's child protection/welfare services.
- ▶ The University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, designed to increase independence, productivity, and community integration and inclusion of individuals with disabilities, conducts state of the art interdisciplinary research and promotes professional collaboration.

In 2007, FMHI was awarded degree-granting authority through the establishment of the School of Mental Health Studies. CFS undergraduate, graduate and professional programs include:

- ▶ The Masters degree in Applied Behavior Analysis Program was reinstituted under FMHI's leadership in 2005, providing interdisciplinary education in a high demand field. Since then, a program director and practicum supervisor have been hired, and 39 full-time graduate students have been admitted, with 3 times as many applicants than could be enrolled for fall 2007. Students were admitted fall 2006.
- ▶ The Graduate Studies in Behavioral Health, a collaborative teaching initiative between CFS and USF's College of Public Health, is one of only two degree programs nationally offering a master's degree concentration in behavioral health/public health.

- ▶ The new on-line Graduate Certificate in Children's Mental Health program addresses the enormous shortage of qualified, appropriately trained professionals in the children's mental health field, both in Florida and nationally. The totally on-line offering of this certificate was the impetus for the USF Board of Trustees' adoption of a new tuition/fee structure relative to nationally offered on-line courses.

CFS initiatives to strengthen and sustain healthy communities include a variety of efforts that engage families/youth, local communities, government and non-governmental organizations:

- ▶ Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) (<http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/>) for individuals with autism
- ▶ Behavior Analysis Service Program (BASP) for children in foster care
- ▶ Florida Positive Behavior Support (PBS) (<http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu>) for schools struggling to meet the needs of learners with challenging behaviors
- ▶ Program-wide PBS (<http://pbis.fmhi.usf.edu/>) for educators and child care programs to support children with challenging behaviors
- ▶ The Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children for children with or at-risk for delays or disabilities (<http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/>)
- ▶ The National Center for Youth Transition (<http://ncyt.fmhi.usf.edu/index.cfm>) for youth with challenging mental health and behavioral problems
- ▶ The Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health (<http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/>) for children with serious emotional and behavioral disorders
- ▶ The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY- <http://floridahippy.fmhi.usf.edu/>)
- ▶ Alliance for the Safe, Therapeutic and Appropriate use of Residential Treatment (ASTART) (<http://astart.fmhi.usf.edu/>), for youth in unregulated, private residential treatment programs
- ▶ The Center On Self-Employment, focused on awareness about self-employment for individuals with developmental disabilities
- ▶ The USF Collaborative for Children, Families and Communities, administratively housed in CFS, links USF faculty with the community to increase engagement
- ▶ The 2006-2007 Applied Behavior Analysis graduate students provided more than 15,000 hours of practicum service throughout the Tampa Bay area; by summer 2008, students will have provided at least 30,000 hours.



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Briscoe



Clark



Friedman



Hodges



Tassé



Roggenbaum

Sharing What We Know

CFS faculty and staff are nationally recognized for research, training and education expertise.

Supporting Ethnic Minority Children and Families

Richard Briscoe was recently recognized for his work with the East Tampa Community Revitalization Partnership (ETCRP). The ETCRP is a coalition of East Tampa community organizations, other stakeholders and citizens that have joined together to provide leadership and oversight in transforming East Tampa into a neighborhood of vibrant residential, commercial, social and cultural life through the implementation of the East Tampa Community Redevelopment Plan. Since 1992, Dr. Briscoe has conducted research, training and technical assistance in East Tampa to improve outcomes for ethnic minority children and families. He has played a large role in supporting the university's effort to foster collaborative research partnerships with schools and community agencies in order to transfer research into practice.

The Road to Successful Adulthood: Paving the Way for Youth and Young Adults with Serious Mental Illness

Internationally known, **Hewitt B "Rusty" Clark** provides training and consultation related to positive behavioral supports, person-centered planning, and behaviorally-based intervention strategies for facilitating the transition of youth and young adults into employment, educational opportunities, and independent living. Dr. Clark is director of the National Center on Youth Transition (NCYT) at CFS/FMHI, the only national technical assistance center that is exclusively focused on improving transition practices, systems and outcomes for this population.

Leadership in Children's Mental Health Research: Shaping Policy at the National Level

Robert Friedman has served on many national committees including the Planning Board for the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, has chaired task forces and review panels for the federal government, and has provided Congressional testimony on several occasions. He served as Principal Author for the Children's Workgroup report of the Florida Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse in 2000, gave expert testimony to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health in 2002, and helped author the Children's Subcommittee report of the Commission. Dr. Friedman is a Fellow of the Division of Children, Youth, and Families of the American Psychological Association, and received the Nicholas Hobbs award from this division in 2005 for contributions to policy and advocacy for children.

Making Children's Mental Health Services Successful

Sharon Hodges is known nationally for her studies of how public and private child-serving organizations integrate their efforts in the interest of better serving children with serious emotional disturbance and their families. She has consulted with many child-serving agencies to assess what children and their families need in particular communities and what strategies will enable them to meet those needs. In 2008 Dr. Hodges served as Guest Editor for a special issue of the Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research focused on qualitative methods in children's mental health. She was recently named Director of CFS's Division of Training, Research, Education and Demonstration.

Sharing Expertise in Areas of Developmental Disabilities and Suicide Prevention: Governor Crist Appoints 2 From CFS

Governor Crist recently appointed **Dr. Marc J. Tassé** to the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, comprised of members representing consumers, family members, agency staff and interested individuals. The Council works to assure that Florida citizens with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of – and have access to – needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion.

Stephen Roggenbaum was also recently appointed by Governor Crist to the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. The Council has a legislative mandate to advise the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention regarding suicide prevention programs and activities. Roggenbaum is also serving on the planning commission for the Annual Florida Suicide Prevention Symposium.

You can make a difference...



Matilda Garcia

A Message from Matilda Garcia

My ties in the Tampa Bay Community are deeply rooted. As a third generation Floridian, my maternal grandfather came from Spain to Cuba to Tampa when there were only 29 families living in Tampa. I have seen much growth, and have spent much of my life active in community issues affecting Latinos and recently arrived Latin Americans. As I say in introductions, if it has the name "Hispanic", I'm on that board. I was a founding member of the Hispanic Services Council.

During my role as State Director of the Florida League of United Latin American Citizens, and my 43 years of federal employment in Social Security, retiring as Hispanic Program Officer in the Central Florida network of 22 offices "from coast to coast" (from Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean), I heard numerous stories of the many struggles faced by Latino families, and with projections 25 percent of students in grades K-12 will be of Latino origin by 2025, these struggles will only increase. More families will face language barriers and family issues that affect school achievement and put students at-risk for developing serious emotional problems.

To ensure a brighter, more successful future for these students, our community must come together to ensure that educational, behavioral and mental health supports are in place. This of course will require many financial commitments.

When I learned of the work of CFS aimed at establishing collaborative relationships with Latin American universities and research centers to address the social, cultural, and mental well-being of Latino and Latin American families, I was proud to support those efforts. These exchanges increase the understanding of the Latino experience in the United States and raise awareness of critical aspects that need to be addressed.

Contributions to CFS

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.

☐ Yes, I (we) would like to be a CFS partner with this donation of: \$ _____

Suggested levels of partnerships are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Circle: \$25 - 999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dean's Circle: \$50,000 - 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Circle: \$1000 - 9,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> CFS Friend for Life: \$100,000 + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair's Circle: \$10,000 - 50,000 | |

Donations can be made to the department as a whole:

- ☐ **The Department of Child & Family Studies:** Help create innovative solutions and new hope for families by supporting the work of CFS.

Donations can be made to specific areas you would like to help us address:

- ☐ **Trauma:** Expert help for those who have experienced trauma in their lives from abuse, violence, disasters and war.
- ☐ **Transition to Adulthood:** Help young people with mental health challenges navigate adulthood.
- ☐ **Prevent Suicide.** Support suicide prevention programs and activities.
- ☐ **Center for the Study of Children's Futures:** Support collection of the latest facts and figures on Florida's Children.
- ☐ **Center for Autism and Related Disabilities:** Point the way to positive lives for those with autism and related disabilities. *USF Foundation #530002*
- ☐ **Disparities:** Ensure children of all colors have equal access to the services they need.
- ☐ **Matilda Garcia Initiative:** Form partnerships with Latin American researchers to promote the best approaches for serving the Latino/a community.
- ☐ **RTC Conference:** Co-sponsor the Annual Children's Mental Health Research Conference to join the ranks of experts planning effective service systems for our nation's children.
- ☐ **Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters:** Support school readiness programs that helps parents prepare their three, four, and five year old children for success in school and beyond. #530004

Please send checks to the address listed below, payable to:

The USF Foundation #530013 (unless otherwise indicated)

Department of Child & Family Studies, 13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MHC 2312, Tampa, FL 33612-3807

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.



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