

CFS Federal Grant Activity

- 2006 4 new federal grants plus 3 renewals for 7 federal grants
- 2007 6 new federal grants plus 3 renewals for 9 federal grants
- 2008 (current) 5 new federal grants plus 2 renewals for 7 federal grants
- Current Year Active Grant funding: \$15,110,636
- Current Year All Funding (Active and ended this year): \$17,582, 729



New CFS Information Materials

The Department of Child and Family Studies has recently published detailed profiles of its divisions, individual centers and projects, educational offerings, and publications. A pdf can be downloaded at the CFS website, <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu>

From the CFS Chair

Springtime at CFS means conference time. As sponsors and co-sponsors of the annual conferences on Autism and Related Disabilities, Children’s Mental Health Research, National Training Institute Supporting Young Children’s Social/Emotional Development, and the International Conference on Positive Behavior Support, we are busy sharing what we know about effective practices for families facing difficult challenges. Often, children and their parents need special attention and support to resolve issues of education, disability, healthy development and mental health.

Through our dedicated faculty and professional staff, CFS is committed to improving the well-being of children and families in Florida and throughout the nation. We continue to work toward the dreams of the late Senator Louis de la Parte, who during his tenure as a Florida Senator in the 1960s and 70s, became nationally recognized for his far-reaching efforts to improve and integrate services in the juvenile justice, mental health and education systems. We believe that each family and every child has the right to effective services and supports that meet their individual needs and are sensitive to developmental, social, cultural and familial issues. We strive to ensure that needed services and supports are available through our leadership in research and evaluation, theory, policy, and practice innovation.

I want to commend CFS for such outstanding leadership. In fact, twelve faculty received special appointments in 2008 to local, state and national committees and workgroups, including three Governor’s task forces. While still compiling scholarly activities for 2008, we have quite an accomplished list for 2007:

242 presentations, workshops, and keynotes were presented or conducted at 138 conferences; 69 journal articles were published or in press, with more than half captured in the Thompson ISI Journal Citation Reports, which ranks thousands of scholarly and professional journals within their discipline (17 rank in the *top ten* of their discipline); 30 book chapters and monographs were authored; 54 technical reports were prepared with Institute faculty; and 4 department-produced serial publications were authored.

In this issue, we profile the research and evaluation activities housed in our federal and state funded centers. All of the programs within our centers offer a wide range of innovative strategies that support communities within Florida and the U.S. Our programs are at work in the schools, at home with the family, in public agencies and other child-serving organizations, and reflected in policies and practices in Florida and across the nation.

In 2009, it is imperative that we continue to be a resource of hope for the future of children and families. As the economic uncertainties rise in our nation, so too does the need for special attention and support for children, families and communities. We invite you, the parents, grandparents, teachers, counselors, researchers, administrators and policy makers to join our efforts to ensure families and communities can better nurture and protect the lifeline to our future – our children.

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



A Tribute to Louis de la Parte



Portrait of the Senator, Louis de la Parte, donated by retired FMHI faculty Dr. John Mullins.

Faculty and staff of the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Senator de la Parte in October 2008. During his tenure as State Senator, he devoted much time toward improving and integrating services in the juvenile justice, mental health and education systems. Every bill and amendment he sponsored was focused on improving the day-to-day lives of everyday people. Senator de la Parte led many efforts for the establishment of academic centers dedicated to research, education and the development of innovative programs for Florida’s social service, criminal justice, and education systems. Those efforts resulted in the establishment of the USF Florida Mental

Health Institute, which was renamed the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute in March 1996 to honor his dedication for improved services throughout the state. He will be remembered as a true champion of the Institute and a great statesman that never forgot why he was elected to public office.

We were very pleased that Helen de la Parte joined the Department’s Fall Luncheon in November. Mrs. de la Parte was shown a remarkable portrait of the senator, sketched and donated by retired faculty Dr. John Mullins. The portrait will be framed and presented to the de la Parte family on behalf of the Institute.

Our Role

As an academic department at a large, urban research university, our particular role is to:

- Develop new knowledge through research.
- Conduct thorough evaluations of existing services and supports.
- Analyze existing public policies that affect children and families.
- Share our knowledge and expertise with public agencies and community groups.
- Prepare a new generation of professionals to be effective researchers, practitioners, and administrators.
- Take part in conferences, publications, teaching and mentorships, and share information locally, statewide, and nationally.
- Convene groups to develop strategies to better serve and support children and families.
- Create opportunities for diverse groups to express their needs and make recommendations about the issues facing children and families.
- Help local and state agencies create coordinated, community-based systems of services that best use resources to meet the individual needs of children and their families.

Who We Serve

While the Department's faculty and staff are concerned about all children, special attention is paid to the following groups:

- Children and youth with serious emotional and behavioral disturbances and their families;
- Children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families;
- Children at special risk of poor outcome because of exposure to abuse, neglect, other forms of violence, absence of family, or long-term poverty;
- Pre-school children from families with low-income;
- Children with serious emotional and behavioral disturbances transitioning into adulthood.

The Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children (TACSEI)

TACSEI is a continuation and expansion of the work of the Center for Evidence-Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behavior. TACSEI gives decision makers, caregivers and service providers an enhanced awareness and understanding of, and ability to use evidence-based practices for improving the social-emotional outcomes for young children with, or at risk for, delays or disabilities. TACSEI uses the widely endorsed Pyramid Model framework for promoting social-emotional competence and addressing challenging behavior as the conceptual model to deliver this important information.

- <http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/>
- Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD-USF)

CARD at the University of South Florida is a community-based project that provides information and consultation to individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities. CARD-USF offers instruction and coaching to families and professionals through a training and assistance model. CARD serves Florida families and professionals within the following counties: Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, & Sarasota.

- <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu> – CARD's website for resources, links, online training modules, plus resources in Spanish.
- <http://learningcurve.fmhi.usf.edu> – The CARD Learning Curve, created for educators, provides interactive stories, ideas, resources and materials for teachers.
- Funded by the Florida Legislature.

The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

HIPPY is a parent involvement and school readiness program. The program offers free home-based early childhood education for three, four and five year old children working with their parent(s) as their first teacher. The parent is provided with a set of developmentally appropriate materials, curriculum and books designed to strengthen their children's cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social/emotional and physical development. The Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Center is based at USF and works in collaboration with HIPPY USA's national office in Little Rock, Arkansas to provide training, technical support, and guidance to all of the HIPPY programs in the state of Florida.

- <http://floridahippy.fmhi.usf.edu/>
- Some Florida HIPPY programs are funded from a State Legislative Appropriation, and others through a variety of local, state, or federal sources.

Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC)

FCIC at the USF was established in October 2005 through a University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education (UCEDD) Research, and Service grant award from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. Since 1963, UCEDDs have been working to accomplish a shared vision that foresees a nation in which all Americans, including Americans with disabilities, participate fully in their communities. Through leadership in research and evaluation, theory, policy, capacity building and practice innovation, the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC) is committed to developing a range of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities in the areas of community supports, early childhood, transition, education, employment, health, interdisciplinary training, public policy, and cultural competence.

- www.fcic.org
- Some FCIC programs are funded by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services/Administration on Developmental Disabilities and others are funded through a variety of local, state, or federal sources.

National Network on Youth Transition for Behavioral Health (NNYT)

The mission of NNYT is to improve outcomes for transition-age youth and young adults (14-29 years of age) with emotional and/or behavioral difficulties (EBD) through system development, program implementation, and research. The National Network is the only technical assistance resource that is exclusively focused on improving practices, systems, and outcomes for transition-age youth and young adults and their families. This population of young people experiences extreme challenges as they move in and out of our community child and adult-serving systems (e.g., schools, foster care, mental health, detention, corrections) and have, almost without exception, the poorest postsecondary outcomes (e.g., employment, career-type education, homelessness, incarceration) of any of the disability groups.

- <http://nnyt.fmhi.usf.edu/>; <http://tip.fmhi.usf.edu> Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model
- NNYT is funded through a variety of local, state, or federal sources.

The Spirit of CFS

Since 2004, a CFS team has partnered with Tomlin Middle School in Plant City to provide holiday cheer for families of students in need. Teacher Natasha Subko adds to her busy schedule the time to coordinate with families.

"Once again you have performed a Christmas miracle," said Mrs. Subko. "This year's recipients of your kind generosity were probably the neediest and most appreciative. One of the gifts you gave was the connection between community, school, and family—something they will take into the rest of their time in school and hopefully to the next generation! Seeing your giving spirit and knowing that people care about her has pushed one of the students to a life changing decision that she has worth and what she does matters. What a precious gift to give to someone. Thank you for everything!"



Spotlight on Resources

Pre-service and In-service Training Programs

The Florida Center for Inclusive Communities has developed pre-service and in-service training programs for professionals and community members who provide supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities. These include:

- *Positive Beginnings Training Modules* support early interventionists, early educators, and related service professionals in the Positive Behavior Support process. <http://pbs.fsu.edu/return.html>
- *Infant/Toddler and Preschool Training Modules*, as well as *What Works Brief Training Kits* are training packages that include PowerPoint slides with accompanying note pages, activities, and handouts. <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/training.html>

For more information, please contact Bobbie Vaughn at Vaughn@fmhi.usf.edu.

Florida's Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice supports Florida's child welfare professionals by distributing relevant, accurate and consistent information that is easily accessible 24/7. Now available is information from Florida's Annual Statewide Dependency Summit, including professional workshops presented this year on ADHD, adolescents with co-occurring disorders, attachment, child maltreatment in multicultural populations, child and family engagement, children and youth with developmental disabilities, coordination between delinquent and dependent youth, detecting deception, drug endangered children, family engagement and kinship care, and foster parent retention. Visit the Dependency Summit video page to view these workshops, as well as plenary speeches from Florida Department of Children & Families past Secretary Bob Butterworth and current Secretary George Sheldon. <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/videos/Pages/Depen.aspx>

The Suicide Prevention Implementation Program (SPIP)

SPIP works with the Florida Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, the Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council and various counties, agencies and partners to enhance Florida's capacity to initiate, implement, and sustain suicide prevention activities.

- <http://preventsuicide.fmhi.usf.edu/>
- Programs are funded through a variety of local and state sources.

Florida's Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice

The Center was established to provide needed information and support to Florida's professional child welfare stakeholders. Funding is provided through a contract with the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The Center's mission is to support and facilitate the identification, expansion, and transfer of expert knowledge and best practices in child welfare case practice, direct services, management, finances, policy, and organizational development to child welfare and child protection stakeholders throughout Florida. The Center serves Child Protective Investigation professionals of DCF and various Sheriff's Offices; and the Attorney General or State's Attorney Offices, and Community-Based Care Lead Agencies for child welfare services.

- www.centerforchildwelfare.org
- The Center is funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Study of Children's Futures (CSCF)

The Center is dedicated to maintaining a repository of statistical data, as well as research, policy, and program activities occurring throughout Florida and the nation. Through the development and dissemination of informative and educational products, technical assistance, and consultation services, the Center provides the necessary data driven knowledge base for improving the lives of Florida's children and their families. The Florida KIDS COUNT Project is the primary activity within the Center.

- <http://cscf.fmhi.usf.edu>
- CSCF is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and through a variety of local, state, or federal sources.

The Technical Assistance Center for Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)

PBIS provides capacity-building information and technical support about behavioral systems to assist the state of Florida and its districts address problem behaviors in schools using Positive Behavior Support. The Center operates as a consortium of researchers, advocates, family members, teacher educators, professional association leaders, and program developers, and receives guidance from an external evaluation team.

- <http://www.pbis.org/main.htm>
- PBIS is funded by the US Department of Education/ Office of Special Education Programs.

Upcoming Events:

Jan - April 2009: Brown-Bag Seminar Series on Developmental Disabilities. <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/news/docs/FCIC-Seminar-Series08-09.pdf>

March 1-4, 2009: The Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health Research Conference <http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/rtcconference/default.cfm>

March 22-25, 2009: 6th Annual Addressing Challenging Behavior - National Training Institute on Effective Practices <http://www.addressingchallengingbehavior.org/>

March 26-28, 2009: 6th International Conference on Positive Behavior Support <http://apbs.org/>

The Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health (RTC)

RTC supports the development of systems of care that provide access to effective care for children with mental health challenges and their families. The Center seeks to do this through an integrated set of research, training, consultation, and dissemination activities. The Center has been funded through consecutive federal grants since 1984, and has a diverse team including researchers, evaluators, policy makers, administrators, parents, and practitioners. The Center's research is inter-disciplinary, and is based in complex, real-world environments. Findings are disseminated to key audiences using a variety of formats. As part of its national leadership role, each year since 1988 the Center has hosted a national research conference on systems of care and children's mental health that brings together researchers with policy makers and family members to exchange information about new research findings, and dialogue about strategies for improving the mental health and overall well-being of children and youth. The Center is currently engaged in six research projects designed to further the understanding of how to develop and implement effective systems and services for children with mental health challenges and their families. Below are some highlights from the current RTC projects.

1. **A National Survey of Systems of Care Implementation**
2. **Holistic Approaches to Studying Community-Based Systems of Care**
3. **Financing Structures and Strategies to Support Effective Systems of Care**
4. **The School-based Mental Health Services Study**
5. **Accessibility of Mental Health Services**
6. **Assessing the Role of Family Organizations**

- <http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/>
- The Center is jointly funded by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

2008 CFS Fall Luncheon Recognizes Outstanding Community Partnerships

Each year, CFS takes time to bring the entire department together for an afternoon of food, fellowship and special recognition. CFS individual department divisions select an outstanding community partner for the year and presents a special plaque during the luncheon in appreciation for their collaboration. Congratulations to the 2008 Partners:

■ **Dr. William Orr**,
Principal of Hillsborough
High School

■ **Dr. Ken Gaughan**,
Supervisor, School
Social Work Services for
the School District of
Hillsborough County

■ **Erin MacInnes**, Statewide
Office of Suicide
Prevention, Governor's
Office

■ **Summer Shibley**, Procopy



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.

Focus on Academics



Master's Program in Applied Behavior Analysis Fall 2009 Application Deadline is March 15

The Master's Program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is designed to meet the growing need in Florida and nationally for practitioners who can work effectively to improve the quality of services in the fields of developmental disabilities, autism, education, child protective services, child behavior management, rehabilitation, mental health, and business and technology. ABA provides an approach for developing, implementing, and evaluating practical strategies to produce changes in socially significant behaviors of individuals in the context of community settings. The 44-credit-hour master's degree in ABA is housed in the Department of Child and Family Studies in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences. Congratulations to 2008 graduates: Kimberly Beck, Jessica Thompson, Sarah Mele, Julie Horn, Eva Boyer, Tammy Giddings, Jessica Colon, Judy Mowrey, Mike Cripe, Martin McClelland, Gretchen Mathews and Robin Lane. For more information on the program, contact Raymond Miltenberger at abausf@fmhi.usf.edu.

Graduate Studies in Behavioral Health Program Offers Five Graduate Degree Options

The USF Colleges of Behavioral and Community Sciences (BCS) and Public Health (COPH) jointly offer a specialty concentration in behavioral health as part of the Master's and Doctoral programs in the COPH Department of Community & Family Health (DCFH). The Graduate Studies in Behavioral Health Program examines community and family issues in policy, evaluation, systems performance, and outcomes of alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health services. Five graduate degree options are offered:

- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH)
- Master of Social Work/Master of Public Health Dual-Degree Program (MSW/MPH)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Focus in Behavioral Health
- Doctor of Public Health (DRPH) Focus in Behavioral Health (New!)

For more information on each of the programs, contact Bruce Lubotsky Levin, DrPH at levin@fmhi.usf.edu or blevin@health.usf.edu, 813-974-6400, or visit <http://home.fmhi.usf.edu/Education/GraduateStudiesBeHealth.cfm>

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

To help translate new knowledge into effective practice, in-service training modules have been developed to benefit an array of behavioral health professionals. For more information, contact Carol MacKinnon-Lewis at 813-974-2075 or cmackinnon@fmhi.usf.edu.

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



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