



Reading By the Numbers

64%

of 4th grade public school students in Florida scored below proficient reading level in 2009.

Race:

- 82% Black
- 69% Hispanic
- 55% White
- 44% Asian Pacific Islander

42%

of Florida children under age 18 live in families with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

38%

of Florida's children ages 3 to 5 were not enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten in 2008.

17%

of individuals in Florida ages 18 to 24 were not attending school, not working, and with a high school diploma or less in 2008.

16%

of Florida's children ages 6 to 17 repeated one or more grades since starting kindergarten in 2007.

13%

of Florida children live in households where the household head is not a high school graduate.

8.7%

of Florida's babies born in 2007 were low birthweight. Babies born less than 5.5 pounds are more likely to experience development problems than are babies born at higher birthweights.

(KIDS COUNT Data Center)

Success Starts With Reading

The Department of Child & Family Studies and Florida KIDS COUNT is pleased to join the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a 2010 KIDS COUNT Special Report Outreach Partner. The report, *Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, reveals that two out of every three fourth graders overall are not proficient in reading, according to the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Worse, four of five fourth graders from low-income families are also not proficient in reading. The failure to help children from low-income families reach this milestone cements educational failure and poverty into the next generation.

"The stressors facing the most vulnerable kids and families include more health problems that interfere with early learning, fewer early interactions that foster language development, plus limited access to high-quality early childhood and pre-K programs," said Patrick T. McCarthy, President and CEO of the Casey Foundation.

Recognizing these and other challenges, the Casey Foundation's *Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters* has identified four steps to close the gap and raise the bar:

- **Develop a coherent system of early care and education** that aligns, integrates, and coordinates what happens from birth through third grade so children are ready to take on the learning tasks associated with fourth grade and beyond.
- **Encourage and enable parents**, families, and caregivers to play their indispensable roles as co-producers of

good outcomes for their children.

- **Prioritize, support, and invest** in results-driven initiatives to transform low-performing schools into high-quality teaching and learning environments in which all children, including those from low-income families and high-poverty neighborhoods, are present, engaged, and educated to high standards.
- **Develop and utilize solutions** to two of the most significant contributors to the under-achievement of children from low-income families—chronic absence from school and summer learning loss.

"Because grade-level reading is such a strong predictor of future problems, philanthropy is putting a stake in the ground on ensuring that children are able to read at grade level by the end of third grade," said Michael L. Eskew, Casey Board Chair and former CEO of UPS. "The research is clear and compelling. And it affirms what common sense tells us. In a knowledge-dependent world and global economy, no city, no region, no nation—including our own—can compete successfully without attending to the basics. And that starts with reading."

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization, whose primary mission is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. For more information, visit www.aecf.org.



The Department of Child & Family Studies is involved in a number of programs aimed at improving school readiness and success

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

<http://floridahippy.fmhi.usf.edu/>

HIPPY is a parent involvement, school readiness program that helps parents prepare their three, four, and five year old children for success in school and beyond. The parent is provided with a set of carefully developed curriculum, books and materials designed to strengthen their children's cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social/emotional and physical development.

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

<http://www.challengingbehavior.org/>

TACSEI takes the research that shows which practices improve the social-emotional outcomes for young children with, or at risk for, delays or disabilities and creates FREE products and resources to help decision-makers, caregivers, and service providers apply these best practices in the work they do every day. Most of these free products are available on the website.

Florida's Positive Behavior Support Project

<http://flpbps.fmhi.usf.edu>

Florida's Positive Behavior Support Project increases the capacity of Florida's school districts to address problem behaviors using Positive Behavior Support (PBS). PBS methods are research-based and proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors in the school, resulting in a more positive school climate and increased academic performance.



Autism Awareness Month



Mary Reed, Katy Fostier, Kelly Carper, Susan Richmond, Beverly King, Angela Mann, Mary-Kay Bunton-Pierce, Jean Caldicott, Mindy Stevens, Rachel Schelb, Donna Casella, and Karen Berkman

Library Display. To celebrate Autism Awareness Month in April, the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute Research Library highlighted the Kiersten Meyn Strunk Autism collection, donated to the USF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities by Kiersten's family and friends.

"The selection of books is truly a gift, focusing on building resiliency and capacity for persons with autism spectrum disorders," said Ardis Hanson, Head of the Research Library. "We thank CARD for their support and assistance in creating this collection and, most importantly, for the incredible supports they provide to families and children every day."

The collection included an art piece entitled "Art for All." It was created by an ESE student and donated by VSA Florida in memory of Kiersten. VSA Florida is a society where people with disabilities have the opportunity to learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts.

"We thank VSA for providing such a vibrant piece of art to celebrate Kiersten's memory," added Hanson.



Fiesta By the Bay. CARD celebrated another successful and fun event with their 5th annual Fiesta by the Bay fundraiser on Friday, April 23rd at Gaspar's Grotto in Ybor City which raised over \$11,000! 250 guests enjoyed D.J. Deb and a dance contest, "So you think you can salsa" along with balloon animals and great food from Tijuana Flats on Fowler Ave. The silent auction is always a highlight of the evening and this year's event tipped the scales with over 50 items bringing in \$4,500!



CARD Constituency Board Vice Chair and salsa dancer, Nicole Torres, shares her talents on the dance floor.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Month

During Children's Mental Health Awareness Week the first week in May, CFS was successful in generating important awareness surrounding this issue:

- **A CFS display was set up in the main entrance of the USF library** during the month of May. Many of the CFS academic programs, publications, centers and research activities were profiled.



- **A University Beat radio report** ran interviews reporter Mark Schreiner conducted during the Tampa Research & Policy Conference. The "Children's Mental Health Research" piece ran on WUSF 89.7 FM from May 3rd to 7th. The interview and audio extras can be found at: http://www.wusf.usf.edu/radio/program/university_beat/episode/2010-05/miles_for_moffitt_childrens_mental_health_research.
- **A message from CFS Chair Dr. Mario Hernandez, "Celebrate Children's Week,"** ran in the *Tampa Tribune* on Thursday, May 6th. Visit: <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/news-detail.cfm?NewsID=610>.
- **Volunteers from CFS visited the Children's Home Society/Joshua House for a team volunteer activity** on May 7th. They donated clothing and cleaned up the grounds around cottages that are home to teen and preteen girls and boys.



CFS Volunteers

Back Row: Jay Dominguez, Jason Zipperer, Lisa Coy, Dr. Kimberly Crosland, Dr. Mary Armstrong, Sarah Young, Kathleen Ferreira, Bill Herstek, Marty Kledzik, Dawn Khalil
Front Row: Maricel Hernandez, Tracy-Ann Gilbert-Smith, Storie Miller, Frank Reyes

CFS Governance Council

New officers will be elected in June for the CFSGC. Since its inception in 2008, the CFSGC has been actively involved in tenure and promotion activities, development of assigned faculty duties for CFS, FMHI compact planning, and a variety of meetings across CFS, FMHI, and BCS. For more information or to view minutes and the CFS Governance document, visit <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/governance>. Let your voice be heard.



Kimberly Crosland, PhD

Congratulations to Dr. Kimberly Crosland for receiving the tenure-earning position of Assistant Professor, assigned to the Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis Program (BASP). The BASP, in collaboration with the University of Florida, has developed a statewide

behavior analytic initiative for foster children and families, which is funded through the Department of Children and Families. The program conducts assessments of children with severe problem behaviors, develops interventions, and trains and supports caregivers in implementing positive, proactive techniques to improve the behavior and well-being of children. Prior to coming to USF, Dr. Crosland was a clinician at the Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins Hospital where she provided treatment evaluations for young children with autism and other developmental disabilities who were displaying challenging behaviors. Dr. Crosland has published in journals that promote knowledge in behavior analysis and developmental disabilities including the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, Research in Developmental Disabilities, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, and the American Journal on Mental Retardation. She has served as a guest reviewer for both the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and Research in Developmental Disabilities.



Elizabeth A. Perkins, PhD, RNMH

Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Perkins, who along with Dr. Sue Saxon and Dr. Mary Jean Etten received the Sue V. Saxon Outstanding Teaching Award, presented annually to the person or persons who provided the most outstanding education for students in the School

of Aging Studies. This award was established in recognition of Dr. Saxon's consistently outstanding teaching over 39 years in the Department of Gerontology.

The recipients were recognized for their textbook *Physical Change and Aging: A Guide for the Helping Professions, Fifth Edition*. Dr. Perkins is a Post-Doctoral Fellow within the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities/Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC). She is also a registered nurse from Great Britain who is trained specifically to care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Her current work at the FCIC is concentrated on improving both access to and quality of healthcare for persons with disabilities. She is also involved with improving health promotion/prevention for adults across the lifespan. For more on Dr. Perkins, visit <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/news-detail.cfm?newsID=609>.



Tom Massey, PhD

On April 6, Dr. Tom Massey served on a panel during WTVT's Your Turn segment to discuss details regarding the Hillsborough County Anti-bullying Advisory Committee. The Committee was created in August 2009 by the Board of

County Commissioners to provide advice and recommendations to curb and eliminate all forms of bullying throughout Hillsborough County. Dr. Massey was selected to serve as a committee representative.

APA Fellows Attend Children's Mental Health Research & Policy Conference

As the numbers of minority children continue to climb, so too does the number of minority families asking to be served by individuals understanding of their own cultures. The low percentage of health service providers who are ethnic minorities are of great concern, especially in regards to ethnic families in need of mental and/or substance abuse support.

To identify, select and support doctoral level ethnic minority students and postdoctoral trainees who demonstrate promise and a commitment to careers that address the mental health service and research needs of ethnic/racial minorities, the American Psychological Association (APA) offers a Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the MFP is considered to be one of the most successful training programs for ethnic and racial minority researchers and service providers in the history of federally funded training programs.

During March 7-10, 2010, four MFP fellows were invited by CFS Chair Dr. Mario Hernandez to attend the premier national Children's Mental Health Research & Policy Conference in Tampa, Florida.

"For many years, the conference has provided numerous sessions on the provision of culturally competent services for children and their families," said Dr. Hernandez. "Not only did the interns attend sessions on the latest findings and best practices in children's mental health, they also had the opportunity to meet a number of experts in the field, including previous APA Fellow, Dr. Larke Huang, SAMHSA's Senior Advisor on Children in the Office of the Administrator."

For more on this story, visit <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/news-detail.cfm?NewsID=603>



Alea Holman; Kiara Alvarez, EdM; Cheon Graham, MS Ed; Mario Hernandez, PhD; Emma Sterrett; and Larke Huang, PhD

Alea Holman: School Psychology doctoral program, Graduate School of Education at UC Berkeley.
Research interests: racial and gender socialization within black families.

Kiara Alvarez: School Psychology doctoral program, University of Texas at Austin.
Research interests: interventions for adolescent girls high-risk behaviors, motivational interventions for substance abuse, and mental health service delivery to Latino families.

Cheon Graham: School psychology doctoral student at Duquesne Univ. in Pittsburgh, PA.
Research interests: juvenile delinquency, children of incarcerated parents, and childhood trauma.

Emma Sterrett: Clinical psychology doctoral program, Univ. of NC-Chapel Hill.
Research interests: systemic processes of underserved families, associations between non-parental support and adolescent well-being.



Trauma Prevention and Recovery Programs: CFS Takes an In-Depth Look at What Works

CFS is working with several community partners in Florida to evaluate programs aimed at the prevention of and recovery from traumatic experiences suffered during childhood.



Dawn Center

Hernando County—The Dawn Domestic and Sexual Violence Shelter provides quality services to women and their children who are victims of domestic violence, rape or sexual assault. In recent years, the center has been involved in numerous awareness efforts throughout the community, including the development of a school-based curriculum focused on the prevention and intervention of teen dating violence and bullying. With the goals of ensuring healthy and respectful relations, reducing gender stereotyping, and increasing assertive communication and by-stander intervention, the curriculum is being delivered in Hernando County schools.

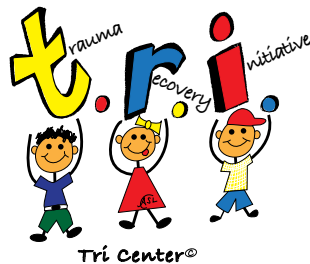
CFS team members **Debra Mowery, PhD**, **Teresa Nesman, PhD**, **Leslie Pagan, MBA**, and **Svetlana Yampolskaya, PhD** are working with the Dawn Center to evaluate the effectiveness of the school programs, and survey responses from students reveal a wide variety of ways in which they have made positive impact. The programs have helped students understand various roles in which they might find themselves or others (victim, bystander, and/or aggressor) and alternatives to expressing their anger in violent ways. One student said, “it has shown me how to calm myself down instead of just going straight to violence.” Responses also indicated increased awareness of personal responsibility for emotions of anger and jealousy.

Some students indicated that their attitude about what they would accept in a relationship has changed because they understand that violent relationships are not healthy.

Participants have also made suggestions for additional training topics, including how to identify an “abuser,” understanding the difference between fighting and defending yourself, and how to handle “mean comments.”

As part of the Dawn Center programs, the CFS team is also evaluating school climate surveys that look at campus safety for students. In addition, they are evaluating another project of the Dawn Center that trains young men from various community groups to provide outreach as peer mentors.

For additional information, contact Debra Mowery at 813-974-6191.



TRI Center and the Children's Home Society

Escambia County, Western Division—For the last 3 years, **Dr. Keren Vergon** has been working with the Children's Home Society (CHS) in Pensacola and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) on a Department of Health and Human Services SAMHSA grant to develop, demonstrate and evaluate

the effectiveness of the Trauma Recovery Initiative Center (TRI-Center), the only center in Florida that addresses the needs of children who have endured multiple complex traumas. The TRI-Center provides community-wide trauma screening for youth through collaboration with the dependency system, while increasing the availability of trauma-focused services for children and youth in northwest Florida. It is also working to engage the community to create a child welfare system that is trauma-aware, trauma-informed and trauma-educated.

As part of the TRI Center evaluation, Dr. Vergon is comparing the provision of trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) with standard care. Based on findings, the TF-CBT has been modified to accommodate the population being served. Additional lessons learned have resulted in adjustments to staff recruitment and roles, quality of supervision, and engagement of families, service providers, judiciary and community members.

Dr. Vergon is also working with CHS of Florida on a national cross-site study examining a variety of issues related to the NCTSN.

“Being a part of the NCTSN has provided CHS of Florida with an opportunity to discover and participate in the latest advances in the field of trauma-informed services, and a responsibility to pass on what we learn for the benefit of others,” said Cynthia Blacklaw, Executive Director CHS Western Division.

Ms. Blacklaw recently visited CFS to discuss her current efforts in the area of trauma and possible future ideas for collaboration. She met with USF staff of the TRI Center, and with several CFS

faculty whose research interests overlap with Ms. Blacklaw's Division.

“Cynthia has been a wonderful partner, and is very concerned about the impact of trauma on children and families,” said Dr. Vergon.

Training in Trauma-Informed Behavioral Support

Armed with knowledge that trauma-informed programs can lessen and prevent a wide range of health, behavioral health and social problems, many child-serving agencies are taking steps to gain a greater understanding of how trauma impacts the life of a child receiving services and orienting staff to the principles and practices of creating environments that provide trauma informed care.

“Children in public systems are especially vulnerable to the traumatic experiences of abuse, neglect, and domestic violence,” said CFS Assistant Research Professor **Dr. Norin Dollard**. “To serve these children most effectively, we must work to increase awareness and provide tools to ensure systems and programs are trauma informed.”

During the past year, Dr. Dollard, along with additional CFS faculty including **Kimberly Crosland, PhD**, **Vicki Hummer, MSW** and PhD candidate **Stephen Roggenbaum** have created a successful niche providing trainings in Trauma Informed Behavioral Support. They have trained direct care staff, supervisors, administrators and families at a number of child serving agencies throughout the state, including the Juvenile Justice Board at the Circuit 10 DCF office, Brevard County



“Children in public systems are especially vulnerable”

Schools, the Head Start/Early Head Start Program, Magellan Public Sector Solutions, which provides services through Florida's Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Plan, as well as presenting to the Governor's Children's Cabinet, and Florida's annual statewide Dependency Summit.

Faculty are currently working with staff at Manatee Palms Youth Services, a state-licensed intensive residential treatment facility that recently expanded services to include trauma-informed care for children and adolescents ages 6 to 17. Faculty will soon begin a year-long program to work with four more youth residential mental health programs in Florida.

“While every training is one step closer to increasing trauma-informed environments, there is still much to be accomplished for the children we strive to protect.”

For information, contact Norín Dollard at 813-974-3761.



Learning from Suicide Survivors

The suicide note left by Bonnie McClelland's son read “Learn from this and help each other.” Bonnie has done just that. On April 1, the Suicide Issues in Behavioral Healthcare (MHS4931) class, taught by CFS's Steve Roggenbaum, hosted a panel of individuals who have lost loved ones to suicide. Bonnie, who began the Suncoast Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program after her son's death, was on the panel.

Three mothers and one brother shared their story of loss, information on the formal and/or informal sources that helped them cope, and information about their advocacy efforts.

“I knew that if I stood up and talked and talked and talked, I could keep someone else from having to be on this panel,” said Bonnie. She has also trained firefighters, police, pastors and other “first responders” on the needs of suicide survivors.

“This was an opportunity for the survivors to share their stories and experiences and for us to learn from them,” said Roggenbaum. “The panel is very important to help students and faculty put a face on the numbers and statistics, to associate these individuals' stories with what students are learning about suicide issues, data, research, and suicide prevention.”



Steve Roggenbaum with Erin MacInnes, Director of the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention at the 2010 Florida Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol

A common theme throughout the discussions was that when a family member's life ends by suicide, your life ends as well and you start over. As one panel member said, “There's a

whole new normal that happens.” The normal for the panelists is the shared mission to direct their grief energy toward eliminating suicide in our communities and supporting others who have experienced a similar loss.

The panel presentation will be available on the CFS website soon. In addition, a Suicide Prevention course taught by Roggenbaum is now part of Baker Act on-line training, which provides an overview for a wide variety of persons who need to be familiar with the Baker Act. <http://bakeracttraining.org>.

For more information, contact Steve Roggenbaum at 813-974-6149.

CFS to Analyze Effective Interventions for Minority and Female Teen Substance Abuse



Recent studies have shown an important factor for the successful treatment of adolescent substance abuse is the simultaneous focus on the family and the individual youth. These findings are largely due to trials of an evidence-based treatment intervention known as Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT). MDFT has proven to be very successful in reducing or eliminating adolescent substance abuse and other problem behavior, and to improve overall family functioning.

While the MDFT trials revealed successful outcomes for a broad adolescent population, there are insufficient findings to show if the effectiveness is the same when targeting minority and female adolescents. These answers are coming soon.

Dr. Paul Greenbaum, pictured above, from the USF Department of Child & Family Studies is collaborating with MDFT researchers in Miami and Texas on a new federally

funded grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). The study, *Integrative Data Analysis of Gender and Ethnic Differences in MDFT Randomized Control Trials*, will combine individual data from over 1,500 families who participated in 10 MDFT randomized controlled trials.

The initial data from each study, rather than the usual study summary, will be analyzed. Greenbaum says this makes the project unique.

In addition, a new type of meta-analysis will be conducted which combines the results of several studies that address a set of related research hypotheses.

“By doing both of these things, we are able to increase the power to test the effects among targeted populations,” said Dr. Greenbaum.

More on the story: <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/news-detail.cfm?NewsID=607>

Congratulations to the Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice, whose contract with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has been extended to 2013.



Inservice Training Hours

The Center portal has more than 100 videos with quizzes that generate certificates of completion. In-service credit hours range from .5 to 10.5.

By the end of 2009, registered users had increased to 6,355 and in the last quarter of 2009 alone, the Portal had more than 5.5 million web hits.

<http://centerforchildwelfare.org>

Since operation began in 2007, the Center's web portal has proven to be a valuable resource for Florida's child welfare professionals from the Florida Department of Children and Families, local community based care agencies and sheriffs departments wanting expert knowledge and training opportunities in case practice, direct services, management, finances, policy, and organizational development.

The portal offers an array of best practices information, as well as access to virtual meetings, live training and educational events, and on-line collaborative forums that facilitate communication and information sharing among child welfare professionals and related stakeholders such as foster parents, youth, and education professionals.

Center Director **Don Policella** said collaboration throughout the state has developed into many new community partnerships with other agencies wanting to ensure staff and stakeholders are well trained in specific areas. Partnerships include:

■ Domestic Violence Across Systems

The Center is working with the Family Justice Center of Hillsborough County and Hillsborough Kids Inc. to develop and record the *Child Welfare and Domestic Violence Cross-System Training* series. Trainings on the portal also have post-tests for recertification hours. One of these trainings recently occurred on May 12 and was facilitated by CFS's **Vicki Hummer** and **Dr. Colleen Clark** from the USF Dept. of Mental Health Law and Policy. The class, *Mental Health and Trauma*, is designed to assist service providers with understanding and identifying co-existing mental health issues and traumatic experiences among the families they serve.

■ Litigation Skills Training

The Center worked with Children's Legal Services, DCF's law firm representing the State of Florida in child welfare matters. A series of seminars on legal sufficiency, trial preparation, courtroom skills, medication issues, and ethics were recorded and are available on the Portal.

■ Protecting Child Victims of Human Trafficking

DCF, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Refugee Services, law enforcement and other community leaders worked with Center staff to develop and broadcast a live statewide training. A series of nine trainings were also recorded and posted with post-tests for recertification hours.

■ Quality Parenting Initiative: "Rebranding" Foster Care

The Youth Law Center and the Eckerd Family Foundation, in cooperation with DCF, have developed a training video series for foster parent recruitment, retention and support that can be used by local community based care agencies. The trainings were recorded by Center staff and posted on the Portal. The Center is also participating in an upcoming statewide conference call.

■ Sexual Abuse Intervention

A new partnership with the Hillsborough County Sexual Abuse Intervention Network will record trainings on identifying, referring, supervising and treating children with sexual behavior problems.

Additional training videos from the Florida Department of Health's Child Medical Services and Child Protection Teams have been reformatted and posted on the Portal. Ongoing trainings from the Pinellas Juvenile Welfare Board are updated regularly.

Knowledge Library

- Adoption
- Child Protective Investigations
- In-Home and Relative Care
- Independent Living
- Out of Home Licensed Care
- Prevention
- Administration and Leadership
- Caregiver Resources
 - Adoptive Parent Resources
 - Foster Parent Resources
 - Independent Living Resources
 - Parenting Resources
 - Relative Caregiver Resources
 - Safety and Prevention Resources
 - Youth Space
- Child Welfare Practice Models
- Other Child Welfare Program Areas
 - Case Management
 - Diligent Search
 - Domestic Violence
 - Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN)
 - Human Trafficking
 - Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
 - ICPC
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
 - Missing Children
 - Reunification Services
- Circuit Resource Pages
- Florida Contacts and Links
- Frequently Asked Questions
- FSFN
- Law, Rule, Policy, and CLS
 - Children's Legal Services
 - DCF Historical Memoranda
 - DCF Interagency & Other Agreements
 - DCF Policy Memoranda
 - Family Safety Operating Procedures
 - Federal Laws and Rules
 - Florida Administrative Code
 - Florida Statutes
 - Other DCF Operating Procedures
- Multimedia and Training Videos
 - DCF Family Safety Training Videos
 - DOH's CMS Videos
 - Florida Statewide Training Videos
 - Florida Conference Videos
 - General Workshops and Trainings
 - National Teleconferences
 - Perspective Series
- National Resources
- Other State Agencies
- Performance and Data Reports
- Quality Assurance
- Trainer Resources



ConnectFamilias

They say you can't be helped until you are willing to help yourself, and residents in the Little Havana community of Miami are doing just that. ConnectFamilias, a neighborhood based and family focused partnership is successfully reducing violence and responding to serious social needs in their community. Last year, 300 families were served, many receiving intensive services for multiple needs.

CFS has helped guide this positive change through evaluation and training activities, beginning with an evaluation in 1999 of the Abriendo Puertas Family Resource Center, now a partner of ConnectFamilias. The evaluation revealed the need to more closely integrate natural support systems – trained community health workers – with services delivered by formal providers. In response, a training program developed by the CFS team and others was facilitated to help natural helpers and formal providers learn to respect and utilize the strengths that each could bring to the community. Improvements were noted just six months later.



Teresa Nesman



Linda Callejas



Leslie Pagan



Bobbie Vaughn

In 2007, Dr. Nesman and CFS evaluation team members Linda Callejas and Leslie Pagan returned to Little Havana and held a series of discussions and interviews with stakeholders to map out ideas about what was further needed for positive change in their community. The theory of change that was agreed upon was developed into a diagram with three main components showing the community profile and who the partnership aims to serve, how the partnership would carry out its work, and what outcomes were expected to result from that work. A committed core group then coordinated activities that included outreach, care coordination, capacity building, and leadership development.

In January 2009, the CFS team held another series of focus groups in Little Havana to determine the success of the coordinated activities, and any suggested next steps.

Dr. Nesman said a community spirit has emerged because of the efforts of ConnectFamilias to engage the community so thoroughly. They have formed a strong residence group, La Alianza Hispana de la Pequeña Habana, and helped increase the number of natural helpers as well as both paid and non-paid service providers.

"There is a conscious effort to make this process very transparent and immediately involve service providers who are interested," said Dr. Nesman. "ConnectFamilias has transformed the way social services and communities work together at the neighborhood and systems level." <http://cfs.fmhi.usf.edu/pub-details.cfm?pubID=231>.

Project Conectar

Linda Callejas is involved in additional focus groups at ConnectFamilias. She is working with Dr. Bobbie Vaughn and Myrna Veuilla from the Center for Autism & Related Disabilities on a project aimed at reducing disparities in early identification of autism and other developmental disabilities (DD) and increase access to services in the largely Latino/Hispanic community. Project Conectar: Building the Capacity of a Community to Learn the Signs. Act Early is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of their campaign, "Learn the Signs. Act Early." The project provides parents with information about early identification of developmental delays. Focus groups are being conducted with parents to understand how families view the CDC's materials and their experiences in getting services for their children, especially with regard to the barriers they face. For additional information, contact Linda Callejas at 813-974-6328.



Preschool Parade

A preschool storybook parade was held at the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences for children in the USF Head Start program, and because of the event, an important collaboration occurred. During the annual parade, CARD displayed adapted literacy materials that were created for recent events and storytime activities in the community and schools. CARD also created a book bag full of interactive materials from the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program and a book by Eric Carle, *Do you want to be my friend?* for the preschool director. The director asked CARD to visit and conduct a storytime with their children.

CFS's Mary Reed created a dog themed storytime and CARD staff read and sang with the kids. The Director approached Mary about a few students who may be on the autism spectrum and Mary provided CARD contact information. For more information, visit <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu> and <http://floridahippy.fmhi.usf.edu>.



A row of Deans pose during Dr. Friedman's reception. (l to r) Dr. Junius J. Gonzales; Dean, USF College of Behavioral & Community Sciences; Dr. Bob Friedman, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI) Interim Dean from 2006-2007; Dr. Max Dertke, first FMHI Dean; Dr. David Shern, FMHI Dean from 1994-2006, currently President and CEO of Mental Health America.

Bob Friedman Honored

In conjunction with the 23rd annual conference on children's mental health research, Dr. Bob Friedman was honored for his remarkable career. After nearly three decades of service to USE, Dr. Friedman retired from his faculty role in CFS. The reception highlighted the Robert Friedman Endowed Professorship in Child & Family Studies. The Professorship will continue to shape children's mental health in the future.

Dr. Friedman will not take the usual retirement track. He has been appointed by Secretary Sebelius to the Center for Mental Health Services National Advisory Council, which consults with, and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; the Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and the Director, Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS).

Dr. Friedman was recently honored with the prestigious designation of "Professor Emeritus," granted by USF President Dr. Judy Genshaft. This allows lifetime access to departmental resources so that he can continue his active scholarly life as consultant, author, researcher and mentor.

Online Learning

In Children's Mental Health



Learning made easy

<http://onlinelearningincmh.fmhi.usf.edu/>

Communities across the country are involved in complex efforts to develop and implement effective comprehensive systems to serve children and youth with behavioral health needs and their families.

An online in-service training program at USF has been developed to benefit an array of behavioral health professionals including those in leadership positions, clinical staff, case managers and supervisors, direct health care staff, as well as families and advocates.

Online Learning in Children's Mental Health provides access to current knowledge and practical skills needed to work in systems serving the mental health needs of children, youth, and their families. Courses are taught by national experts in children's mental health and related fields. The core curriculum emphasizes systems of care values and principles with a practical, hands on approach and supports the development of family-driven, youth-guided, and culturally and linguistically competent community-based care. For information, contact Tracy-Ann Gilbert-Smith at 813-974-3341.

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



2009-10 ABA Students
ABA Students in Alpha Order: Arica J. Bolechala, BCaBA; Ashley Breeden; Rachel Brown; Paula Chan; Catherine Czerwonka; Jacob Daar, BA; Fran Echeverria, BS; Kari Ek, BA; Thomas Erickson; Samantha Florentino; Viviana Gonzalez; Danielle Godish, BCaBA; Rachel Graves, BCaBA; Laura A Hanratty; Alyssa Heidemann; Kathleen Kenny; Laura L. Kulikowski, BCaBA; Krystal McFee; Jennifer Noah, BCaBA; Jennifer Rodriguez; Angela Benitez Santiago; Kacie Sears; Danica Simmons, BCaBA; Sarah Sinai; Alicia Snively; Stevie-Marie Swift; Jada Traub; Claudia Troconis; Claudia Villari, BCaBA; Elyse Wiseman; Kika Young

Congratulations to each of the students who presented at the 3rd Annual Community Applications of Behavior Analysis (ABA) Poster Fair, held May 3rd to highlight the applied work of our students at their practicum sites.

The ABA master's degree program is designed to meet growing needs in Florida and nationally for practitioners who can work effectively in the fields of developmental disabilities, education, child protective services, rehabilitation, mental health, and business and technology. As part of their practicum, students work 10-25 hours per week with community partners under the direct supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Practicum placements are available at a broad array of sites throughout the greater Tampa Bay area. For the 2009/10 academic year, the ABA program partnered with:

- Autism Early Intervention Clinic
- Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay
- ABA Solutions
- Human Development Center
- Manatee Palms Youth Services
- Communicare, Inc.
- Camineti Exceptional Center
- Behavioral Consulting of Tampa Bay
- Suncoast Behavioral Services
- Florida MENTOR
- Advanced Behavioral Systems

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