

# **Emerging Practices in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Children's Bureau  
Office on Child Abuse and Neglect**

*The measure of excellence*

**CALIBER**  
A S S O C I A T E S

# **Emerging Practices in Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

- **Children's Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect**
  - **Melissa Lim Brodowski**
- **Caliber Associates**
  - **David Thomas**
  - **Christine Leicht**

# **Emerging Practices in Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Family Connections, Baltimore, MD**

**Howard Dubowitz, MD - University of Maryland**

**Acupuncture Initiative to Improve Retention in a Parenting Class, Vancouver WA**

**Cyndi Durham, RN, BSN**

**Fathers and Children Together, Lexington, KY**

**Trey Berlin & Jill Seyfred**

**Freepops – CTF Kids, Northfield, MN**

**Shannon Kuball, Program Coordinator**

**Parents Encouraging Parents, Grangeville, ID**

**Nathalie Kretzmann**

**Healthy Families Arizona, Rachel Whyte, MSW, CISW**

**NJ Child Sexual Assault Prevention Project, Donna Pincavage**

**Relief Nursery (OR), Lory Britain, Ph.D.**

# Emerging Practices in Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Two-year partnership beginning in October 2000
- Project partners:
  - Office on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Catherine Nolan, Director  
Melissa Lim Brodowski, FPO
  - Caliber Associates
  - National Advisory Group
- Final Report released in March 2003:
  - Two parts: Literature review and results of nomination process

# Advisory Group

- **Sandra Alexander**, Prevent Child Abuse Georgia
- **Charles Bruner**, Child and Family Policy Center
- **Thomas Chapmond**, TX Dept. of Protective and Regulatory Services
- **Deborah Daro**, Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago
- **Jack Denniston**, Consultant
- **Holly Echo-Hawk Solie**, National Indian Child Welfare Association
- **Martha Farrell Erickson**, Children, Youth and Family Consortium, University of Minnesota
- **David Lloyd**, Family Advocacy Program, DoD
- **Lisa Pion-Berlin**, Parents Anonymous®
- **Karen Rich**, National Exchange Club Foundation
- **Deborah Strong**, Prevent Child Abuse Michigan, Michigan Children's Trust Fund
- **Sonia Velazquez**, FRIENDS National Resource Center, Family Support America

# Emerging Practices in Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Project Impetus and Objectives
  - Establish a systematic mechanism for collecting and maintaining information on prevention programs
  - Disseminate information about effective programs/practices
- Original Methodology
  - Conduct audit of prevention programs
  - Develop national program database
  - Develop/utilize a program rating system
  - Identify effective programs and promising practices

# Emerging Practices in Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

## Issues/Problems Encountered

- No consensus definition of a “child abuse and neglect prevention” program
- Program characteristics alone not sufficient to establish quality/effectiveness of programs

# Nomination Process

- Development of Nomination Manual
- Marketing of Project
- Nominations accepted for consideration as Effective or Innovative
- Open Nomination Period:  
May 2002 – August 2002



# Submission Options

- **Effective Programs** –programs with evidence of positive outcomes in prevention
  - **Demonstrated Effective** – programs with rigorous evaluation using an experimental design with random assignment
  - **Reported Effective** – programs with quasi- or non-experimental evaluation efforts that show promising results
- **Innovative Programs** –programs showcasing a unique research-based approach or overcoming a challenge to their success

# Submission Requirements

- Program Mission, Goals, and Objectives
- Program Activities and Services
- Program Staffing
- Target Population
- Significant Activities/Accomplishments (Innovative Category)
- Evaluation Methodology and Results (Effective Category)
- Logic Model
- Three References

# Nominations Received

- 7 programs nominated as “Effective”
  - 1 program as “Demonstrated Effective”
  - 6 programs as “Reported Effective”
- 21 programs nominated as “Innovative”

# Peer Review Process

- Advisory Group members acted as a peer review panel for all nominated programs
  - Any Advisory Group member with a professional relationship to a particular program abstained from any part of the review process for that program
- Programs were reviewed based on the nomination submitted in October and November 2002 using a national perspective
- Some programs did not meet the criteria for inclusion as “effective” or “innovative”, however they had noteworthy aspects that would be informative to the field

# Peer Review Results

- Nominations submitted as “Effective”
  - 1 program designated as “Demonstrated Effective”
  - 2 programs designated as “Reported Effective”
  - 2 programs designated as having noteworthy aspects
- Nominations submitted as “Innovative”
  - 7 programs designated as “Innovative”
  - 10 programs designated as having noteworthy aspects

# **“Effective” Programs**

## **“Demonstrated Effective”**

- Family Connections – Baltimore, MD**

## **“Reported Effective”**

- Circle of Security – Spokane, WA**
- Families and Centers Empowered Together (FACET) – Wilmington, DE**

# How are these Programs Effective?

- Improved parenting skills and efficacy
- Better relationships between the caregiver and the child as well as among families
- Reduced stressors, including child behavior problems, which may contribute to child abuse and neglect

# **“Innovative” Programs**

- Acupuncture Initiative to Improve Retention in a Parenting Class – Vancouver, WA
- Fathers and Children Together (FACT) – Lexington, KY
- Freepops – CTF Kids – Northfield, MN
- Homes for the Homeless Family Crisis Nurseries – New York, NY
- Hui Makuakane – Honolulu, HI
- Parenting Partnership – Tacoma, WA
- Parents Encouraging Parents – Grangeville, ID



# What Makes these Programs Innovative?

- Combines parent education curriculum with an alternative treatment
- Develops tailored services targeted for grossly underserved, high-risk populations
- Strengthens relationships between incarcerated fathers and children
- Utilizes low-cost, multi-layered process for recruiting and retaining high-risk youth in programs
- Implements creative solutions for common problems

# Programs with Noteworthy Aspects

- Effective Programs Category
  - Healthy Families Arizona
  - Sacramento Crisis Nursery

# Programs with Noteworthy Aspects

## Innovative Programs Category

- Assessment Services Model Pilot
- First STEPS
- From Darkness to Light
- Fussy Baby Program
- Middle Way Family Education
- New Jersey Child Assault Prevention Project
- Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Children's Program
- Parents Anonymous<sup>®</sup> Parent Leadership Program
- Relief Nursery
- Today's Single Parent

# Future Directions

- Continued need to expand the existing knowledge about the effectiveness of prevention.
- Better integration of research into practice and linking research findings to the creation of effective new prevention programs.
- Children's Bureau support for more discretionary activities in prevention.