



Los Angeles
Child Guidance
Clinic

SPRING 2005

in touch



Standing Room Only at Clinic Conference

With over 650 people in attendance, on January 27th the Clinic welcomed mental health professionals, child care and Head Start workers, child advocates, nurses, educators, parents, policy makers and public officials to *Because We Care: An Early Intervention Mental Health Services Conference*. The purpose of the day-long event, held at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center, was to reduce the impact of childhood trauma on children ages 0-5 by increasing participants' understanding, knowledge and skills as they relate to evidence-based practices in early intervention approaches, models and treatment strategies.

In partnership with the conference's local, state and national co-sponsors, we were honored to have Dr. David Satcher, the 16th Surgeon General of the United States, the current Director of the National Center for Primary Care at the Morehouse School of Medicine and the interim Dean of the Morehouse School of Medicine, deliver the keynote address, *Mental Health in Children – A Health Crisis*.

Additional plenary presentations were made by Dr. Joy Osofsky, Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Public Health at Louisiana State University and President of ZERO TO THREE on *The Impact of Trauma on 0-5 Year Olds*; and Dr. Susan McDonough, Associate Professor and Research Scientist in the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan on *Overburdened Families*.



(L-R) Dr. David Satcher, Executive Director Betsy Pfromm, and Board member Dr. Quinton James.

The purpose of the conference was to reduce childhood trauma on children 0-5.

The Clinic's commitment to the conference is rooted in the fact that intervening early in a child's life can prevent future emotional and behavioral problems, as well as greatly increase a child's school readiness. Therefore, the board of directors and staff of the Clinic were especially pleased to host an event which brought together key leaders in the field of children's mental health, providing training and leadership to individuals who are dedicated to improving the lives of young children.

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Message from Chairperson Michael W. Stoddard



At the heart of all of the Clinic’s programming is “the client.” No matter how accessible or innovative we make our services, if expectations and needs of those who seek our help are not met, we have not been successful. Therefore, I am pleased to report that the results of the Clinic’s most recent client satisfaction survey demonstrate an impressive rate of highly satisfied clients; with almost all respondents indicating an overall satisfaction level between 85% and 90%. These findings not only validate our work, they also let us know that we are fulfilling our mission by providing strength-based and family-centered support in a manner which respects and cares for each client and his or her specific needs.

It is important to understand that caregivers, our partners in treatment of the children we serve, were responding to their experience of the Clinic as a whole, as well as their individual experiences with specific Clinic personnel when completing these surveys. Consequently, the high marks in client satisfaction illustrate the Clinic’s long-standing reputation of providing quality services, as well as the commitment and dedication of staff and how well and effectively they conduct themselves in their day-to-day work to implement the mission of the Clinic.

Results of the survey include:

- Quality of service was good/excellent – 94% yes
- Services addressed family and individual strengths – 89% yes
- Services received were helpful – 91% yes
- Recommend program to a friend – 96% yes

Committed to enhancing quality services for children and families whenever possible, we are looking forward to the opportunity of expanding the services we offer to the community through the Mental Health Services Act. This ballot initiative, which passed in November, was designed to prevent and treat disabling mental illness for the 300,000+ children and adults in California who are not currently receiving needed services.

The Clinic’s Executive Director, Elizabeth Pfromm, has been involved with the Initiative since its inception. The Association of Community Human Services Agencies, in concert with California State Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg, crafted the Mental Health Services Act, wherein Ms. Pfromm served as the Association’s Board Secretary (and had previously served as President). More recently, Ms. Pfromm has been involved on the local planning end through her co-chairing the County Department of Mental Health’s Prenatal to Five Sub-Committee. Funding from the Act will support a variety of mental health services for high-risk populations.

Thank you for your interest and support of the Clinic’s efforts to help children reach their greatest potential.

Michael W. Stoddard
Chairperson of the Board

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Special Thanks



Welcoming New Supporters

♥ **PacifiCare Foundation - \$10,000**
Founded in 1991, this is a private corporate foundation that receives its funding through PacifiCare Health Systems and voluntary contributions made by PacifiCare employees. Grant funds will support our First Steps Program, helping families with infants and toddlers improve their family functioning by strengthening the parent/child attachment relationship.

♥ **Flora L. Thornton Foundation - \$25,000**
A leader in Los Angeles philanthropy, Flora Thornton is a long-time supporter of education, the arts and health care. Grant funds will support the Clinic's Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, providing support and services to children 0-5 years old, and their families.

♥ **NI Industries, Inc. - \$1,000**
This contribution was made in honor of long-time Clinic board member David Hirsch and his retirement from NI Industries after many years of dedicated service. Funds will be used to support the Clinic's Family Resource Room, providing increased access to vital community information and links to much needed health and social service resources.



Thanking Old Friends

♥ **The Atlas Family Foundation - \$5,000 and The California Endowment - \$5,000**
Underwriting support for the Clinic-sponsored Early Intervention Mental Health Services Conference (see article on page 1).

♥ **Ahmanson Foundation - \$55,000**
Funding to purchase two 8-passenger client transportation vans.

♥ **Echo Northrop Grumman - \$3,000 and Lon V. Smith Foundation - \$5,000**
Funding to support the Clinic's Early Intervention and Community Wellness Programs, allowing us to intervene early on in a child's life, helping to prevent future problems.

♥ **Ralph M. Parsons Fd - \$65,000**
Funding to support intensive home-based services in order to increase parents' awareness about their children's needs, improve children's developmental course and expand safety and stimulation in the home environment, through our First Steps Program.



The mission of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic is to provide quality mental health services to a community in great need by ensuring easy access and promoting early intervention.

Board Profile: Bob Neary

Technology Enhances Clinic's Ability to Fulfill its Mission

Bob Neary, a 30-year veteran in the field of information technology, is Chair of the Board's Technology Committee. Under Mr. Neary's leadership, the Clinic has reached several key technological milestones, including designing and implementing a Network Infrastructure. This included the installation

of computer workstations, electronic mail and updated software tools at each of the Clinic's three service sites. During this process, Clinic staff received training to increase their skill level in integrating new technologies into their work processes. Finally, the Clinic assessed and defined its needs around securing a software management system to streamline and safeguard data processing, and to increase overall effectiveness in operations.

"Technology employed efficiently will aid both clinical and management staff in their respective roles. It will provide easier access to client information and statistical data connected to treatment outcomes, and will also support many of the Clinic's audit requirements," says Mr. Neary.

Co-Founder and President of TechGnosis, Inc., an information technology management consulting and technical services company, Mr. Neary has held executive level positions at the California Institute of Technology and SCT Corporation. Mr. Neary is active in several community organizations and is currently a member of the Los Angeles Business Forum. Serving on the Clinic's Board of Directors since 2002, Mr. Neary considers children's mental health an issue of personal interest and concern.

A water-skier, marathon runner and cyclist, Mr. Neary recently participated in the Solvang Century Bike Race with his wife, Carole, who is also a competitive in-line skater. The Nearys have two children - Tim, 15, and Katie 13, who also enjoy water-skiing and are active in the Pasadena Junior Theatre. This summer, Mr. and Mrs. Neary will travel to the British Isles with the La Canada Towne Singers.



Bob and Carole Neary with their children Katie and Tim.

Did you know?

Children with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) show signs of being consistently inattentive and may have a pattern of being hyperactive and impulsive, far more than other kids their age. As this condition tends to affect functioning most strongly in school settings, teachers are often the first line of defense in identifying the problem and helping parents to find ways to address their children's behavioral problems.

We provide a solution:

During the past three years, the Clinic's Stepping Up to School Readiness Program has provided comprehensive training to 229 educators serving 2,384 students at 11 local Head Start Programs, increasing their knowledge, skills and competencies in relation to children's mental health issues. As a result, teachers, classroom aides and administrators are better equipped to:

- Identify and refer children in need of services, including those with ADHD.
- Effectively communicate with parents and caregivers about children's mental health needs.
- Manage the challenging behaviors presented in the classroom by children with severe emotional and behavioral problems.



(L-R) Board members Bob Neary, Robin Moody, Dr. Tom Trott; Executive Director Betsy Pfromm; Dr. David Satcher; board member Dr. Quinton James; California Children and Families Commission's Emily Nahat; Dr. Joy Osofsky; and ZERO TO THREE's Cindy Oser.

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Nationally prominent author Bebe Moore Campbell spoke over lunch about her children's book which deals with a young girl and how she copes with being raised by her mentally ill mother. Ms. Campbell followed her presentation with a book signing of *Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry* (2003).

Afternoon workshops included presentations from 22 professionals with different areas of expertise in the field of early intervention. Topics presented included: Behavioral Interventions in Preschool Settings, Male Caregivers, Home Visitation, Children in Foster Care, ADHD and Autism in Preschoolers, and Infant Mental Health. Participants were also offered the opportunity to receive continuing education certification for the day.

As training mental health professionals and promoting innovative new approaches to treatment is part of the Clinic's mission, the Board of Directors provided the majority of underwriting support for the conference. The Board's support was augmented by generous grant funding from California Children and Families Commission, The Atlas Family Foundation and The California Endowment.



Conference Co-Sponsors

- ♥ California Department of Developmental Services
- ♥ California Department of Mental Health
- ♥ Child & Family Guidance Center
- ♥ LAUSD/Early Childhood Education Division
- ♥ Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
- ♥ Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
- ♥ Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke
- ♥ Mental Health Association in California
- ♥ National Mental Health Association
- ♥ Pacific Clinics
- ♥ WestEd
- ♥ ZERO TO THREE



Seventh Annual Family FunFest

A Mental Health Community Awareness Fair

On Saturday, May 14, 2005, Clinic staff and board members will host the *Seventh Annual Family FunFest, a Mental Health Awareness Community Fair*, in recognition of mental health month. Food, games, crafts and family-centered entertainment will be provided, as well as assistance on how to access mental health services. Families will also be provided with information on how to link to other valuable community resources such as social service providers and entitlement programs, including Healthy Families and Medi-Cal. Past volunteers have included representatives from Hawthorne Savings Bank, Figueroa Corridor Association, El Clasificado, Harvard Radcliffe Club of Southern California, and Lifetime Television. A variety of rewarding volunteer opportunities are still available for this year's Fair – including face painting, children's crafts and games, food service, and helping kids with pony rides. Please contact Amanda Ray at 323-766-2360 x3360 to participate.



Celebrating 80 Years of Service to the Community!

**Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Established 1924**

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*Child and Youth Development Center
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3031 South Vermont Avenue
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Exposition Park Office
*The Harriet and Charles Luckman
Building*
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Leimert Park Office
4401 Crenshaw Boulevard, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90043
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Access to voicemail for all three offices:
(323) 766-2360

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Elizabeth W. Pfromm, M.S., MPA

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