

COUNCIL ON CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

History: Established 1976; reorganization in process 1997; restructured May 2002; charge revised and composition defined November 2002; composition revised December 2004

Composition: Standard council composition; two of the members are the chairs of the committees that report to the council (Committee on Developmental Disabilities and Committee on Family Violence and Abuse).

Three of the members are the chairs of the corresponding committees that report to the council (Corresponding Committee on Mental Health and the Schools, Corresponding Committee on Juvenile Justice Issues, and Corresponding Committee on Infancy and Early Childhood.)

Charge: The Council works to advance the diagnosis and treatment of mental health needs of children and adolescents. The Council considers and recommends issues and concerns to APA that are related to these needs. The Council keeps psychiatric issues involving children and adolescents in the forefront of APA policy. Also, the Council works to assist general psychiatrists in learning more about methods of treating or referring child and adolescent patients.

Subcomponents

- Blanche F Ittleson Research Award Corresponding Committee
- Committee on Family Violence and Abuse
- Corresponding Committee on Infancy and Early Childhood
- Corresponding Committee on Juvenile Justice Issues
- Corresponding Committee on Mental Health and Schools
- Agnes Purcell McGavin Award Selection Corresponding Committee
- Committee on Developmental Disabilities

For more information, email cleslie@psych.org

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Committee on Developmental Disabilities

History: Established 1979; name changed July 1998; restructured with new name and charge November 2002.

Composition: Standard committee composition.

Charge: The committee addresses clinical care, treatment, and service systems concerning children and adults with developmental disabilities. Problems faced by this underserved population include a lack of services for them, especially for those with dual diagnoses. In some areas of the country developmental disorders are excluded from coverage by insurance companies. The transition from adolescence to adulthood is a particularly difficult time for this population, and appropriate services to help them are often lacking. The committee addresses some of the most complicated problems of the developmentally disabled, with particular emphasis on those with dual diagnoses (developmental disorders plus mental illnesses). Identification of best practices and how to obtain appropriate treatment for those who have dual diagnoses, how to define the spectrum for autistic disorders, and publicizing model treatments for this population are some of the issues addressed by this committee.

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Committee on Family Violence and Abuse

History: Established December 1986; restructured with new name and charge November 2002.

Composition: Standard committee composition.

Charge: The committee is concerned with all types of violence occurring in families, including child, spouse, domestic, and elder abuse. Family violence encompasses all types of abuse – including physical and sexual abuse. Stronger liaisons with other APA groups such as the Committee on Women, the Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues, and the Committee on Ethnic Minority Elderly will be developed. The committee works in educating APA members through component workshops and web-based articles about family violence and abuse.

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Corresponding Committee on Mental Health and the Schools

History: Established as committee in 1984; restructured as corresponding committee with new name and charge November 2002.

Composition: Standard corresponding committee composition.

Charge: The corresponding committee advises APA how it may pursue policies that will be helpful in bringing about and maintaining school policies about mental health issues and treatment. They will encourage APA district branches to work with local school systems to include information about mental health and mental illness in health classes.

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Corresponding Committee on Juvenile Justice Issues

History: Established as task force 1983; committee 1987; restructured as corresponding committee with new charge November 2002.

Composition: Standard corresponding composition.

Charge: The corresponding committee works to improve the availability of evaluations for mental disorders for children and adolescents who are arrested and charged. It works on projects to make psychiatric consultation more available to juvenile courts. The committee also works to encourage more psychiatrists to take part in working with juvenile offenders.

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Corresponding Committee on Infancy & Early Childhood

History: Established 1992, to end 1995; refunded 1995, 1996, and 1997; restructured as corresponding committee with new name and charge November 2002.

Composition: Standard corresponding committee composition.

Charge: The corresponding committee reviews the data concerning the prevalence and risk factors for mental health problems in infants, toddlers, and pre-school children. It works with other groups such as 0-3, the AACAP Committee on Early Childhood, and Head Start Program, to develop evaluation methods and diagnostic criteria.

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**Corresponding Committee on Mental Health on College &
University Campuses**

History: Established July 2006.

Composition: Standard corresponding committee composition.

Charge: This corresponding committee carries on the work done by the Presidential Task Force on Mental Health on College Campuses, which documented a critical need for the upgrading of services, particularly psychiatric services, on many campuses, and worked to have a resolution about depression and suicide on college campuses passed by the American Medical Association House of Delegates (June 2005). The corresponding committee is charged to:

1. continue to review and summarize the existing data on college mental health and on access to psychiatric services on college campuses
2. compose guidelines regarding college mental health
3. develop a "Resource Guide" on college mental health to identify service that should be available
4. collaborate with other professional and advocacy groups working on college mental health
5. develop a plan to support psychiatrists who are working in college settings
6. develop a policy regarding discrimination against college students with mental illness
7. continue a media strategy to enhance public awareness about college mental health issues

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Blanche F. Ittleson Research Award Corresponding Committee

History: Established 1976; restructured as corresponding committee May 2002.

Composition: Standard corresponding committee composition.

Charge: To select the recipient of the Blanche F. Ittleson Research Award