

**RAPID RESPONSE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
AND WELFARE TO WORK (WtW)
Contract No. 233-01-0067
Task Order No. 59**

**Support for Region VI Workshops:
Mid-Winter Leadership Training Conference
Dallas, TX
January 25-27, 2005**

From January 25-27, 2005, ACF Region VI held its Mid-Winter Leadership Training Conference at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Dallas, TX. The conference theme was "Over a Decade of Excellence: Working for the Well-being of Children and Families." This conference is part of the regional strategy to strengthen programs funded by ACF and to promote ACF key priorities. This purpose was realized by convening Regional leadership of ACF-funded programs from among State, local and Tribal officials, and key stakeholders. The training forum was designed to build clarity of purpose to achieve positive outcomes for children, families, and communities.

The Mid-Winter Leadership Training Conference was developed to:

- inform Region VI leadership of ACF's direction and priorities for the current year;
- deliver program-specific training and education to program administrators to conform with Federal laws, regulations policy, and procedures;
- promote cross-program collaboration and community coordination to direct resources toward positive outcomes for the well-being of children; and
- foster strategic plans across all ACF-funded programs that support ACF's goals and objectives.

During the 3-day event, the goals of the training conference were to: (1) promote better service delivery focusing on clients and their needs, (2) increase participation of faith-based and community organizations in the grant application and services delivery processes, (3) promote the key priorities that contribute to the well-being of children, and (4) foster leadership and accountability across all ACF-funded programs.

Rapid Response funds were used to support travel expenses for four presenters and honoraria for one presenter. The Mega Sessions and the workshops allowed participants to receive the most up-to-date information in key priority subject areas including: healthy marriages, fatherhood, faith and community-based initiatives and prevention issues. In turn, the stage was set for State, Tribal and local agencies, and faith-based and community partners to develop programs and to enhance existing programs. The sessions also facilitated collaboration in these subject areas across program lines at the various agency levels.

Summaries of the various sessions that utilized Rapid Response funds are as follows:

Mega Session – Part I: Community Healthy Marriage Initiatives

Moderator: Larry Brendel, Program Manager for TANF/Child Care – ACF Region VI

Presenters: Barbara Lamsens, The Healthy Marriage Healthy Family Coalition of Tarrant County, Fort Worth, TX
Winnie Honeywell, The Greater Houston Healthy Marriage Coalition (GHHMC), Houston, TX
Valerie Ballard, Dallas Area African American Marriage and Relationship Services (DA³MARS), Dallas, TX
Irma de la Fuente, LMSW, DAPA, Hispanic Opportunities for Marriage Education (HOME), Dallas, TX
Kelly Simpson, MA, LMFT, Alliance for North TX Healthy and Effective Marriages (ANTHEM), Dallas, TX
Bill Coffin, Special Assistant for Marriage Education, HHS – ACF

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 --- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. --- Lone Star Ballroom B

This session highlighted ACF’s move to build community-wide healthy marriage coalitions; it also provided a panel presentation on current community-based healthy marriage initiatives in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston. Panelists offered information on the history of their coalitions’ development, organizational structure, lessons learned, and advice regarding the start-up of a Community Healthy Marriage Initiative. This Mega Session was attended by approximately 300 individuals.

Barbara Lamsens shared that the staff of The Parenting Center in Ft. Worth, TX became interested in starting a Community Healthy Marriage Initiative (CHMI) after attending a Region VI ACF informational presentation to domestic violence organizations in December 2003 and the ACF Region VI Mid-Winter Conference in 2004. She indicated that a couple of her staff collected all of the ACF healthy marriage handouts from these events and had several conversations with the Region VI Family Life and Marriage Program Specialist regarding a CHMI. The Parenting Center called the first meeting of the CHMI in February 2004 and used the coalition-building and strategic planning documents provided by the regional office as guides for the development of the coalition. Ms. Lamsens indicated that the coalition decided not to incorporate as a separate nonprofit organization since several of the agencies participating in the coalition agreed that The Parenting Center would serve as the fiscal agent for the coalition, once funded. In May 2004, The Parenting Center, on behalf of the CHMI, applied for a Targeted Healthy Marriage Compassion Capital grant, which they were awarded in August 2004. As a result of this grant, the coalition was able to bring in trainers from the PAIRS and the Couples Communication Marriage Education Programs to train approximately 50 individuals to deliver these programs in their communities. This “train the trainer” training was provided at no cost to the participants on the condition that they would offer these classes to a minimum of 20 couples within the next year. Ms. Lamsens indicated

that the delay in the availability of the TANF healthy marriage funds has resulted in some decline in member participation; thus, they decided not to hold monthly meetings during the summer months. The CHMI is currently meeting monthly and is using the meetings for member organizations to educate the other organizations about their agency and services. The Healthy Marriage Healthy Family Coalition of Tarrant County plans to elect its first formal officers in March 2005. The coalition is also organizing committees to develop African American and Hispanic initiatives.

Winnie Honeywell stated that the Greater Houston Healthy Marriage Coalition (GHHMC) has been meeting on a monthly basis since February 2004. Ms. Honeywell, who is now the elected Chair of the GHHMC, indicated that she and another founding coalition member desired to form a CHMI in Houston after attending ACF-sponsored conferences and receiving visits from the ACF Regional Office (Dallas) staff. Ms. Honeywell shared that the Regional Family Life and Marriage Program Specialist was very helpful, responsive to their needs, and attended some of their early organizational meetings. GHHMC used the coalition building and strategic planning materials provided by the Regional Office. Ms. Honeywell recommended that any newly formed coalition should use these materials and complete the strategic plan as its first activity.

GHHMC decided to not incorporate and in turn has not received Federal or other funds. To date, there are no paid staff members dedicated to the coalition. They recently developed bylaws and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that all member organizations and individuals must sign in order to participate in GHHMC meetings and activities. These documents were made available to conference attendees. Ms. Honeywell indicated that GHHMC achieved all of its 2004 goals in its strategic plan and is now working on its 2005 goals. She was hopeful that the proposed TANF healthy marriage funds soon become available.

Valerie Ballard shared that the Dallas Area African American Marriage and Relationship Services (DA³MARS) was originally formed in August 2004 as a branch of the Dallas CHMI with the assistance of the ACF Regional Office. She indicated that they utilized the strategic planning guides provided by the Regional Office and used the first several meetings to develop their name, vision, mission, and goals. DA³MARS used a steering committee model of governance and established committees for Training and Education, Coalition Building, and Fund Development. DA³MARS members decided they could not wait for proposed Federal funds; thus, the members decided to pay monthly dues in order to fund its initial activities. DA³MARS is currently refining its strategic plan and is considering the possibility of incorporating as a separate 501c3 non-profit organization. DA³MARS is also participating in an organizational capacity development program being provided by a local Compassion Capital Intermediary grantee.

Irma de la Fuente stated that the Hispanic Opportunities for Marriage Education (HOME) organization is also a branch of the Dallas CHMI and has only had three preliminary organizational meetings. She related that, like DA³MARS, HOME has adopted a steering committee organizational structure (which is primarily composed of

individuals of Hispanic/Latino decent). Ms. de la Fuente stated that the committee, thus far, is gathering statistics and working on its strategic plan using the ACF guides provided by the Regional Office. As with the other coalitions, HOME does not have any paid staff and everyone is taking time from their other full-time jobs to work on this initiative. Ms. de la Fuente stated that HOME was especially interested in applying for any ACF funds targeting Hispanics but is planning on offering a few marriage education courses donated by HOME members in the interim.

Kelly Simpson shared that she was the originator of the Dallas CHMI, which is now called the Alliance of North Texas Healthy and Effective Marriages (ANTHEM). She indicated that this North Texas coalition has been struggling for a couple of years and has restarted its developmental efforts twice. Despite its organizational difficulties, this CHMI has provided some services to the area. For instance, with funding provided by the Families Are Relationships (FAR) Foundation, it has provided “train the trainer” training for several couples in the Marriage Savers Program and also purchased the rights to the Daddy Boot Camp Program for the area. In May 2004, FAR applied for a Compassion Capital Healthy Marriage targeted grant and was awarded this grant in August 2004. Ms. Simpson related that these funds are now being used to assist ANTHEM in obtaining its 501c3, expanding the coalition, and applying for grants. Ms. Simpson also mentioned the importance of including the local domestic violence organizations as early as possible in the formation of the CHMI and recommended that marriage education providers not serve as board of director members of a CHMI.

Bill Coffin congratulated all of the presenters for their willingness and courage to “step up” and initiate a CHMI in their communities without the initial receipt of Federal funds. He also mentioned that ACF is especially interested in funding CHMIs that have already done something in their communities without Federal funds. Mr. Coffin recommended that those interested in starting a CHMI:

- Select a recognized marriage education curriculum and provide “train the trainer” classes to your coalition members as soon as possible. These programs should teach and provide practice in such topics as communication and conflict, resolution skills, and the importance of growth, improvement, and commitment in the marriage. These programs are definitely effective and most couples do not naturally have these skills.
- Involve your local/ State domestic violence organizations from the very beginning of your development and planning.
- Do not wait for Federal funds - do something now. There is a present need for these services and the positive impact they will have on children and parents. ACF is interested in supporting organizations that were willing to begin offering services without the receipt of Federal funds.

Evaluations were completed for this Mega Session in order to measure outcomes, as well as to determine the effectiveness of the speakers and their relation to the audience. The overall rating of the session was 3.56 on a scale of five, with 1 denoting “poor” and 5 denoting “excellent.” A breakdown of the items surveyed included:

- Appropriateness of content presented 3.54
- Level of detail provided 3.48
- Applicability of information to your job 3.24
- Time allotted for workshop 3.60
- Workshop organization 3.77
- Presenters’ knowledge of subject matter 4.07
- Presenters’ ability to communicate/respond to questions 3.45
- Presenters’ ability to guide training, keep on track 3.91
- Participants given opportunity for input into discussion 3.06
- Quality and appropriateness of materials/handouts 3.46
- Comprehensiveness and clarity of training 3.45
- Environment (temperature, set-up) 3.69

Mega Session – Part II: Healthy Marriage and Fatherhood Through Welfare Reform

Moderator: Larry McDowell, Family Life & Marriage Program Specialist – ACF
Region VI

Presenters: Bill Coffin, Special Assistant for Marriage Education, HHS – ACF
H. Wallace Goddard, Ph.D., Extension Family Life Specialist
Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas
Jim Underwood, Director of Family & Legal Policy, Office of Texas
Attorney General
Jeff Johnson, Special Programs Manager, Texas Health & Human
Services Commission

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 --- 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. --- Lone Star Ballroom B

This session provided an overview of ACF’s Healthy Marriage Initiative including the African American, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander initiatives. It also provided information on the proposed provisions, opportunities, and funding in the current TANF Reauthorization bills related to healthy marriage and fatherhood programs. A panel presentation regarding healthy marriage initiatives in the States of Arkansas and Texas discussed their initiatives during the 1 ½ hour session.

Bill Coffin began the presentation addressing the healthy marriage initiative from ACF’s perspective. He mentioned that H.R. 240 was recently introduced by the House, which reads exactly as the previously introduced H.R. 4. Mr. Coffin also mentioned that the current continuing resolution ends March 31; thus, welfare reform will need to either be reauthorized or undergo another continuing resolution. It is hopeful that reauthorization will occur within this fiscal year. Mr. Coffin again stressed that the healthy marriage and fatherhood provisions are not the most controversial. Issues relating to childcare funding, the work participation rates, and the definition of work participation are among the more troublesome issues for some members of Congress. Mr. Coffin did suggest that there could be a “silver lining” in the delays as we continue to learn more about marriage

education. He added that research is providing more information as related programs are developed and implemented. But it is clear that family formation does matter to the well-being of children. According to research findings, children fare better in functional, healthy married, two-parent families as opposed to growing up in dysfunctional families. Mr. Coffin also commented on the two streams of proposed healthy marriage funding: \$100 million for States, Tribes, Territories, and the other \$100 million for research and demonstration competitive grants which would go directly to faith-based and community organizations. ACF will seek different approaches, focusing on different populations, and using different marriage education curricula. Mr. Coffin also mentioned some of the current research projects including Building Strong Families (BSF) and MDRC's Supporting Healthy Marriage (SHM) project. Finally, Mr. Coffin cited several Web sites, which might be of interest to session attendees including the ACF and Smartmarriages sites.

Dr. Wally Goddard discussed newly-formed Healthy Marriage Initiative activities in central Arkansas. He also highlighted a recent survey and a Marriage and Couples Education Model (M/CEM). Dr. Goddard indicated that a broad collaboration of partners is working together in central Arkansas to strengthen marriages. He also discussed the recently completed Statewide marriage survey that was conducted in October and November of 2004 of 1,204 randomly chosen Arkansans. Finally, as part of the survey, Dr. Goddard noted that the Marriage and Couples Education Model (M/CEM) was tested as part of the survey. The Arkansas Healthy Marriage Initiative's partners include the University of Arkansas (Cooperative Extension Service), the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Governor's Office, and members of the faith and community organizations. Dr. Goddard suggested two outcome measures that the survey was addressing: (1) marital satisfaction and (2) relationship optimism. The three most prevalent predictors of marital satisfaction found in the study includes: (1) commitment, (2) nurturing, and (3) service. In addressing "commitment," Dr. Goddard suggested that one needs to look beyond the issues of "meeting my needs." In February of this year, Arkansas launched a campaign that focuses on covenant marriage. It was suggested that one views marriage as a committed partnership.

Jim Underwood, Director of the Office of Family and Legal Policy in the Attorney General's Office of Texas, began his presentation by highlighting the strong partnership that exists in State government in Texas among the Attorney General's Office, the Health and Human Services Commission, and the Texas Workforce Commission around the healthy marriage/fatherhood initiatives. Mr. Underwood mentioned that it was key in terms of developing effective partnerships with other agencies and other community partners. Within the Attorney General's Office, enhancements to add healthy marriage components are being made to the visitation programs and the Paternity and Parenting Awareness (PAPA) program offered for high school students. The reason for the Attorney General creating a special Office of Family and Legal Policy is based on the impact that intact healthy, functional families have on Texas children. The Attorney General recognizes that working with the State's Domestic Violence coalition is essential for an effective and safe program. Also, the State stresses that programs must continue to honor and support single parent families. Mr. Underwood briefly discussed the six

summits that were held around the State last fall (McAllen, El Paso, Arlington, Houston, San Antonio and Lubbock), for the purpose of disseminating healthy marriage program information. The goal of the summits was to convene and connect various community and State level resources. Mr. Underwood also mentioned the marriage handbook, “*When You Get Married*,” which is made available to couples as they apply for marriage licenses and make related preparations. Finally, Mr. Underwood briefly discussed the San Angelo/Houston Building Strong Families (BSF) program that is designed to produce targeted interventions that could be effective as projects work with fragile families.

Jeff Johnson, Special Programs Manager at the Health and Human Services Commission in Austin, discussed the Texas Strengthening Families and Healthy Marriage Initiative. Mr. Johnson presented several pieces of research and Texas data suggesting that many social indicators reflect that children live life optimally, on average, when raised in a married, functional family with a biological mother and father. He also mentioned that healthy marriages not only benefit children but adults. Mr. Johnson said that HHSC has just set aside \$3 million (in TANF funds) for the current State fiscal year to work on this initiative. Specific areas being funded initially include: (1) Building Strong Families project in Houston/San Angelo, (2) Supporting Healthy Marriage projects, (3) Post-adoptive services, (4) Youth education, (5) Mentoring sessions, and (6) Conducting a Texas Survey which will address attitudes, benchmarks on marriage, and related issues. Also discussed was the importance of bringing the Texas Workforce Commission into the initiative based on the importance of ensuring stable relationships by focusing on the parents’ employment stability, job earnings, job retention, and other factors.

Evaluations were completed for this Mega Session in order to measure outcomes, as well as to determine the effectiveness of the speakers and their relation to the audience. The overall rating of the session was 3.93 on a scale of five, with 1 denoting “poor” and 5 denoting “excellent.” A breakdown of the items surveyed included:

- Appropriateness of content presented 3.92
- Level of detail provided 3.98
- Applicability of information to your job 3.82
- Time allotted for workshop 4.06
- Workshop organization 4.12
- Presenters’ knowledge of subject matter 4.31
- Presenters’ ability to communicate/respond to questions 3.73
- Presenters’ ability to guide training, keep on track 4.08
- Participants given opportunity for input into discussion 3.31
- Quality and appropriateness of materials/handouts 4.02
- Comprehensiveness and clarity of training 4.02
- Environment (temperature, set-up) 3.78

Mega Session: Faith-based and Community Initiatives in Region VI

Moderator: Ray Bishop, Director, Office of State & Tribal Programs, ACF-Region VI

Presenters: Corwin Macklin, Faith-based & Community Initiatives Program Director
Arkansas TEA Board
Bobby Gibson, Potter's House Prisoner Re-entry Initiatives, Dallas, TX
Rev. Robert Mayfield, United Way, New Orleans, LA
Cecilia Edwards, Vice President, Foundation for Community
Empowerment, (FCE), Dallas, TX

Tuesday, January 25 --- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. --- Lone Star Ballroom A3

During this session, presenters discussed successful projects for serving low-income families and children in Region VI, which have been implemented by faith-based and community partners. The audience was able to learn more about innovative programs that assist children of prisoners in Texas and Louisiana. The group also learned about efforts to equip faith-based organizations to more effectively serve low-income families in Arkansas and Texas.

Ray Bishop, Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs, opened the session with background information on Region VI programs. Mr. Bishop also provided summaries of President Bush's "Key Presidential Actions" and the use of the Compassion Capital Fund appropriations that support the faith-based programs.

Rev. Robert Mayfield's, United Way, New Orleans, presentation included numerous highlights from the "Communities United and Empowered" and "Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans" organizations. This presentation was centered on wrap-around support services to children of incarcerated parents. Rev. Mayfield brought 47 local programs together in the New Orleans area by using 7 church sites to provide these services to children and prisoners. Unique to this program is the use of teleconferencing services (channeled directly to prison locations) and the extensive support of clergy and volunteer mentor programs. The wrap-around approach is directly designed to prepare the parent for productive society re-entry prior to release. Extensive follow-up and training are made available to the parent and child via mentors and related services.

Bobby Gibson of the Potter's House discussed the church's Prisoner Re-Entry Initiatives. Prisoners in Dallas have a 75 percent re-entry probability after first incarcerated offenses. The "Texas Offender Re-entry Initiative" was designed to prevent this situation. Highlights include satellite broadcasts from inside prisons, special assistance with housing, job preparation, GEDs, marriage and family counseling, clinical and social services, and basic rehabilitation orientations. This program features the interaction of the three "Cs": collaboration, church, and community. It was noted that Texas has the largest number of prisoners released of any State in the country (Dallas and Houston are the largest sites).

Cecilia Edwards discussed Dallas’ Foundation for Community Empowerment (FCE) program. This program features the revitalization of Dallas area neighborhoods. There are 176,000 school-age children in Dallas, TX, many of whom live in poverty. This community-based program works directly in education, housing, and economic development. There are over 150 Community and Faith-based Dallas organizations participating in local measurable outcomes through this “Building Capacities, Building Communities” project. This is a Compassion Capital intermediary grant project whose outcomes have already exceeded prior projects.

Corwin Macklin is the Faith-based and Community Initiatives Program Director at the Arkansas Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) Board. This presentation highlighted community-based program successes over and beyond welfare reform. Forging new partnerships has made this Charitable Choice program successful. New partnerships among church and State, religious organizations, non-profit foundations and local businesses are forming through outreach campaigns, pilot projects, and forums.

Basic key strategies include:

- meeting with State Agency Officials, County Administrators;
- visiting / establishing community organizations, coalitions;
- identifying “Natural Leaders” in communities;
- initiating one-on-one outreach settings; and
- surveying FBOs in Strategy Counties.

Emphasis on addressing fear, distrust, barriers, unmet needs, service gaps, poverty, and social issues has made this program a success for the Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA) customer.

Evaluations were completed for this Mega Session in order to measure outcomes, as well as to determine the effectiveness of the speakers and their relation to the audience. The overall rating of the session was 3.76 on a scale of five, with 1 denoting “poor” and 5 denoting “excellent.” A breakdown of the items surveyed included:

• Appropriateness of content presented	4.05
• Level of detail provided	4.01
• Applicability of information to your job	3.19
• Time allotted for workshop	3.98
• Workshop organization	4.12
• Presenters’ knowledge of subject matter	4.42
• Presenters’ ability to communicate/respond to questions	3.71
• Presenters’ ability to guide training, keep on track	4.18
• Participants given opportunity for input into discussion	3.17
• Quality and appropriateness of materials/handouts	3.41
• Comprehensiveness and clarity of training	3.88
• Environment (temperature, set-up)	2.98

**Workshop: Working with the Traumatized Child (Part I): Oklahoma Pilot –
Green County Behavioral Health Services Head Start – Child Care
Program**

Moderator: Carol Sedanko, Children & Families Program Specialist – Region VI ACF

Presenters: Donald J. Smith, Jr., Ph.D., President/Executive Director, Generations
Center, Dallas, TX
Dean Williams, L.S.W., Muskogee, OK

Wednesday, January 26 --- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. --- Lone Star Ballroom C1

This workshop explored the impact of trauma (e.g., abuse, neglect, and exposure to violence) on the developing child. The components of Dr. Bruce Perry’s program include clinical assessment of the child’s brain development versus chronological age. A treatment plan design, which is easily executed by the Head Start or Child Care provider who receives training on the model, is also included. Staff receives on-going training while working with the children. The assessment methodologies will be explained, as the plan develops and its processes are monitored. The Oklahoma project is based on the Kansas model program, which has successfully operated for 2 years. Dr. Perry provides on-going consultation.

Dr. Don Smith said there are an estimated 4 million to 8 million victims of domestic violence in the United States and between 3.5 million and 17 million children exposed to varying degrees of violence. Violence is a recurring event, which usually escalates over time. Approximately 40 percent of all children in homes who experience violence are themselves victims of abuse and neglect. Dr. Smith described the work of Dr. Bruce Perry, an internationally recognized authority on children in crisis. Dr. Perry is the Senior Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy, a Houston-based organization dedicated to research and education on child maltreatment. Referring to research conducted by Dr. Perry, Dr. Smith discussed the interactions between heredity and environment that influence a child’s brain development. He described the “neurosequential model of therapeutics,” which shows that brain development is sequential, beginning with the brain stem (least complex and least plastic) to the cortex (most complex and most plastic). The most rapid brain growth and differentiation takes place in the first 24 months of life. He said that neurosystems can change, but some are more difficult to change than others. In an effort to illustrate physical differences caused by neglect, Dr. Smith showed CAT scan images of two 3-year-old brains, one normal and one subjected to extreme neglect. He cautioned against giving up on children with early neglect because the body has ways of compensating and re-routing signals around problem areas in the brain.

Dean Williams is the President/CEO of Green Country Behavioral Health Services in Muskogee, OK. He provided data on Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Muskogee and explained that the proposed pilot in Muskogee would involve up to 20 children for at least 2 years prior to kindergarten. He described the therapeutic preschool services provided by the Sumner Mental Health Services in Kansas because this will

serve as the model for the pilot project in Muskogee. Children will be screened for developmental, sensory, and behavioral inconsistencies. Special help will be provided for children who exhibit atypical behavior. Individual treatment plans will be designed and implemented to help develop children’s cognitive development, reasoning, problem-solving and decision-making skills. Community partners include women’s shelters, colleges, mental health facilities, local health departments and human service departments, and several Tribes. Some of the funding streams include Head Start and Early Head Start, CCDF, Medicaid, private pay, and private foundation funds. Mr. Williams said referral rates are increasing as professionals are identifying more children who have been abused or neglected.

Dr. Smith concluded the presentation by discussing the importance of research and described the Kansas model’s child assessment and evaluation protocol. The evaluation (pre- and post-test) of the Kansas program showed that children demonstrated improvement in problem solving, emotional regulation, helpfulness, fair assertiveness, impulse modulation, cooperation, and empathy. He explained that staff training is ongoing for the Muskogee project. He challenged participants to use: (1) an open-minded approach to the therapy, (2) consistency in assessment and evaluation, and (3) frequent training and reinforcement for staff/teachers. This model could potentially prevent or reverse neurological damage, provide children with an opportunity to succeed, and prevent the continued cycle of abuse, neglect, and violence.

Evaluations were completed for this workshop in order to measure outcomes, as well as to determine the effectiveness of the speakers and their relation to the audience. The overall rating of the session was 4.27 on a scale of five, with 1 denoting “poor” and 5 denoting “excellent.” A breakdown of the items surveyed included:

- Appropriateness of content presented 4.39
- Level of detail provided 4.32
- Applicability of information to your job 4.14
- Time allotted for workshop 4.14
- Workshop organization 4.43
- Presenters’ knowledge of subject matter 4.86
- Presenters’ ability to communicate/respond to questions 4.61
- Presenters’ ability to guide training, keep on track 4.46
- Participants given opportunity for input into discussion 4.14
- Quality and appropriateness of materials/handouts 4.64
- Comprehensiveness and clarity of training 4.18
- Environment (temperature, set-up) 2.89

Workshop: Drug Endangered Children – Impact of Methamphetamine Labs

Moderator: Carol Sedanko, Children & Families Program Specialist, ACF, Region VI

Presenters: Deborah Augustine, Victim Witness Specialist, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. (absent)
John Gottlob, Fort Worth Police Department
Joyce Coleman, Program Administrator, Child Protective Services
Dallas, TX
Donald J. Smith, Jr., Ph.D., President/Executive Director, Generations Center, Dallas, TX

Wednesday, January 26, 2005 --- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. --- Lone Star Ballroom C3

The focus of this workshop was on the neglect, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of children at methamphetamine lab sites and the cross-over with domestic violence. The multi-disciplinary response to children at methamphetamine lab sites includes decontamination and medical protocols. The roles and responsibilities of the various community responders were discussed. This breakout session was well-attended with a completely filled room with at least 80 individuals in attendance. Unfortunately, Deborah Augustine was unable to travel to Dallas for her presentation because of a serious illness. The other presenters, however, were able to provide additional documentation and respond to the many questions on this subject from the audience.

John Gottlob shared detailed information on the three types of methamphetamine labs that he sees as a police officer. He described the three types of labs as those that use red phosphorus, hypo-phosphorus, or anhydrous ammonia as the basic ingredient. He also described various precursors and solvents used in the production of methamphetamine, such as ephedrine. Mr. Gottlob talked about the extreme fire danger related to this activity. He pointed out that many of the products used in the production of methamphetamine could be purchased at convenience or corner grocery stores. One example of these products is a lithium battery in which the lithium is extracted and used. He stated that the police have to wear full-protective clothing when entering suspected methamphetamine labs. Mr. Gottlob cited that 94 percent of methamphetamine users who try to stop using the drug, independently or through counseling, ultimately relapse.

Joyce Coleman, noted the enormous physical, developmental, emotional, and psychosocial damage that occurs in children who live in home-based methamphetamine labs. She described the process used in her Investigative Taskforce on parents with drug use and their infant children. After a suspected drug abuse case is reported, the task force notifies law enforcement, checks the social service history of the household, and will meet with the children found in these labs. Cook Children's Hospital is working with the task force to determine what medical steps need to be taken after a child is removed from a home used as a methamphetamine lab. Ms. Coleman mentioned that the toxicity of products used in methamphetamine production preclude removal of the child's clothes, toys, or other objects from the home and their return to the child.

Don Smith, Ph.D., President and Executive Director of Generations Center in Dallas, TX, which conducts research regarding the effects of violence and trauma on children, described the consequences of living in an environment of dangerous drugs. He stated that the number of children exposed to the inherently dangerous processes used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine has more than doubled in the last few years. Dr. Smith added that the numbers continue to rise despite the efforts of law enforcement. He described the neglect, physical and sexual abuse these children experience. Some of the effects of exposure to this environment result in the children showing aggression, substance abuse, anger, cruelty to animals, social skills deficit, and/or destructiveness. He spoke of some of the signs that teachers have been instructed to identify in their students. Indications of drug exposure may be disruptive behavior in class, truancy, declining grades, inattentiveness in class, or recurring health problems. His handout also included information on the in utero effects of exposure to this drug. Unfortunately, more than 90 percent of all methamphetamine labs go undetected.

Evaluations were completed for this workshop in order to measure outcomes, as well as to determine the effectiveness of the speakers and their relation to the audience. The overall rating of the session was 4.05 on a scale of five, with 1 denoting “poor” and 5 denoting “excellent.” A breakdown of the items surveyed included:

- Appropriateness of content presented 4.16
- Level of detail provided 4.06
- Applicability of information to your job 3.94
- Time allotted for workshop 4.07
- Workshop organization 3.97
- Presenters’ knowledge of subject matter 4.42
- Presenters’ ability to communicate/respond to questions 4.24
- Presenters’ ability to guide training, keep on track 4.22
- Participants given opportunity for input into discussion 4.28
- Quality and appropriateness of materials/handouts 3.97
- Comprehensiveness and clarity of training 4.15
- Environment (temperature, set-up) 3.10

Workshop: Working with the Traumatized Child – Part II: Child Witness to Violence

Moderator: Carol Sedanko, Children & Families Program Specialist, ACF, Region VI

Presenters: Donald J. Smith, Jr., Ph.D., President/Executive Director, Generations Center, Dallas, TX
 Jan Langbein, Executive Director, Genesis Women’s Shelter
 Melanie Prescott, Director of Residential Services, New Beginnings Center, Garland, TX

Wednesday, January 26, 2005 --- 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. --- Lone Star Ballroom A1

This session provided baseline information on domestic and community violence, in part as seen through the eyes of a child, and the impact on children’s physical, emotional, and intellectual development. In addition, the audience was given specific information with respect to methods for working with children in play therapy; recommended materials were also highlighted.

Jan Langbein opened the workshop with the viewing of a very dynamic presentation about domestic violence. Ms. Langbein showed a Tina McBride music video, “Independence Day,” which recounts the story of a little girl who goes to the “county home” when her mother commits suicide after a history of being battered by her husband. Ms. Langbein presented children’s drawings that depicted their feelings and impressions of violence in their homes.

Dr. Don Smith presented an overview of the physical and psychological impact on the child who has witnessed family violence, as well as societal changes related to violence. These include the events of September 11, 2001, school and community violence, as well as violence in the media. Dr. Smith’s presentation included the behavioral manifestations that a Child Care or Head Start provider would observe.

Melanie Prescott works with children who have witnessed family violence. She presented specific information about play therapy, safety planning, and recommended books and other materials.

Evaluations were completed for this workshop in order to measure outcomes, as well as to determine the effectiveness of the speakers and their relation to the audience. The overall rating of the session was 4.39 on a scale of five, with 1 denoting “poor” and 5 denoting “excellent.” A breakdown of the items surveying included:

- Appropriateness of content presented 4.62
- Level of detail provided 4.55
- Applicability of information to your job 4.34
- Time allotted for workshop 4.17
- Workshop organization 4.48
- Presenters’ knowledge of subject matter 4.66
- Presenters’ ability to communicate/respond to questions 4.41
- Presenters’ ability to guide training, keep on track 4.55
- Participants given opportunity for input into discussion 4.10
- Quality and appropriateness of materials/handouts 4.52
- Comprehensiveness and clarity of training 4.52
- Environment (temperature, set-up) 3.69