



The EB-Advocate

evidence-based associates

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Blueprints Pioneers Converge for Highly-Anticipated Conference

The opening plenary session at the 2010 Blueprints Conference in San Antonio, Texas, is an event not to be missed by anyone involved in helping at-risk youth. The conference will open with an historic gathering of leaders of the Blueprints for Violence Prevention effort to discuss 'A 10-Year Retrospective and Look to the Future.' In a fast-paced and unrehearsed format, these pioneers will discuss how far evidence-based programs have come since their initial development and how far we still have to go to ensure effective public policy.

Confirmed participants include:

- **Del Elliott**, founder of the Blueprints project and director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado;
- **Shay Bilchik**, former administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (1992-2000) and current director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University;
- **David Olds**, director of the Prevention Research Center for Family and Child Health at the University of Colorado and developer of Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP);
- **Mary Ann Pentz**, director of the Center for Prevention Policy Research at the University of Southern California and developer of the Midwestern Prevention Project;
- **Mark Greenberg**, director of the Prevention Research Center at Pennsylvania State University and developer of the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS);
- **Gil Botvin**, director of the Institute for Prevention Research at Cornell University and developer of Life Skills Training (LST);
- **Jim Alexander**, professor of psychology at the University of Utah and developer of Functional Family Therapy (FFT); and
- **Scott Henggeler**, director of the Family Services Research Center at the Medical University of South Carolina and developer of Multisystemic Therapy (MST).

EBA Launches Washington, D.C. Initiative

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The discussion will be moderated by Clay Yeager, Evidence-Based Associates' consultant, former director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a keynote speaker at the Blueprints Conference in 2008.



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EB-Advocate

The *EB-Advocate* is a quarterly publication created by Evidence-Based Associates to spotlight community-based, model programs for at-risk youth, as well as the people and the news that surrounds them. Advertising opportunities are available. Requests to be added to the *EB-Advocate* mailing list can be made by visiting: www.evidencebasedassociates.com.

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For more information about Evidence-Based Associates and how our team can help you navigate the complex challenges of implementing evidence-based programs and obtain successful outcomes, please contact:

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EBA Enters the World of Social Media

Join us on Facebook and Twitter as we continue our quest to advocate for change within the field. We will utilize our online presence to spread the word about news, noteworthy reports and studies, as well as keep our followers informed about what EBA is doing to support system reform.



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Secretary, Health and Human Services May 17, 2001



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Justice Grants Administration and EBA Launch Initiative to “Put Families First”

In order to effectively implement new Functional Family Therapy (FFT) teams ‘inside the beltway,’ the Justice Grants Administration (JGA), a division of the District of Columbia’s mayor’s office, has contracted with EBA to oversee project implementation. Under this initiative, two new FFT teams are scheduled to start operations in January 2010.

In June, Student Support Services and the Progressive Life Center were selected as the provider organizations by JGA and EBA. Referrals will come from the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services, the Child and Family Services Administration and other local child-serving agencies.



The primary purpose of the “Put Families First” project is to expand the availability of evidence-based programs to youth, who are already in contact with police, and their families. A secondary purpose is to further develop the capacity of service providers’ organizations and funding agencies so they can maintain quality services with adherence to model standards and also, with minimal assistance, select and successfully implement other evidence-based programs district-wide.

JGA is responsible for directing and administering grant funds for the community to improve programs, policies and coordination for the district’s juvenile and criminal justice systems.

During the course of this project, district-area youth and families will gain access to one of two FFT programs, each serving approximately 100 youth and families per year. FFT was identified as the program of choice because of its reputation in the marketplace as a model program and its proven track record of working with at-risk youth, ages 11 to 18, and their families.

If successful, the district will benefit from not only the improvement of stronger families in the community, the reduction of rearrest/recidivism rates, and significant reductions in placements (and placement-related costs), but also from increased capacity for implementation of other proven programs in the future.

For more information about the “Put Families First” project, visit www.evidencebasedassociates.com.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

EXPECT SUCCESS

Evidence-Based Programs: Lasting Impacts Conference

West Palm Beach, FL February 25-26, 2010

Top national experts in the areas of early childhood, youth development, juvenile justice, substance abuse, mental health, teen pregnancy, and violence prevention.

Keynotes: Steve Aos, Jon Baron, Alan Brown, Ph.D., Gail Christopher, D.N., Del Elliott, Ph.D., Sid Gardner and Jim Mayer

www.cscpsc.org/evidence



Florida Lawmakers and Community Leaders Receive Awards at FFT Statewide Conference

Honored guests at the Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Redirection Awards Reception received the “Leading the Way” Innovative Leadership Award for their support and commitment to the state of Florida’s Redirection project. The project, recently recognized nationally, helps troubled teens become productive members of their families and communities.

The Honorable Jeff Atwater, President of the Florida Senate, **Secretary Frank Peterman Jr.** from Florida’s Department of Juvenile Justice (FDJJ), **Representative David Rivera**, Florida House of Representatives, **Honorable Judge Lester Langer**, 11th Judicial Circuit Court and **Isabel Afanador**, FDJJ Chief Probation Officer, were recognized during the Back to Basics FFT Conference held at the Marriott Harbor Beach Hotel on November 12-13.



The Honorable Judge Lester Langer, 11th Judicial Circuit Court and Isabel Afanador, Chief Probation Officer for Florida’s Department of Juvenile Justice



(L to R) Florida Rep. David Rivera and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Frank Peterman

“These distinct individuals have dedicated their lives to finding solutions for youth, keeping families together and saving Florida millions of dollars,” said Dr. James Alexander, FFT senior researcher and co-founder. “Their involvement has been an integral part of Redirection’s success among the more than 4,000 families that have been helped throughout Florida. We look forward to Redirection’s growth across the state and are grateful for the unwavering endorsement of these lawmakers and leaders.”

In 2004, the FDJJ launched the Redirection project in an effort to “redirect” troubled youth from residential placements to a more effective, family-focused, evidence-based treatment option in the child’s home. Programs, such as FFT, are utilized by provider organizations across the state to teach good communication and decision-making skills that strengthen families. Redirection has consistently demonstrated strong positive outcomes in addressing the needs of delinquent youth and their families.

As one of three model programs for at-risk youth offered through the Redirection project, FFT targets youth, between the ages of 11 and 18, from a variety of ethnic and cultural groups. The program is intensive and involves the teenager and their family meeting with a therapist for approximately 12 times during a three- to four-month period. Collectively, FFT has helped more than 30,000 families nationwide.

The Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA) released an independent evaluation demonstrating that Redirection has significantly outperformed the effectiveness of residential juvenile delinquency programs. According to OPPAGA, Redirection has helped the state avoid \$36.4 million dollars in placement costs since its



(L to R) Jim Alexander, from FFT and Marianne Moran from Senator Jeff Atwater’s office



(L to R) Isabel Afanador, Jim Alexander, Judge Lester Langer, Barbara Byrne, Bob Rhen, Doug Kopp and Dan Edwards

inception. In addition, juveniles that graduate from Redirection are less likely to be arrested, adjudicated or committed and in turn, that has helped save an additional \$5.4 million in recommitment and adult prison costs.

OPPAGA is directed by the Florida Legislature to examine and evaluate Redirection and report its findings. To download the full OPPAGA Report No. 09-27, visit www.oppaga.state.fl.us.

“These distinct individuals have dedicated their lives to finding solutions for youth, keeping families together and saving Florida millions of dollars,” said Dr. James Alexander, FFT senior researcher and co-founder.

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With 30 years of research, it is widely recognized as a “Top-Tier” evidence-based program (The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy) that is a “prudent investment” (The Brookings Institution) delivering “real returns” to communities (The RAND Corporation).

www.nursefamilypartnership.org

Lone Star State Hosts National Violence Prevention Conference – *Registration Open!*

Every other year, professionals in the juvenile justice field convene for the highly-anticipated Blueprints Conference, sponsored by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado at Boulder. At the 2010 conference, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, April 7-9, 2010, attendees will hear from a variety of well-known experts from the field during keynote sessions, interactive panel discussions, workshops and more.

The goal of the conference is to disseminate science-based information about youth violence, delinquency, and drug prevention programs that are effective. The focus of the Blueprints Conference is to motivate the prevention field to adopt evidence-based programs and provide support, guidance and tools to help practitioners implement these programs successfully in their own communities.

The conference offers continuing education and networking opportunities for those interested in evidence-based prevention and intervention programs for youth and their families and sets a foundation for future

collaboration among evidence-based programs. This event is the field's most comprehensive conference, with leaders attending from around the country.



For details about the 2010 Blueprints Conference, visit www.blueprintsconference.com.

Blueprints

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Global Footprint: Evidence-Based Programs for At-Risk Youth

The following footprint measures the influence these four community-based, model programs* have within the juvenile justice system.

Presence	FFT	MST	MTFC	NFP	Combined
# states	39	31	17	28	115
# countries	6	12	10	1	29
# youth/families per year	30,000	21,480	1,800	19,849	73,129

Network	FFT	MST	MTFC	NFP	Combined
# teams	260	462	106	240†	1,068
# therapists/nurses	1,300	1,432	N/A	1,097	3,829
# supervisors	95	462**	N/A	240	797
# expert service consultants	20	68	24	34	146

Clinical Trials	FFT	MST	MTFC	NFP	Combined
	11	11	8	3	33

Research Funding Since Conception	FFT	MST	MTFC	NFP	Combined
	\$33M +	\$40M +	\$20M +	\$48M +	\$141M +

Key Endorsements	FFT	MST	MTFC	NFP
Blueprints for Violence Prevention	●	●	●	●
U.S. Surgeon General	●	●	●	●
Washington State Institute for Public Policy	●	●	●	●
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services		●		
Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy		●	●	●
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration		●	●	●
President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health	●	●	●	●
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	●	●	●	●
National Institute on Drug Abuse	●	●	●	

Key: FFT = Functional Family Therapy | MST = Multisystemic Therapy | MTFC = Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care | NFP = Nurse-Family Partnership

*Each of these programs have been identified by Blueprints for Violence Prevention as outstanding violence and drug prevention programs that meet a high scientific standard of effectiveness.

†Total reflects the number of teams supervised, rather than counties, as previously reported by the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office.

**Each MST team has a designated clinical supervisor. Supervisors may oversee up to two teams.



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A Blueprints for Violence Prevention model program





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EBA News

EBA Expands Washington, D.C. Team



Yvonne Doerre has joined EBA as project manager for the “Put Families First” project in Washington D.C. The “Put Families First” project was established by the Justice Grants Administration to assist with the implementation of evidence-based practices (EBPs).

Doerre received her bachelor’s degree from Indiana University and her master’s degree from Washington University’s George Warren Brown School of Social Work. She has worked in the mental health and child welfare fields for 15 years and served as an independent trainer and consultant for various community and government agencies for the last eight years.

“We are eager to help FFT succeed in Washington and Yvonne is the perfect addition to make this project a success,” says Dan Edwards, EBA’s chief operating officer. “With her experience and leadership skills, we will be able to address the needs of hundreds of high-risk youth in the Washington area and further expand implementation of model programs across the country.”

EBA Chief Operating Officer Appointed to National Association Board



Earlier this year, **Dan Edwards**, EBA’s COO was appointed to the board of the Association for the Advancement of Evidence-Based Practice (AAEBP). AAEBP is a cooperative association of innovative service providers, researchers, policy makers, and program developers who promote the development, adoption, and implementation of evidence-based programs for at-risk youth and their families. **To learn more about AAEBP, visit www.aaebp.org.**

Ramirez Joins EBA as Media Specialist



Yusila Ramirez of YR Media Consulting has joined the EBA team as a media specialist. Ramirez will focus on coordinating directly with media outlets throughout Florida to develop stories that inform the public about EBA’s work in the field. As president of YR Media Consulting, Ramirez has more than 17 years experience in the news and media relations industry and has worked in both radio and television news as a reporter and anchor in a number of markets throughout Florida including Miami, Orlando and Fort Myers.