
Home-Based Family Support Services: Part of the Comprehensive National Plan to Improve the Overall Health and Safety of Children

Vicki A. Wallach RN, MPH, ACSW

As a nation, we face enormous political, social, and economic challenges in the areas of family violence, substance abuse, mental health disorder, homelessness and chronic unemployment. These multidimensional problems are seen to have etiologic roots in family systems that are plagued with pervasive poverty, high stress and social isolation. The incidence of child abuse and neglect has reached crisis proportions with 2.9 million reports during the preceding year. Further, the national rate of child maltreatment fatalities has risen steadily over the past 6 years. In 1993, an estimated 1,299 children were the victims of fatal interpersonal violence.¹

The former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop MD, who is credited with publicizing family violence as a public health problem, has advocated for systematic prevention efforts to address the antecedents and consequences of violence.² An analogy can be made between the field of immunology, which provides children with exposure to attenuated disease-producing organisms in calculated doses in order to reduce vulnerability to illness, and systematic support services that enhance a family's ability to cope with potentially noxious, difficult life circumstances. According to Garbarino, child maltreatment can be prevented by thwarting the necessary conditions for child abuse and neglect, thereby *disarming* the problem.³

While there is no single approach that can address the range of family needs associated with maladaptive parenting, child maltreatment can be significantly reduced if a continuum of supportive, educational and therapeutic services is made available to families around the time of birth.⁴ These services utilize models of practice that attend to the interrelationships in families' basic life conditions, the parents' well-being as individuals, specific aspects of parenting capacity, and healthy child development. Home visitation, increasingly regarded as a fundamental component of these programs, has been found to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and improve the short and

long-term health and well-being of children and families.

Conclusions drawn from empirical research suggest that the provisions of carefully conceptualized and implemented home visitation services for pregnant women and parents with young children can improve maternal and child health.⁵ This evidence has been convincing; the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, in summarizing its recommendations for dealing with the child abuse crisis in America, placed neonatal universal home visit programs as a critical first step in designing a comprehensive plan to improve the overall health and safety of children.⁶ Further, in 1989 the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality cited home visiting as a core component in its strategy to improve birth outcomes in the United States,⁷ and in 1991 the General Accounting Office issued a report addressing the need for the expansion of federal funds allocated to home visiting services.⁸

Hawaii's Healthy Start program, home-based services to families that are identified as being at risk for child abuse and neglect, is the model for the nation-wide effort of the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse and Ronald McDonald Children's Charities to create *Healthy Families America*. Nearly all 50 states now have established task forces to advance the efforts of the *Healthy Families* initiative.⁹

Despite bold service initiatives such as *Healthy Families America*, the challenges faced by our nation are enormous as it continues to move forward in an effort to reduce the vulnerability of American children who are being raised in social and economic impoverishment that jeopardizes their well-being. In particular, there is an apparent relationship between the poverty level of the child and every aspect of compromised family functioning. Poor child outcomes, ranging from infant mortality, low birth weight, child abuse, inadequate parenting, and childhood developmental delays, compel us to continue to explore conceptual models and service-oriented strategies that could maximize positive changes in families. Schorr¹⁰ has outlined the attributes of successful programs that make a difference in the lives of overburdened families: Offer a broad spectrum of services; view the child in the context of the family, and the family in the context of its surroundings; professionals are perceived by those they serve as people who care about them and respect them, and as people they can trust; services are coherent and user-friendly; services adapt or circumvent tradi-

Vicki A. Wallach RN, MPH, ACSW
Program Manager
Healthy Start
Honolulu, Hawaii

tional professional and bureaucratic limitations as needed; professionals can redefine their roles to respond to overwhelming and often unarticulated human needs. To summarize, programs that succeed in helping at-risk families are intensive, comprehensive, and flexible.

As a nation, we have only begun to define the parameters of promising family-focused service strategies that can be designed to meet the social and psychological needs of families. In addition, the integration of intervention across health, education, and human services is emerging as a basic service paradigm with the growing recognition that risk factors identified by each service system stem from the same precipitants. The Healthy and Ready to Learn Center, born out of the vision of Calvin Sia MD and administered by the Hawaii Medical Association, exemplifies this interdisciplinary model of service. Increasingly, we are accruing the tools to design solutions to complex problems that seem out of reach. Our children's futures depend on these coordinated efforts on their behalf.

► Continued on Page 261

**Infusion therapies
and high-risk pregnancy
management services
outside the hospital.**

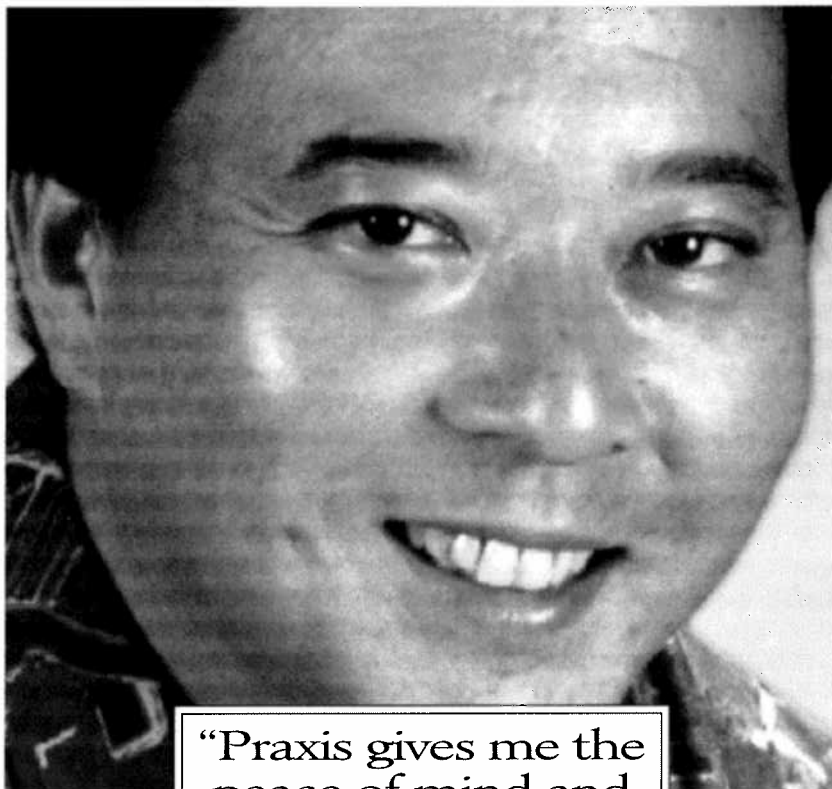
CAREMARK

**Improving people's lives,
starting with yours.**

677-1288

**Neighbor Isles
(800) 621-3592**

**94-479 Ukee Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797-4212**



**"Praxis gives me the
peace of mind and
freedom to focus
on patient care."**

*With the
accelerat-*

*ing dynamics of computers
and insurance billing, it made
good business sense to work
with Praxis. I did not want to
worry about costly program
upgrades, outdated technology,
and the increasing flood of
paperwork. Moreover, I was
better able to manage our staff
and focus them on patient
outreach and education.*

*A Praxis
account*

*manager is accountable to me
and provides me with the
information and control I need
to run our clinic efficiently. The
collective expertise of the
organization and their vested
interest in my success has
been invaluable.*

*—Keith Katano,
Group Administrator,
Medical Arts Clinic*



Praxis

A U N I Q U E H A W A I I R E S O U R C E

1585 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1800, Honolulu, HI 96814 • Telephone 941-3363

- of estrogen in women: Results from the Lipid Research Clinics Program Follow-up Study. *Circulation*. 1987;75:1102-09.
12. Henderson BE, Paganini-Hill A, Ross RK. Estrogen replacement therapy and protection from acute myocardial infarction. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 1988;159:312-17.
 13. Walsh BW, Schiff I, Rosner B, Greenberg L, Ravnitkar V, Sacks FM. Effects of postmenopausal estrogen replacement on the concentrations of plasma lipoproteins. *N Engl J Med*. 1991;325:1196-204.
 14. Genant HK, Baylink DJ, Gallagher JC, Harris ST, Steiger P, Herber M. Effect of estrone sulfate on postmenopausal bone loss. *Obstet Gynecol*. 1990;76:579-84.
 15. Harris ST, Genant HK, Baylink DJ, et al. The effects of estrone (Ogen) on spinal bone density of postmenopausal women. *Arch Intern Med*. 1991;151:1980-84.
 16. Lufkin EG, Wahner HW, O'Fallon WM, et al. Treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis with transdermal estrogen. *Ann Intern Med*. 1992;117:1-9.
 17. Chetkowski RJ, Meldrum DR, Steingold KA, et al. Biologic effects of transdermal estradiol. *N Engl J Med*. 1986;314:1615-20.
 18. Ettinger B, Genant HK, Steiger P, Madvig P. Low-dosage micronized 17 β -estradiol prevents bone loss in postmenopausal women. *J Obstet Gynecol*. 1992;166:479-88.
 19. USP, 8th supplement.
 20. Physicians' Desk Reference. Montvale, NJ: Medical Economics Data Production Company; 1994.
 21. Steinert KK, Thacker SB, Smith SJ, et al. A meta-analysis of the effect of estrogen replacement on the risk of breast cancer. *JAMA*. 1991;265:1985-90.
 22. Voigt LF, Weiss NS, Chu J, Daling JR, McKnight B, van Belle

- G. Progestagen supplementation of exogenous estrogens and risk of endometrial cancer. *Lancet* 1991;338:274-7.
23. Bush TL, Cowan LD, Barrett-Corner E, et al. Estrogen use and all-cause mortality. *JAMA*. 1983;249:903-6.
 24. Watts NB, Harris ST, Genant HK, et al. Intermittent cyclical etidronate treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. *N Engl J Med*. 1990;323:73-9.
 25. Storm T, Thamsborg G, Steiniche T, Genant HK, Sorenson OH. Effect of intermittent cyclical etidronate therapy on bone mass and fracture rate in women with postmenopausal osteoporosis. *N Engl J Med*. 1990;322:1265-71.
 26. Tilyard MW, Spears GFS, Thomson J, Dovey S. Treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis with calcitriol or calcium. *N Engl J Med*. 1992;326:357-62.
 27. Gruber HE, Evey JL, Baylink DJ, et al. Long-term calcitonin therapy in postmenopausal osteoporosis. *Metabolism*. 1984;33:295-303.

Home-Based Family Support Services: Part of the Comprehensive National Plan to Improve the Overall Health and Safety of Children

► (Continued from Page 253)

References

1. Healthy Families America. National Committee for Child

- Abuse Prevention. 1994; Advocacy Kit.
2. American Medical Association. A proposed AMA national campaign against family violence. *Report of the Board of Trustees*. Presented by Joseph T. Painter MD.
3. Garbarino J, Price RH, Ketterer RF, Bader BC, Monahan J (eds). Preventing child maltreatment. *Prevention*. 1980;G3-79.
4. Daro N. *Confronting Child Abuse: Research Effective Program Design*. New York, NY: Free Press; 1988.
5. Olds DL, Henderson CR Jr, Tatlebaum R, Chamberlain R. Improving the life-course development of socially disadvantaged mothers: A randomized trial of nurse home visitation. *Am J Public Health*. 1986;78;143;1445.
6. Child abuse and neglect: Critical first steps in response to national emergency. Washington DC: U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect; 1990. U.S. Government Printing Office No 0-017-092-00104.
7. Home visiting: Opening doors for America's pregnant women and children. Washington DC: National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality; 1989.
8. Home visiting: A promising early intervention strategy for at-risk families. Washington, DC: U.S. General Accounting Office, Report to the Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate. 1990: U.S. Government Printing Office.
9. Mitchell L, Donnelly AC. *Healthy Families America: Building a National System*. American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Advisory. 1993;9:10:27.
10. Schorr LS. *Within Our Reach; Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage*. New York, NY: Doubleday; 1988;257-259.

Classified Notices

To place a classified notice:

HMA members.— Please send a signed and type-written ad to the HMA office. As a benefit of membership, HMA members may place a complimentary one-time classified ad in *HMJ* as space is available.

Nonmembers.— Please call 536-7702 for a non-member form. Rates are \$1.50 a word with a minimum of 20 words or \$30. Not commissionable. Payment must accompany written order.

Wanted

MD/DO wanted to join multi-disciplinary personal injury practice. Interests in rehabilitation or internal medicine. Terms negotiable. Contact Dr Carl Gallegos at (808) 523-0030.

Position for NYC-trained Internist. ER experience, ATLS/ACLS, local license and insurance. Flexible hrs. NY, Hawaii references. (808) 949-6553.

Medical Director, BE/BC FP with MPH or administrative experience preferred for rural community health center. Salary commensurate with experience. Call Kawahine at 259-7948 or fax 259-6449.

Wanted! Primary care physician for fully equipped medical office in central Honolulu. Convenient location. Established practice. Flexible lease or long-term arrangement. Call 537-7494 or 373-1824.

Pediatrician, board-certified with 12 years solo practice experience desires general pediatric full or part time position; any area. Call 524-9157 or write 1571 Piikoi St., No 1204, Honolulu, HI 96822.

Office Space

Physician office space available in large medical group in Manoa with common clerical support. Available immediately. Call Lillian Evanson-Ziegler RN at 988-7000.

Office space to share Kahala office tower. Available now 735-7681.

For Sale

For sale. Clinistat chemistry analyzer. Excellent condition. Reasonably priced. Contact Ana at 531-6886.

Active Dermatological practice in fully equipped office for takeover. Timing and other arrangements very flexible. Call 528-1717 days; 732-6215 evenings.

Services

Medical billing services. Patient statements, EMC claims processing, accurate management reports. Personalized service, affordable rates. Call Linda at MEDCON, 235-4782.

Are your billing methods producing desired results? Pathfinder Business Services offers computerized billing and account tracking capabilities at reasonable prices. Free consultation. Call 625-1085.

Insurance woes? Having difficulty with insurance collections? We have more than 15 years of insurance experience. Call MEDCON, 235-4782 today!

Medical transcriber: Independent contractor, reasonable rates, 1 to 2 day turnaround, pick up and delivery. Reliable, professional service. Call Judy at 593-3695.



JOHN SHUBERT
V.P., General Manager

ABC MORTGAGE

SUPERMARKET OF HOME LOANS!

- Residential/Construction/Land Loans
- Lease Fee Purchase 90% LTV/REFI
- Cash Out 80% LTV
- 90% LTV Start Rate ARM/Many Options
- Free Prequalification/Appraisal to \$500
- Good People Bad Credit - We Can Help!
- Loans from \$100,000 - 1,500,000
- We Make House Calls!



CHU LAN SHUBERT
President, Sr. Exec. Loan Specialist

ABC MORTGAGE

1585 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 830, Hon., HI 96814

949-2442

"We Do Loans Right!"