



TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

September 2012

TAIMH NEWS

Texas Association for Infant Mental Health

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Save the Date for Food for Thought 2013!

That's right! Food for Thought is just around the corner and planning is in full swing. Next year's theme will be "Practical Magic" and all sessions will be held from 11:30am-1pm at KERA in Dallas. The dates will be: **February 22, March 29, April 26 and May 31**, so mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information about sessions and speakers!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September is member renewal month and we need you as a member, as a voice for babies in your community and at the state level. Together we can accomplish our mission of "supporting the healthy emotional development of infants, toddlers and their families."

Over the past several months we have seen significant growth in our organization. San Antonio and Houston have established active and creative chapters. In fact the TAIMH's Annual Meeting will be in San Antonio in conjunction with their conference, Nurturing Connections for Young Children. So be sure to register for this outstanding Conference on October 11th and 12th.

TAIMH is continuing to provide training to groups around the state, based on our curriculum "Teaching and Training in Child Care of Infant Mental Health". Through funding from The Trull Foundation we are training 25 child care staff in Palacios. H-E-B is making possible for us to have training sessions in Austin for child protective service staff and child care staff. With all we know about brain development and the importance of the early years, it is vital that we reach out to educate the care givers and the public on what babies need to be socially and emotionally healthy.

To do all this work we need to raise funds and our Board has taken on the challenge of raising \$100,000 between October 1st and December 31st. So, if you can, please make gift that can help us towards this goal. TAIMH is one of the few voices in the state for babies and we need your support.

Best to all of you,

Susan



Susan Craven
Executive Director



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow TAIMH member,

As I approach the end of my term of service as board president, I find myself thinking about two things: 1. The past. 2. The future.

Over the past several years, TAIMH has impacted the lives of thousands of Texas babies by working to influence childcare legislation; providing relationship-based infant mental health training to childcare professionals across the state; expanding its membership base; and creating a more diversified board of directors to promote involvement of the whole community. These changes have occurred despite a challenging economic climate and legislative decisions that have threatened the healthy social and emotional development of babies in Texas. I believe this growth has been possible because of people like you and all your colleagues in TAIMH.

The future of babies in Texas depends on our continued commitment. As we look forward to that future I will reiterate an appeal that I made in the April 2011 newsletter. Our mission is "to promote the healthy emotional development of infants and toddlers." As such, we must do all that we can to address issues that impact this mission in either a positive or negative way. Contact your legislator to express your concerns and opinions. Become involved in community efforts that seek to address the needs of infants and toddlers. If such efforts are not present in your community, help to create them.

I am privileged to have served TAIMH over the past three years I hope to continue involvement for many years to come. There is much work left to be done.

Thank you for your dedication to this cause.



Kenneth J. Graves, PhD
Board President



BABYCONNECTIONS AUSTIN

Baby Connections, the Austin Area chapter of TAIMH, continues its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month from 9-10:30 at 5207 Airport Blvd. (Child, Inc., Bond Room). We typically have about 25 in attendance for each meeting with high quality speakers. We currently have approximately 50 members. Our business meetings generally include presentations and trainings for professionals, networking opportunities, as well as a way for presenters and community professionals to expand their ideas, share experiences, and perform their work with the latest evidenced based models and research.

This summer we have had presentations on the following topics:

- PTSD & Children in the Child Welfare System (by Naijean Bernard-Onwere, Ph. D)
- Traumatic Grief & Loss in African American Children (Bernard-Onwere, Ph. D)
- Parenting Techniques through Separation & Reunification (Katie Compton, CFLE Parent Educator)

Upcoming presentations include:

- Emotional Literacy (presented by Judy Lockhart, Speech Pathologist) in September
- Conflict Resolution (presented by Ellen Lachewitz, M. Ed.) in October

Please feel free to join us, or call our new President **Holly Gurslin** for further information at 512-454-3743. Holly Gurslin is an LPC and comes to our chapter from Any Baby Can where she heads the mental health services programs. We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio in October!

-Holly Gurslin

ALAMO ALLIANCE FOR NURTURING YOUNG CHILDREN



Alamo Alliance for Nurturing Young Children
TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

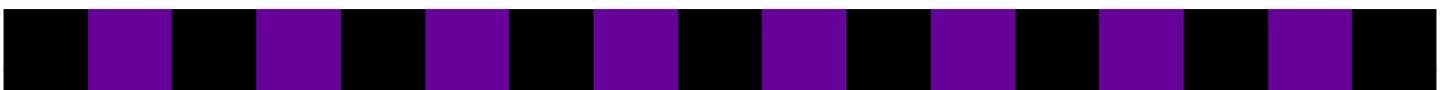
The Alamo Alliance for Nurturing Young Children (AANYC) is alive and well in San Antonio! This chapter is off to a great start. Officers have been selected, bylaws have been written, logo has been designed and over 40 members have joined TAIMH.

The AANYC continues to meet at Boys Town Texas during lunchtime on the 4th Tuesday of each month for networking, and

training opportunities. Our training committee has been very active planning and facilitating two Saturday morning "Food For Thought" training sessions in July and August, at which we had approximately 60 people attend each session. Our Food for Thought series will pick back up in January with our third session on Self-Regulation. We are grateful to have Dr. Ellen Shrouf and Ms. Julie Yocham volunteer to be our first presenters and to Seton Home and Brighton Center to host the two events. We have had multiple compliments from attendees regarding the sessions.

Several AANYC members have also been actively engaged in planning the TAIMH Nurturing Connections conference to be held here in San Antonio in October. We are excited to host this annual meeting and to be able to offer an additional day of training at the conference. We look forward to meeting other TAIMH chapter members in October!

-Janie Cook



DR. BERRY T. BRAZELTON HONORED BY THE WHITE HOUSE!

We are pleased to announce Dr. Berry T. Brazelton has been honored by the Obama Administration as a Champion of Change for his commitment to delivering on the promise of Head Start in his community and for helping to educate and care for the youngest, most vulnerable children in the United States. Dr. Brazelton has been a practicing pediatrician for more than 60 years and has advised both Republican and Democratic administrations on children's health. He is a professor emeritus of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and founded the Brazelton Touchpoints Center at

Boston Children's Hospital. The Brazelton Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS) is used in hospitals around the world and he is internationally renowned for his groundbreaking research on newborns and his straightforward, accessible advice for parents. Dr. Brazelton was honored by the Texas Association for Infant Mental Health with the very first Berry T. Brazelton Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award and has continued to participate in our biennial Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award and Conference awarding the award to such notables as Dr. Bruce

Perry, Dr. Karen Purvis, and Judge John Specia. We could not be more excited for Dr. Brazelton for his recognition with this prestigious award. Dr. Brazelton may be 94 years old, but he continues to be an advocate for best practice for infants and toddlers in the United States and around the world.

For more information about Dr. Brazelton's Champion of Change award, please visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/06/18/investing-early-our-children>.

TAIMH GETS GRANT TO TRAIN IN RURAL PALACIOS!

TAIMH has received a generous grant from the **Trull Foundation** to expand the Endorsement system and to train childcare staff in Palacios, Texas, a small community southwest of Houston. This is TAIMH's first large training in a rural area and we could not be more excited for this opportunity!

Child care staff from the two licensed centers in Palacios, Rainbow Land and Little

Stars, will be invited to apply for the training to be held on December 1st and 8th from 9:30am-2:30pm. Susan Meriwether, one of TAIMH's most engaging child care trainers, will be working with this group. Ms. Meriwether will address subjects such as attachment, brain development, temperament, the impact of separation, working with parents and many others.

The Trull Foundation is an important member of the Palacios community and their support is a big endorsement for the work of TAIMH. We hope this will be the first of many grants to provide training to the dedicated child care providers across rural areas of Texas, who desperately need more support for their important work.



CHILDISM: CONFRONTING PREJUDICE AGAINST CHILDREN

Thoughts on **Childism: Confronting Prejudice Against Children** by Elisabeth Young-Bruehl. This book was published in January, 2012, a month after the author's death, by Yale University Press.

It is customary for book reviews of non-fiction works to be written by people who are considered knowledgeable on the topic and can therefore speak about the book with the voice of authority. Such is not the case here; I cannot make such a claim. My intention is, just in case you are not aware of the publication of this book, to bring it to your attention. As an infant mental health professional, I think you might be interested.

Elisabeth Young-Bruehl wants to coin a new term, childism, to denote, as the title suggests, the prejudice that exists in individuals, governments and societies at large which harbors a series of attitudes and behaviors that foster and reflect the maltreatment of children. As you might expect, she compares childism to the now more familiar terms, racism and sexism.

Her book encompasses a broad range of topics, such as: historical antecedents, social movements, legislation, and Child and Protective Services. She weaves in descriptions of individual case histories of adults who had been abused as children in her attempts to invite us to listen to the children's experience of being parented by abusive adults and of the unfortunate legacy as they internalize this form of prejudice against themselves. She puts forward her conceptualiza-

tion of abusive parents, often narcissistic, who attempt to meet their own needs at the expense of the children's. They may try to psychologically manipulate the child into taking care of the parent via role reversal; they may try to eliminate or get rid of the child, or they may try to erase the child's sense of self. In these attempts the parent may use one or, more commonly, multiple armaments from the categories of child abuse known as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect. Childism, as it pervades the legal system, government, and society as a whole, then affords the parent a means by which to legitimize his or her detrimental attitudes and behavior which result in children being mistreated.

But Young-Bruehl wants to steer us away from purely focusing on these acts, hideous as they are, in order to examine how such behavior can be brought about, what the motivations of the parents are, what the effect on the children can be, and how these may result in the intergenerational transmission of trauma. And then she offers her perspective of what can be done to help prevent such a tragic state of affairs.

Much of what is described in the book will probably be familiar to the reader. Perhaps you have heard of Nixon vetoing the Child Development Act, and of conservative governments restricting funds that would help support healthy child development, including economic and therapeutic support for families. Perhaps you have heard of Child Protective Services, which was, and continues to be, organized around being an in-

vestigative service, and therefore is not acting as a safety net for children. Perhaps you have had the experience of confirming what Young-Bruehl says about the foster care system: "Although there are excellent individual foster families, the system is hell for children." (p. 139) Perhaps you have heard of child labor and settlement homes and No Child Left Behind and the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which the United States has yet to ratify.

What is amazing is how Young-Bruehl has managed to weave together all this, and so much more, to describe the prejudice against the young and its expression in the maltreatment of children. Wow! Her message is clear: now we need to do something! We can start by raising awareness and educating the general public on the developmental needs of children and how we are obstructing them, as a society, by not being aware of our own prejudicial attitudes toward children. She spends a few pages summarizing the book by Brazelton and Greenspan called *The Irreducible Needs of Children*, which takes a world view of the needs of children—and this world view is what Young-Bruehl would like us to eventually take on, starting with our own communities and governments. This book is more than a definition and description of childism; it is a call to action. As an infant mental health professional, you might just heed the call and join the crusade!

Carol Mason Wolfe, IMH-E III
August, 2012



TAIMH FALL FUND DRIVE

Members:

Cooler temperatures are coming, but TAIMH is heating up! I wanted to talk to you today about TAIMH's Annual End of Year Fund Drive. Since September 12th, we have already raised more than \$5,275! Our goal is \$100,000 by December 31st. Can you help us reach it?

[Donate Now!](#)

Please take a few minutes to invite your friends, family or co-workers to participate! It's easy. Send this as an email or letter to those you know asking them to invest in the future of our youngest Texans and support the only statewide organization working to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. TAIMH provides training through Food for Thought and through our local training programs. TAIMH works to professionalize the field working with babies through our Endorsement. TAIMH is the voice for babies at the state level.

Thank you so much for believing in our cause and supporting the programs to support professionals and improve the lives of children and families right here in Texas. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

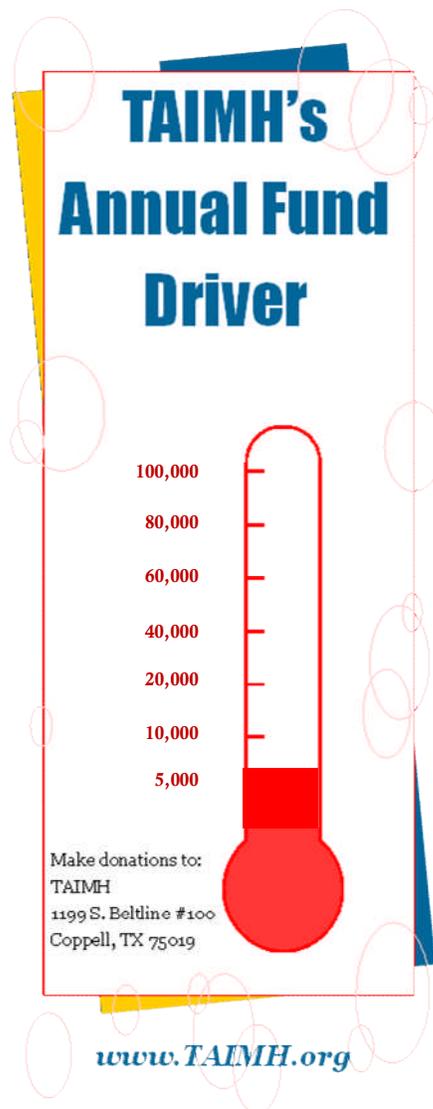
TAIMH so appreciates your help!

Susan

Susan Craven
Executive Director

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972.906.2696

TAIMH's Mission is to promote the healthy emotional development of infants, toddlers and their families. Find out how at www.TAIMH.org.



TOM THUMB: GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

Help support TAIMH through the Tom Thumb “Good Neighbor” program. Below, you will find instructions for linking your Tom Thumb REWARDS card to our account.

I already have a Tom Thumb REWARDS card:

1. Complete the “add/remove charity” form [LINK](#)
2. Return it to your local Tom Thumb store
TAIMH’s organization #: 12727
3. FINISHED!

I want to sign up for a Tom Thumb REWARDS card:

1. Print & cut out the following card as a reminder of TAIMH’s organization # 12727
2. Go to your local Tom Thumb store
3. Ask a store associate for a Tom Thumb Rewards application
4. Complete the application and include TAIMH’s organization # 12727
5. FINISHED!

QUESTIONS?

Please visit: <http://www.tomthumb.com/ifl/grocery/Good-Neighbor>

Clip out the card and take it with you to the store as your reminder of our organization's Good Neighbor Program account number to fill in on your Reward card application.





GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

Complete this form to link your Reward Card to the charity of your choice. You can choose to link up to three charities. Contact your charity of choice and ask if they are a member of our Good Neighbor Program or ask the Courtesy Booth for the GNP number of a particular charity. To learn about the Good Neighbor Program, go to www.tomthumb.com.

DALLAS

REWARD CARD NUMBER:

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Don't know your card number? Call Customer Care at 1-877-723-3929.

Charity to be added to your card:

1. Charity # 12727
2. Charity # _____
3. Charity # _____

Charity to be deleted from your card:

1. Charity # _____
2. Charity # _____
3. Charity # _____

APPLICANT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

PHONE

DATE

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TOM THUMB COURTESY BOOTH

OFFICE USE ONLY: STORE # _____
COURTESY BOOTH: SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE MAILROOM - ATTN: DATA CENTER OF ARIZONA



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Along with
numerous other generous gifts from our many
dedicated volunteers and members!

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