

Division 37 Section on Child Maltreatment's 25th Anniversary Celebration

APA Division 37 Society for Child and Family Policy and
Practice – Section on Child Maltreatment


Co-Chairs: Karen Appleyard Carmody, PhD, and
Stephanie Block, PhD

Presented at the APA Convention - August 2021



SECTION ON CHILD MALTREATMENT

Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice
Division 37 of the American Psychological Association



A Celebration of 25
Years:
1996-2021



25 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

The image features a large, stylized number '25' in a light blue, three-dimensional font. The number has a slight shadow and is set against a dark blue background with a fine, concentric circular pattern. To the right of the '5', the word 'YEARS' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below the '25', the words 'ANNIVERSARY' and 'CELEBRATION' are stacked in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Section on Child Maltreatment

- Mission: To support and promote scientific inquiry, training, professional practice, and advocacy in the area of child maltreatment
- Only permanent organization within APA specifically developed to address issues related to child abuse and neglect

A look back in time: 1996

- Research and Data:
 - 3rd National Incidence Study – showing CAN increase
 - 1st Edition of the APSAC Handbook on Child Maltreatment
 - Barnett et al.'s Maltreatment Classification System (1993)
- Policy:
 - Family Preservation and Family Support Services (1993)
 - Adoption and Safe Families Act in the works (1997)
 - CAPTA reauthorization
- Practice:
 - Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TFCBT)

The critical need for the Section, in the words of former presidents

- “Child maltreatment has always, unfortunately, been with us, but in those years there was still momentum for trying to bring attention to child maltreatment and solve the problem of child maltreatment, and the realization of just how prevalent some forms of child maltreatment are in society and the devastating consequences it can have.”
 - Gail Goodman (1999-2001)
- “There was a concern that we start... a concerted effort through the APA to develop a better scientific base and then a better way of bringing people to use that science in their treatment of children and families.”
 - Jeffrey Haugaard (1995-1999)

History

- Established in 1994 – with Executive Board enacted in 1996
- Founding Board members
 - President - Jeffrey Haugaard
 - Secretary – Sandy Wurtele
 - Treasurer - Barbara Bonner
 - Member at Large – Penelope Trickett

Section Activities

- Section member research on policy, legal issues and practice (prevention and treatment)
- Congressional involvement
- Section, Division, and APA Task Forces
- Member and community education
- Newsletter publications

The Benefits of the Section: Through the Eyes of Former Presidents

- “The Section is my professional home; a group who is devoted to children’s well-being and welfare. I’ve been honored to work alongside talented colleagues working in research, primary prevention, on policy, as practitioners, and on the front lines to advocate for children and families.”
- Stephanie Block (2019-20)

The Benefits of the Section: Through the Eyes of Former Presidents

- “There are not a lot of places within or outside the APA where the interests of the field of child maltreatment are represented and showcased... I think it is pretty major... to have that dedicated space... Then, the specific policies of interest to the child welfare system [are] also represented within the Section. Because specifics lean toward research that impacts policy.”
- Jennie Noll (2017-18)

The Benefits of the Section: Through the Eyes of Former Presidents

- “One of the most valuable aspects that I see about the Section is that it brings together a community of professionals with the same interests... a multidisciplinary group of like-minded professionals, with whom to collaborate and share ideas.”
- Jen Kaminski (2013-14)

The Benefits of the Section: Through the Eyes of Former Presidents

- “Section members come together from many disciplines and from many different areas of specialty within psychology (developmental, community, clinical, school) with a singular focus on research and advocacy that impact policy and practice – real actions that support families and communities. Members are not concerned with ‘professional turf’ issues.”
- Mary Haskett (2011-12)

- President: Karen Appleyard Carmody
- Past President: Stephanie Block
- President-Elect: Margaret Stevenson
- Secretary: Anne Shaffer
- Treasurer: Yoojin Chae
- Members-At-Large:
 - Daniel Dodgen
 - Kristin Valentino
 - Kimberly Renk

Current Section Leadership 2021

- Membership Chair: Anna Washington
- Newsletter Editor: Sara Vice
- Communications
& Technology Chair: Monica Lawson
- Early Career Psychologist
Co-Chairs: Apryl Alexander
Deborah Goldfarb
- APA Program Chair: Colleen Cullinan
- APA Program Co-Chair: Taylor Petty
- Graduate Student Rep: Jill Barbre
- Graduate Student Co-Rep: Samantha Klaver

Current Section Leadership 2021

Graduate
Student Rep:
Jill Barbre

Graduate
Student Co-Rep:
Samantha Klaver

Diversity Officer:
Claire
Helpingstine

Communications
Officer:
Hannah Johnson

Public Policy
Officer:
Ruth Spiedel

Current Section Student Board 2021

Goals and Future Directions of Current Leadership

- Continued engagement in research, policy, practice and training issues
- Supporting efforts in research, policy, and practice related to COVID-19 responses
- Increased emphasis on child maltreatment prevention
 - Roll out of Family First Prevention Services Act
 - Protecting our Students in Schools Act
- Increasing visibility and membership

Benefits of Membership

- Networking opportunities
 - Members-only listserv
 - Committees and activities for Early Career Professionals and Students
 - Networking and mentoring activities at Convention
- Advocacy opportunities
 - Task forces to influence policy on issues related to child maltreatment
 - Committee and board member activities
- Recognition in the field
 - Awards to recognize excellence in research and practice
- Education and awareness
 - Section Newsletter (published 3 times yearly)
 - Website resources – including internship and postdoctoral opportunities

Invitation to Participate in the Section

- Join the Section
 - First year is free for students
- Serve as an Officer
- Serve as a Liaison with other Sections/Divisions
- Participate in Listserv discussions
- Submit an article to the newsletter
- Attend Section activities at APA Convention
- Join a Task Force on Child Maltreatment Issues