Thriving Together

2022 Annual Report
Our Mission
To improve society’s response to the abuse and neglect of its children.

Our Vision
A world where all maltreated or at-risk children and their families have access to the highest level of professional commitment and service.

Our Commitment
Preventing child maltreatment.
Eliminating the recurrence of child maltreatment.
Promoting research and guidelines to inform professional practice.
Connecting professionals from the many disciplines to promote the best response to child maltreatment.
Ensuring that America’s public policy concerning child maltreatment is well informed and constructive.
Educating the public about child abuse and neglect.
Thriving Together
Letter from the President

The Team
2022 APSAC Board of Directors
The Global Impact

Pathway to Thriving Impact
Expert Trainings & Education
Membership
Leadership & Development

Training & Education
Online Trainings
Global Reach
Forensic Interview Clinics

Membership
National and Global Growth
Organizational Growth
Increasing Member Benefits

Development
Financial Summary
Donor Honor Roll
Letter from the Presidents

As the first and largest association of interdisciplinary professionals working to end child abuse, APSAC’s 35-year history demonstrates the critical importance of its collective mission: To improve society’s response to the abuse and neglect of its children. In the face of a continuing and evolving pandemic, racial inequities and injustices, mental health crises, mass shootings, natural and manmade disasters, systemic failures, and inflation, APSAC continued to have a global impact in 2022 and equipped its members with tools and resources to help children, families, and communities thrive.

As you read the 2022 Annual Report, you will see that APSAC continues to thrive after a period of significant growth, particularly in the area of outreach to professionals. Since the pandemic began, APSAC has reached over 23,000 professionals with specialized training - more than in the prior ten years combined. Following the 2020 pivot to an online, interactive format approved by the National Children’s Alliance, APSAC trained 85 forensic interviewers in 2021 and an additional 75 forensic interviewers in 2022 from all around the globe. We also offered 45 virtual trainings in 2022 as we continued to train the next generation of child maltreatment professionals and professionals in allied fields. APSAC has grown individual membership by 162% since 2018 and organizational membership by 124% since 2019. We know that there is strength in numbers and we hope to keep growing and thriving together in partnership with all of you.

On behalf of all the children, families, and communities that you serve, thank you for all that you do! We are humbled and grateful for your continued support of the largest, multi-disciplinary professional society working to solve child abuse. We know that your work is rarely easy, but it is always important. To paraphrase a quote by Maya Angelou, we hope that APSAC continues to go beyond merely surviving to thriving and does it with compassion, passion, humor, and style.
2022 APSAC Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Ernestine Briggs-King, PhD
President

Darrell Armstrong, MDiv, EdS-MFT, DDiv
Vice President

Stacie LeBlanc, JD, MEd
Immediate Past President

Roslyn Murov, MD
Treasurer

Susan Hardie, MN, PhD
Secretary

Darcey Merritt, PhD, MSW
Member at Large to the Executive Committee

Presidents Emeriti

Ronald C. Hughes, PhD, MScSA
President Emeritus

Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, MJ, LCSW
President Emeritus
2022 APSAC Board of Directors

Rocio Chang, PsyD  
**Director**

David L. Corwin, MD  
**Past President**

Theodore Cross, PhD  
**Director**

Jemour Maddux, PsyD, ABPP  
**Director**

Akeem Marsh, MD, DFAACAP  
**Director**

Bethany Mohr, MD, FAAP  
**Director**

Rosaura Orengo-Aguayo, PhD  
**Director**

Mary L. Pulido, PhD  
**Director**

Leslie Schmerler, MA  
**Director**

Victor Vieth, JD, MA  
**Director**

APSAC thanks Bart Klika, Debangshu Roygardner, and Mel Schneiderman for their service in the first half of 2022!
Thriving Global Impact

Forensic Interview Clinic participants represented 26 states, 4 countries, and 2 territories with 75 forensic interviewers trained in 2022.
Thriving Global Impact

APSAC registered **7,590 professionals** around the world for events and trainings, a **13%** increase from 2021.
APSAC has increased **individual membership by 162%** since 2018 and **organizational membership by 124%** since 2019, with new members from all over the world.
Training & Education Committee

Stacie LeBlanc, JD, MEd
Chair

Tricia Gardner, JD
Past Chair

Christi West
Administrator

Rocio Chang, PsyD
Director

David L. Corwin, MD
Past President

Mike Haney, PhD, NCC,
CISM, LMHC

Susan Hardie, MN, PhD
Secretary

Bethany Mohr, MD,
FAAP
Director

Mary L. Pulido, PhD
Director

Leslie Schmerler, MA
Director

Viola Vaughan-Eden,
PhD, MJ, LCSW
President Emeritus
13% increase in registrations since 2021

45 virtual trainings offered in 2022

Training & Education
7,590 professionals registered for trainings from all 50 states, Washington DC & Puerto Rico, and 46 countries.
23,384 registered for trainings since 2020

Since APSAC went zooming online in the early days of the pandemic lockdown, trainings increased by 322% in the last three years compared to last decade combined.

Training & Education
Forensic Interview Clinics

75 TRAINED IN FORENSIC INTERVIEWING IN 2022

- 1 Katie Toth scholarship
- Participants from 26 states, 4 countries, & 2 territories, and speaking 5 languages, including English, Spanish, Hungarian, Arabic, and Swedish.

3 VIRTUAL FORENSIC INTERVIEW CLINICS OFFERED IN 2022
75 FORENSIC INTERVIEWERS TRAINED IN 2022
Zoom Chats Thriving

Trauma Informed Mental Health Services for Unaccompanied Migrant Youth

January 20th 1 - 2 PM ET

Dr. Jordan Greenbaum
Medical Director
International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children

Zoom Chat: Premiering a new video created to raise awareness about “Child Maltreatment during the Pandemic” and how professionals and other providers of services for children can help now.

March 17th 1 - 2 PM ET

Gail Abarbanel, LCSW
Founder, Rape Treatment Center/Hart House, UCLA Health

Darrell Armstrong, MDiv, EdS-MFT, DDv
Father, Child Angel 2009, Hart House, NY

Susan Hardie, PhD, RN
Secretary, AAPAC, Board Member

In the Zone with No Hit Zones: A Simple and Promising Solution to a Complex Problem

May 12th, 2022 12 - 1 PM ET

Elizabeth Gershoff, PhD
Director, Population Research Center, Amy Johnson McGuirk Centennial Professor, The University of Texas at Austin

Stacie LeBlanc, MEd, JD
President, American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Co-Founder, The UP Institute

Pass the Prevention: Share Your Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities

April 7th 6 - 7:30 PM ET

Hosted By: Tulane University’s ACE’s CAST Course
Celebrating African American Pioneers in the Field of Child Maltreatment Prevention: Implications for Current Practice
February 15th
2 - 3 PM ET
Joyce Thomas, RN, MPH, PNP FAAN
President and CEO of the Center for Child Protection and Family Support in Washington, DC

Zoom Chat: How to Write, Review, and Edit for Child Maltreatment
February 23rd
12 - 1 PM ET
Vincent J. Palusci, MD,
Kathryn Maguire-Jack, MSW, MPA, PhD,
Gia Barboza-Salerno, JD, PhD &
Daniel Whitaker, PhD

Zoom Chat - We Got Groomed: Immunizing the Public Against Grooming to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse
September 29th
11 AM - 12:30 PM ET
Dr. Marcie Hambrick
Director of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Online Training Continues to Flourish

APSAC & New York Foundling
Webinar Series
6 Evidence-Based Trauma Treatment Models

Trauma Therapy Innovation with Dr. Ricky Greenwald
September 7, 2022
An Overview of The Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention (CFTSI): A Brief, Evidence-Based Early Intervention for Traumatized Children and Families with Carrie Epstein, LCSW-R
November 10, 2022
INTERVIEWING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
8-Week Webinar Series
10 AM - 11:30 AM EST
Dates:
- February 1st, 15th,
- March 1st, 15th, 29th,
- April 12th, 26th, &
- May 10th

CE Credits Available

Children with Disabilities and Abuse Dynamics
Presented by Staci Whitney, LMSW

Communication Considerations for Children with Disabilities
Presented by Staci Whitney, LMSW

General Considerations for Interviewing Children with Disabilities
Presented by Staci Whitney, LMSW

Advanced Considerations for Interviewing Children with Disabilities, Part I
Presented by Dermot Whelan, Police Sgt., Retired

Advanced Considerations for Interviewing Children with Disabilities, Part II
Presented by Dermot Whelan, Police Sgt., Retired

Interviewing Children with Communication Disorders
Presented by Kate Homan, MS

Adapted Protocol for Interviewing Children Who Do Not Speak
Presented by Staci Whitney, LMSW

Investigating Crimes Against Children with Disabilities - Considerations for Law Enforcement
Presented by Dermot Whelan, Police Sgt., Retired
Training & Education

History of Child Welfare in the United States and Cultural Issues
with Debangshu Roygardner, PhD

Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention
with Bart Klika, MSW, PhD

The Truth about Race and Trauma
with Ernestine Briggs-King, PhD

Medical Evaluation of Child Abuse and Neglect
with Randell Alexander, MD, PhD

An Overview of Evidence Based Trauma Interventions for Children and Adolescents
with Esther Deblinger, PhD & Elisabeth Pollio, PhD

Forensic Mental Health Evaluation and Guidelines
with Jemour Maddux, PsyD, ABPP

Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, Bullying and Internet Abuse
with David Finkelhor, PhD

Take a Deep Breath: Wellness for Child Protection Professionals During COVID-19
with Mary L. Pulido, PhD

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

APSAC and The New York Foundling

Comprehensive Online Course for Child Welfare and Child Maltreatment Professionals

Training & Education
ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS

Relational Savoring: A Brief Strengths-Based Intervention Approach for Enhancing Emotion and Relationship Outcomes in Parents
with Dr. Jessica Borelli

509
Registered

55
CE Credits
Earned

Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior: Who are they and how can we help?
Information on Problematic Sexual Behavior: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
with Dr. Jane F. Silovsky

336
Registered

66
CE Credits
Earned
Huge Gratitude for Time and Talent Given by Online Presenters in 2022

A. Jaiza Jones, AM, LCSW
Alicia Lieberman, PhD
Arthur Becker-Weidman, PhD
Bart Klika, MSW, PhD
Bradley Graham
Carrie Epstein, LCSW-R
Daniel Whitaker, PhD
Darcey H. Merritt, MSW, PhD
Darrell Armstrong, MDiv, EdS-MFT, DDiv
David Finkelhor, PhD
David J. Kolko, PhD
Debashish Roygardner, PhD
Dermot Whelan, LE Sgt. Retired
Elisabeth Pollio, PhD
Elizabeth Gershoff, PhD
Ernestine Briggs-King, PhD
Esther Deblinger, PhD
Gail Abarbanel, LCSW
Gia Barboza-Salemo, JD, PhD
Jane F. Silovsky, PhD
Jemour Maddux, PsyD, ABPP
Jessica Borelli, PhD
Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., LPC
Jordan Greenbaum, MD
Joyce Thomas, RN, MPH, PNP, FAAN
Judith S. Rycus, PhD, MSW
Julie Kenniston, MSW, LISW
Kate Homan, MS
Kathryn Maguire-Jack, MSW, MPA, PhD
Kori Stephens, MPH, ACC
Lucien Lombardo, PhD
Marcie Hambrick, PhD, MSW
Mary Dozier, PhD
Mary L. Pulido, PhD
Pamela Miller, JD, MSW, LISW-S
Patti Toth, JD
Randell Alexander, MD, PhD
Ricky Greenwald, PsyD
Stacey Patton, PhD
Staci Whitney, LMSW
Stacie LeBlanc, JD, MEd
Susan Hardie, MN, PhD
Suzanna Tiapula, JD
Vincent J. Palusci, MD
Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, MJ, LCSW
Laissez les bon temps rouler!

29th APSAC Colloquium
Celebrating Resilience
New Orleans

JUNE 6-10, 2022

Training & Education

900+ Attendees!
APSAC’s largest Colloquium ever!

200+ Air Force Attendees
100+ Louisiana DCFS Attendees
APSAC’s 2022 Colloquium in New Orleans was attended by 900+ professionals from across the globe.
The Sage Charles T. Hendrix
Keynote Address
Let’s Talk About the True Meaning of Resilience & Preventing Child Abuse in the Era of Black Lives Matter
Stacy Patton, PhD
Professor
Howard University

Plenary
Childhood Trauma Resilience: Protective Factors for a Conflicted World
Machelle Madsen Thompson, PhD, LCSW
Director, Resilience & Protective Factor Institute, Florida State University
Plenary

The Predatory Marketplace: Using Technology, Research & Policy to Protect Children and Bring Producers & Consumers of Online CSAM to Justice
Camille Cooper
Project Director, RAINN CSAM Project
Elizabeth Cross, PhD
Cross Associates Research & Evaluation Svcs, LLC
Ted Cross, PhD
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Glen Pounder
Child Rescue Coalition

Institutional Failure: The Sexual Abuse of Over 83,000 Boys in The Boy Scouts of America
Det. Mike Johnson
Over 220 Interdisciplinary Experts

Over 120 Workshops

29 Continuing Education Credits Available

400+ CE Hours Earned

Training & Education
NEW
Faith Track & Pre-Conference Institute for faith leaders

9
Pre-Conference Institutes

9
Discipline-Tailored Tracks

Sessions dedicated to professionals in Mental Health, Forensic Interviewing, Prevention, Medicine & Nursing, Child Protection & Welfare, Child Advocacy, and more!

Training & Education
APSAC Awards Winners

Pictured from left to right:
Darrell Armstrong, MDiv, EdS-MFT, DDiv
Award Winner
Lolita McDavid, MD, MPA
Award Winner
Melissa Merrick, PhD
Award Winner
Stacie LeBlanc, JD, MEd
Award Winner
Joyce Thomas, RN, MPH, PHP, FAAN
Award Winner
Kathleen Faller, PhD, ACSW
Award Winner
Isha Metzger, PhD, LPC
Award Winner
Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, MJ, LCSW
APSAC Awards Winners

Outstanding Article in the Child Maltreatment Journal
Isha Metzger, PhD, LPC; Riana Elyse Anderson, PhD, LPC; Funlola Are, PhD; & Tiarney Ritchwood, PhD
for Healing Interpersonal and Racial Trauma: Integrating Racial Socialization Into Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for African American Youth published in February 2021

Mark Chaffin Outstanding Research Career Achievement
Andrea Sedlak, PhD
Vice President, Westat

Outstanding Frontline Professional
Angela Essenberg
Forensic Interviewer, Voices for Children Advocacy Center

Training & Education
APSAC Awards Winners

Outstanding Contributions to Prevention

Melissa Merrick, PhD
President & CEO, Prevent Child Abuse America

Lolita McDavid, MD, MPA
Medical Director, Child Advocacy and Protection, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center & Professor, CWRU School of Medicine

Outstanding Service and Advancement of Cultural Competency in Child Maltreatment, Prevention, and Intervention

Corey Best
Founder of Mining for Gold & Racial Justice Coach for seven Early Learning Coalitions across Central Florida

Joyce Thomas, RN, MPH, PNP, FAAN
Co-founder & President of Center for Child Protection and Family Support, Inc. of Washington DC
APSAC Awards Winners

**Outstanding Service Award**
Stacie Schrieffer LeBlanc, JD, MEd
APSCA President
Co-founder of The UP Institute
Executive Director of UP for Champions

**Outstanding Media Coverage**
Joshua Overbay, MFA
Andi Mortenlander, MFA
Justice Film Collective
*Spare the Child*
Producers

**APSAC Lifetime Achievement Award**
Kathleen Faller, PhD, ACSW
Marion Elizabeth Blue Endowed Professor Emerita of Children and Families in the School of Social Work & Director of the Family Assessment Clinic, University of Michigan
WALK together
TO END CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

END CAN
THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION TO END CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children®
Strengthening Practice Through Knowledge
Special Thank You to APSAC's 29th Colloquium Sponsor!

NYSPCC Executive Director, Mary Pulido, PhD
Gratitude for 2022 Colloquium Presenters

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<td>Adrienne Whitt-Woosley, PhD</td>
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<td>Akeem Marsh, MD</td>
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<td>Al Killen-Harvey, LCSW</td>
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<td>Amanda Beach, MPA</td>
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<td>Amber Brown, BS, MEd</td>
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<td>Amy Russell, MSEd, JD, NCC</td>
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<td>Amy Allen, MS</td>
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<td>April Dirks, PhD, MSW</td>
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<td>Ashleigh Fuller, MA</td>
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<td>Becky Antle, PhD, MSSW, LMFT</td>
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<td>Daniella Barerra-Barajas, MSW</td>
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Membership Committee

Darrell Armstrong, MDiv, EdS-MFT, DDiv
Chair

Mel Schneiderman, PhD
Past Chair

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David L. Corwin, MD
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Operations Manager

Crystal Marks
Director of Publications & Special Projects

Bethany Mohr, MD, FAAP
Director

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President Emeritus
## Membership Benefits

### Free & Discounted Trainings
- ✓ **Free trainings**, including Zoom chats, Reading Club, and Learning Collaborative
- ✓ **Webinar series and online courses** through APSAC and the New York Foundling
- ✓ **Discounted trainings**, such as the Colloquium, Advanced Training Institutes, Forensic Interview Clinics and Institutes, and Certificate Courses
- ✓ **NEW Mental Health Section** launched this year!

### Access to Publications
- ✓ **Full access to high-quality publications** like Child Maltreatment, APSAC Alert, APSAC Advisor, Practice Guidelines, Research to Practice Briefs, and Trauma, Violence, and Abuse
- ✓ **Indexed and searchable online library** of APSAC publications, featuring 30+ years of research, policy, and practice knowledge

### Network & Resources
- ✓ **Connect** with multi-disciplinary network
- ✓ **Unlimited access to resources**, such as APSAC No Hit Zone materials, video library, COVID-19 resources, and resources for fighting racism and bias
- ✓ **Advocacy initiatives**, including the Center for Child Policy, National Initiative to End Corporal Punishment, and Psychological Maltreatment Alliance

---

**Membership**
Organizational Membership

+124% GROWTH IN ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FROM 2019-2022

Membership
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP GROWTH
FROM 2018-2022
+162%
GROWTH IN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FROM 2018-2022

Individual Membership

2022

2021

2018

Membership
Membership Continues to Thrive Nationally and Internationally

APSAC members represent **49 states** and **18 countries**.
Faith Committee

Victor Vieth, JD, MA  
*Co-Chair*

Darrell Armstrong, MDiv, EdS-MFT, DDiv  
*Co-Chair*

Shira Berkovits, Esq, PhD

Angelo Giardino, MD, FAAP

Susan Hardie, MN, PhD  
*Secretary*

Stacie LeBlanc, JD, MEd  
*Immediate Past President*
Faith Committee Activities


TUESDAY, JANUARY 25TH
5 PM PST | 8 PM EST

Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden
Ph.D., M.S.W., M.J
Co-founder, the UP Institute President Emeritus of APSAC

Rev. Dr. Darrell L. Armstrong
D.D., Ed.D.-MFT
Founder, FAAITH, Inc. Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church

Ms. Stacie LeBlanc
J.D., Med
Co-founder, the UP Institute President of APSAC

Rev. Dr. William H. Dansmridge
Ph.D., M.Div.
Host Pastor Holy Light Mission Baptist Church

In-Person Location:
Holy Light Mission Baptist Church
In Los Angeles, CA

Virtual Zoom Link:
https://zoom.us/j/5645618581
Meeting ID: 564 581 8581

Membership
Publications Committee

Leadership & Development
Leadership & Development

APSAC Alerts
Digital quarterly publication designed to enhance professionals’ ability to respond to children and families affected by abuse and violence.

Five Recent Developments in the Prosecution of Abusive Head Trauma
Frank E. Vandervort, JD

Dealing with Parental Alienation Allegations in Family Court
Jean Mercer, PhD and John Meyers, JD

Increasing Access to Earned Income Tax Credits to Reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences
Atticus Solomon, LLMSW; Kathryn Maguire-Jack, MSW, MPA, PhD; Suzanne Greenberg, BA; Olivia D. Chang, BA; Heidi Coggins, MA, IMH-E; Jacquetta Hinton, MS

+3 APSAC Advisors
Hands-on style, digital quarterly publications that detail the latest news in practice, research, legislation, publication and events in the field of child maltreatment.
Published quarterly, *Child Maltreatment (CM)* is the official journal of APSAC, the nation's largest interdisciplinary child maltreatment professional organization. The objective of CM is to foster professional excellence in the field of child abuse and neglect by reporting current and at-issue scientific information and technical innovations in a form immediately useful to practitioners and researchers.

**Journal Impact Factor**

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<th>Year</th>
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In 2022, *Child Maltreatment* achieved a **5.1 Impact Factor**—the highest impact factor in the history of the journal!
Forensic Mental Health Evaluations When Child Maltreatment Is at Issue
Budget & Finance Committee

Roslyn Murov, MD
Treasurer

Hannah Gilbert, MSHCM
Operations Manager

Ernestine Briggs-King, PhD
President

Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, MJ, LCSW
President Emeritus

Stacie LeBlanc, JD, MEd
Immediate Past President

Leadership & Development
During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Society recognized $137,920 in in-kind contributed services filling the roles of interim Executive Director, Training Director, and Marketing Coordinator, valued based on the rates paid upon filling positions with outside personnel.
During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Society recognized $137,920 in in-kind contributed services filling the roles of interim Executive Director, Training Director, and Marketing Coordinator, valued based on the rates paid upon filling positions with outside personnel.
Thank You to our Sponsors & Partners

APSAC would like to give thanks to New York Foundling for its many contributions to APSAC’s successful year.

In October of 2016 the New York Foundling and APSAC entered into a mutually beneficial agreement to promote the development and dissemination of evidence-based policies and practices in child welfare and child maltreatment throughout the United States. The Foundling’s financial contributions to APSAC have helped to expand APSAC infrastructure, expand its training capacity, increase its membership and expand APSAC’s efforts to impact public policy in the United States. The Foundling has benefited by the joint agreement by expanding its influence in the field of child welfare and child maltreatment to a national level.

In 2022, the Foundling and APSAC partnered to produce the six part workshop series presented by developers and experts of evidence-based trauma treatment models for children. The Foundling and APSAC also partnered to produce an eight week comprehensive course for child welfare and child maltreatment professionals. The revenue produced by the two training events were given to APSAC.

The Foundling and APSAC continue to partner to sponsor the National Initiative to End Corporal Punishment and the Psychological Maltreatment Alliance. Both initiatives have led to national advocacy efforts to end corporal punishment and psychological maltreatment in the United States.

The Foundling has three appointed directors to the APSAC board of directors. The appointed Foundling directors lend their expertise, time and efforts to enhance APSAC and the APSAC board’s functioning. The Foundling Appointed APSAC Board members have served as APSAC Board Treasurer and Vice President and have chaired the State Chapter committee, YAPSAC and the membership committee.
Leadership & Development

Black History Month
Zoom Chat with Joyce Thomas

Celebrating African American Pioneers in the Field of Child Maltreatment Prevention: Implications for Current Practice

February 15th
2 - 3 PM ET

Joyce Thomas, RN, MPH, PNP FAAN
President and Co-Founder of the Center for Child Protection and Family Support in Washington, DC
Colloquium
Pre-Conference Institute

Achieving Racial Justice in Child Welfare: Examining the Past & Reimagining the Future

Ernestine Briggs-King, PhD
President, 2022-2024
APSAC

Marva L. Lewis, PhD, IMH-E
Associate Professor
Tulane University, School of Social Work
Reading Club on Racial Justice

2022 READING CLUB
September 9th, October 28th, November 9th & December 9th
12 PM - 1 PM ET

Mary L. Pulido, PhD, Moderator

What Queer Theory Can Teach Us about Personality, Fluidity, and Multiplicity of Racial Identities

Karen Zilberstein, LICSW
A. Jiron Jones, A.M., LCSW

Date: September 9th
Time: 12 PM - 1 PM ET
Article: "Know Whence you Came": Psychodynamic Theory, Queer Theory, and the Mixed-Race Experience

Vulnerability, Shame, & Resilience

Eunice Briggs-King, PhD
Kori Stephens, MPH, ACC

Date: October 28th
Time: 12 PM - 1 PM ET
Book: You Are Your Best Thing: Vulnerability, Shame Resilience, and the Black Experience
Edited by: Tanara Burke and Brené Brown

Race & Racism: How are Children of Color Doing in Our Child Welfare Systems?

Darrell Armstrong, MDiv, EUS, MFT, DDiv
Stacie LaBonte, JD, MEd

Date: November 9th
Time: 12 PM - 1 PM ET
Article: Research to Consider While Effectively Re-Designing Child Welfare Services

Integrating Race, Power, Privilege & Perspective Into Child Protective Services

Dilane Philippine, PhD
Denise H. Merritt, PhD, MSW

Date: December 9th
Time: 12 PM - 1 PM ET
Article: How Do Families Experience and Interact with CPS?
Amicus Committee

Leadership & Development

Mary Kelly Persyn, PhD
Chair

Frank Vandervort, JD
Past Chair

David L. Corwin, MD
Past President

Mike Haney, PhD,
NCC, CISS, LMHC

Kelli Hughes, JD

Ronald C. Hughes, PhD,
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David L. Corwin, MD
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Leadership & Development

Published Position Statements

APSAC Position Statement

Assertions of Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), Parental Alienation Disorder (PAD), or Parental Alienation (PA) When Child Maltreatment is of Concern

Background

In 1985, the late Richard Gardner, a child psychiatrist, first posited an alternative explanation to a child’s disclosure of sexual abuse in the midst of a divorce and custody dispute: parental alienation syndrome (PAS). Gardner stated the child would collude with the preferred parent, who 90% of the time was the mother, to make allegations against the less preferred parent, who 90% of the time was the father, of various transgressions, culminating in an allegation of child sexual abuse. Gardner described PAS as a collaboration between the alienated child and the preferred or alienating parent. In addition, Gardner asserted that the mother might enlist the aid of clinicians whom he peripherally entitled validators, in asserting that the child had been sexually abused. Gardner further stated that the vast majority of incest cases were true, but the majority of allegations of sexual abuse in divorce were false (Gardner, 1995). Gardner provided no data to support these opinions.

That said, Gardner’s description of PAS and his proposal of PAS as an alternative explanation for sexual abuse allegations in divorce gained traction among those accused of sexual abuse and their advocates. Later, the concept of FAS was expanded to include allegations of domestic violence and other types of child maltreatment made during divorce and custody/visitation disputes.

In 2008, PAS was reconfigured as parental alienation disorder (PAD). PAD is defined as a child disorder that is, taking place within the child and there is no assumption of collusion with the preferred parent. In addition, this version explicitly states that if the less preferred parent has maltreated the child, the situation is not a case of PAD. This reconfiguration was undertaken in an effort to get PAD included in the DSM-5 and later in the ICD-11 (Ismail et al., 2010). These efforts have not been successful, but parental alienation (PA) advocates continue their efforts to legitimize PA as a diagnosis (e.g., Ismail, 2010).

APSAC 550 Avenue of the Americas, 14th Floor New York, NY, 10011
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APSAC Position Statement

Gender-Affirming Care Is Not Child Abuse

The mission of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) is to improve society’s response to the abuse and neglect of its children. APSAC maintains a world where all maltreated or at-risk children and their families have access to the highest level of professional commitment and service. APSAC strongly opposes recent attempts to criminalize and prohibit gender-affirming care as child abuse. Gender-affirming care is not child abuse.

Transgender youth are at risk for negative physical and mental health and life outcomes. Research suggests that these negative outcomes are attributable to societal bias and discrimination rather than transgender identity itself. Recent research demonstrated that transgender youth who are affirmed in their identity experience lower levels of risk.

Conversely, outlawing gender-affirming care will worsen outcomes for these youth.

Gender-affirming care is an important aspect of affirming the identity of, and mitigating the health risks to, transgender youth. Gender-affirming care has been defined as “health care that holistically attends to transgender people’s physical, mental, and social health needs and well-being while respectfully affirming their gender identity.” The World Professional Association for Transgender Health has established standards for gender-affirming care. The American Academy of Pediatrics has repeatedly elucidated the careful evaluation necessary to successful treatment of transgender and gender nonconforming youth along a continuum of care.

This evaluation properly takes place in licensed behavioral health and medical settings, not the state legislature.

This week, the Attorney General and Governor of Texas declared that gender-affirming health care is already illegal under Texas law because it is child abuse; further, Attorney General Paxton stated that gender non-conforming and transitioning youth may be victims of “Munchausen’s syndrome by proxy,” an outdated term that is now called medical child abuse, a felony in that state. Medical child abuse includes situations where a parent intentionally makes their child sick and solicits unnecessary medical care in order to gain sympathy and attention. It has nothing to do with gender-affirming care. Governor Abbott directed the Department of Family and Protective Services to investigate all “incidents” of gender transition. All mandated reporters in Texas, including nurses, doctors, social workers, and teachers, are required to report such youth to the state or face criminal penalties. While Governor Abbott’s directive is
YAPSAC Activities

YAPSAC at 29th Colloquium in New Orleans

The Young American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (YAPSAC) Career Development Institute included two panels where panelists Dr. Akeem Marsh, Julissa Guzman, Leslie Schmerler, Dr. Susan Hardie, and Dr. Vincent J. Palusci shared their experiences working in various child welfare fields and the “do’s and don’ts” of the job application process.

YAPSAC also hosted the YAPSAC Together Hour at Felipe’s Mexican Taqueria to provide an opportunity for networking with presenters and attendees of the 2022 APSAC Colloquium.

Pictured (left to right): Leslie Schmerler, MA; Susan Hardie, MN, PhD; Akeem Marsh, MD; Julissa Guzman, LMSW; and Trevor Raushi, MS.
In collaboration with APSAC, the Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA), and Zero Abuse Project (ZAP), implemented the ACEs Health Champions Network and hosted 9 free, live and on-demand gatherings reaching over 1100 participants.

- CAPSAC Awards:
  - The 2nd Karen J. Saywitz Legacy Award to Professor Tom Lyon, PhD
  - The Neal Snyder Service Award to David Love, LMFT
  - The Paul Crissey Graduate Student Outstanding Research Awards to Shreya Mukhopadhyay and Maha Al-Suwaidi

Continued its longstanding collaboration with CATTA/CIR and the Psychological Maltreatment Alliance, and co-sponsored a live webinar, Finding Common Ground on Child Psychological Maltreatment.

Further information and recordings of these events are available at capsac.org.
Leadership & Development

- Working to bring training and awareness to areas of the State that otherwise would not have access to training due to financial or other constraints
- Attempting to recruit more law enforcement and judicial officials as members in an effort to further the multi-disciplinary approach to addressing matters of child maltreatment
- Added two new members to their Board

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APSAC-NC

- Co-sponsored six webinars with the New York Foundling & CHAMP on topics such as traumatic stress, confidentiality in child welfare, healthy sexual development, emotional/behavioral emergencies, primary prevention in child sexual abuse, and mandated child abuse reporting
- Led a half-day virtual conference titled “Ending Violence to Children in the United States: Changing Social Norms About the Hitting of Children,” and had over 700 people in attendance
- Public Policy Committee worked on legislative issues that included the Invest in Child Safety Act, The EARN IT Act, The Kids Online Safety Act and The Protection Act, Child Poverty Reduction Act, and OCFS mandated report training

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APSAC-NY

- Continued focus on supporting members, promoting virtual learning activities, and sponsoring attendees at a number of in-person conferences
- Provided free training on the multi-disciplinary approach to addressing corporal punishment and physical abuse of children
- Members of WIPSAC’s Board of Directors conducted trainings on physical abuse for other state organizations in an effort to educate and advocate for the children in Wisconsin.

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IAPSAC

- Active safe sleep committee providing education, pack ’n plays, and sleep kits
- Active No Hit Zone committee encouraging agencies to become No Hit Zones
- Active white paper committee urging media outlets to protect the identity of child and adolescent victims of abuse

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FLAPSAC

- Members of FLAPSAC’s Board of Directors conducted training in the State of Florida and nationally/internationally to raise awareness of child maltreatment issues.
- Worked in conjunction with the Florida Chapter of the AAP’s Committee on Child Abuse to strengthen statewide legislation and funding for child maltreatment issues.
- Members provided free training on No Hit Zones and issues regarding the use of corporal punishment in childhood.
Development Committee

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Stacie LeBlanc, JD, MEd
Past Chair

Lorrie Brennan
APSAC Director

Hannah Gilbert, MSHCM
Operations Manager

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Darcey Merritt, PhD, MSW
Member at Large

Debangshu Roygardner, PhD
Director

Susan Hardie, MN, PhD
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Susan Hardie, MN, PhD
Secretary

Leslie Schmerler, MA
Director

Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, MJ, LCSW
President Emeritus
Development Activities

Congratulations to Leslie Schmerler on FIRST PLACE in APSAC-[W]ORDLE

Do you play the New York Times Wordle and want to enjoy a healthy competition among colleagues, family and friends?

Give and Play to compete in the APSAC[W]ordle competition!

Leadership & Development
**Queidos Padres,**

Ustedes sabían que—

- Azotar causa que el cerebro se encoge
- Azotado por años, menos peso
- Azotado por años, menor rendimiento en la escuela
- Azotar causa que el cerebro se encoge

**Presuntas frecuentes**

¿Qué significa que todos los niños ya han cometido algún tipo de agresión? ¿Qué significa que todos los niños ya han cometido algún tipo de agresión? De acuerdo con investigaciones, es normal que niños y niñas cometen errores y que no sean perjudiciales. Pero se cree que las acciones que se consideran perjudiciales, como no se identifica un problema. Puede ser que su padre o madre sean perjudiciales, pero no todos los niños deben ser perjudiciales. Pueden hacer que otros sean victimas. Por lo tanto, es importante entender que todo es normal y que puede ser útil para el desarrollo de la vida.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- ¿Qué significa que todos los niños que son un diente de leche son perjudiciales?
- No, no significa que todos los niños sean perjudiciales. En realidad, significa que todos los niños se comportan de manera normal en el entorno. Es importante entender que todos los niños se comportan de manera normal en el entorno.

**Tips for Parents of Infants**

- Spanking shrinks brains.
- 1,574 studies found that spanking is harmful.
- Even ‘everyday spanking’ is consistently associated with:
  - Higher aggression
  - Lower cognitive ability
  - Lower self-esteem
  - Lower social skills

**Tips for Parents of Young Toddlers**

- Spanking lowers IQ.
- The University of New Hampshire found that legally children who are spanked at ages 2-4 have 1.57 fewer IQ points than non-spanked children, even years later. Children spanked at ages 0-1 have 4-6 IQ points.

**Tips for Parents of Older Toddlers**

- Spanking raises IQ.

**Tips for Parents of Preschoolers**

- Spanking raises IQ.

**Tips for Parents of School Age Children**

- Spanking raises IQ.

**Tips for Parents of Tweens/Teens**

- Spanking raises IQ.
35th Anniversary Merch & More

shop at apsac.org
Abusive Head Trauma

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