Child Care Education Project Update

THE INITIAL CONFERENCE OF THE 3-YEAR, NIMH-FUNDED CONFERENCE-RESEARCH SEQUENCE IN CHILD CARE EDUCATION sponsored by Child Development and Child Care of the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Pittsburgh was held November 6–9. The project is designed to address key educational issues in the preparation of workers with children, and to advance professionalization of the field.

The focus of this initial conference was discussion of 5 areas in child care education with ongoing Task Forces, which had done preliminary study prior to the conference, with a view toward integrating additional opinions on the issues. The results will be disseminated to participants and others for review and additional feedback and response. The Task Force missions are: scope of the child care practitioners, credentialing issues, and child care's relationship to other mental health disciplines; structure of child care education (including coordination among educational programs, educational models, and levels of education); Curricular Guidelines for Child Care Education (including essentials for a core curriculum and identification of gaps suggested by current service needs); Research in Childl Care (including application of theory and empirical research to child care practice and education of practitioners in necessary research skills to advance the field); and the initiation of a national association of child care educators. Task Force leaders are: F. Herbert Barnes, Connecticut Junior Republic, and Barbara Bowman, Erikson Institute for Early Education (Scope of the Profession); David Austin, Ridge Crest Developmental Maximization Unit, and Donald Peters, College of Human Development, Pennsylvania State University (Structure of Child Care Education); Carol Kelly, California State University at Northridge and Frances Vandivier, Child Care Department, Temple University (Curricular Guidelines); and George Cohen, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Maryland, and Douglas Powell, Wayne State University (Research). The fifth mission of the project, the development of a national association, will be formalized later, involving all participants and interested persons.

Planning is also under way for the second conference in the project, to be held in 1981. Its purpose will be to finalize consideration of the recommendations generated by the previous conference, with particular focus on recommended essentials for training and the establishment of a National Association of Child Care Educators. Further information on any of the project's activities: Karen VanderVen and Martha Mattingly, Co-Directors: Carol Porter, Program Coordinator, Conference Research Sequence in Child Care Education, Pennsylvania Hall, Child Development and Child Care, School of Health Related Professions, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15261.
Child Care Association News

THE WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS plans to begin certifying members by June 1981. A draft of the proposed program is now being circulated for feedback.

A NUMBER OF NEW SERVICES ARE BEING OFFERED TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS, New York, through its Membership Services Committee chaired by Sharon Greene. These include more frequent publication of the Child Care Review, publication of an annual monograph containing articles of interest to child care practitioners, Child Care Worker of the Year and Distinguished Member Awards, development of an Academic Advisement Service, and a certification examination review course. Further information: Association of Child Care Workers, Box 575, Nanuet, New York 10954.

ARIZONA, MINNESOTA, AND VIRGINIA are among the states which are now developing state associations.

Conference

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOMES FOR CHILDREN held its 1980 Conference in Chicago, September 16-18. Keynote speakers included George Gallup, discussing the status of the family, and John Valusek, speaking on anti-violence issues. Workshops covered such areas as dealing with the legislative process, fundraising, management, family linkages, permanency in children’s lives, staffing patterns, community based programming, and physical facilities. Further information on the Association and its conferences can be obtained from the National Association of Homes for Children, 200 Worth Tryon Street, Suite 1500, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

National Survey

"THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF RESIDENTIAL GROUP CARE FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL PROBLEMS" AND "THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS PROVIDING NONRESIDENTIAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL PROBLEMS" are being developed and conducted by Donnell Pappenfort and Thomas Young of the School of Social Service Administration of the University of Chicago in conjunction with the National Opinion Research Center. The purpose of the studies is to make available comprehensive information about children’s services so that those responsible for planning and delivering care can improve its quality. Further information on this project: Professor Donnell Pappenfort, The University of Chicago School of Social Services Administration, 969 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Resources

THE TEACHING RESEARCH AND CHILD CARE CENTER has prepared a description of a group home model to serve developmentally handicapped children. It can be ordered for $7.00 from Instructional Development Corporation, P.O. Box 361, Monmouth, Oregon 97361.