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The Sourcebook: Annotated Resources on Family-Based Services

- **Policy**
- **Practice**
- **Family Therapy**
- **Programs**
- **Research and Evaluation**

Prepared by John Zalenski, Ph.D.

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Introduction

In recent years, the literature relevant to family-based services (FBS) has proliferated. This reflects the growth of widespread support for family-based human services. Beyond that, however, it reflects the growing desire of policymakers and program specialists to put in place fundamental systemic reforms such that the service delivery system itself reflects the principles of family-centered care. And beyond that, the development of the literature on families reflects the urgency of the feeling that, in the best interests of society as a whole, it is essential to develop a cogent and humane family policy across the board, in order to promote the development of a safe, healthy, and productive environment for all citizens. There exists now a nascent cultural awareness—cutting across social, political, and economic lines—that the well-being of families is everyone's business, and will be to everyone's benefit.

The principles of family-centered practice are the key to all of this movement and are the principles which the **National Resource Center on Family Based Services** has developed, monitored, and advocated for more than decade—in training, in information dissemination, and in research and evaluation.

The Sourcebook before you represents an effort to include resources representative of the field and to achieve a certain balance

- between classics and the latest program initiatives;
- between overviews and specific detail in policy, practice, and evaluation; and
- between materials for people in the early stages of FBS development and resources for experienced practitioners and planners.

Entries within each section are listed in alphabetical order by author.

The National Resource Center on Family Based Services offers training programs on an array of family-based services:

- Family-Based Program Development
- Family-Centered Case Management
- Intensive Family Services
- Supervision of Family-Centered Services
- Training of Trainers

- Family Development Trainings:
 - Family Development Specialist Training
 - Family Development Training for Supervisors
- Special Topics in Family-Based Practice
 - Family-Based Services for Substance-Abusing Families
 - Family-Based Reunification Training
 - Family Post-Adoption Therapy Training
 - Multi-Cultural Awareness in Family Based Services

For more information on any aspect of family-based services, contact:

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Policy

The Annie Casey Foundation. (1993). The Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well Being (1993). Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy.

The litany of problems affecting children and families is increasingly well known: poverty, teen births, delinquency, violence, substance abuse, illiteracy, to name the most common. Kids Count, one of the Casey Foundation's children and family initiatives, helps to document how children and families are faring state by state. Its function is to document how well we are doing, as a society, in assuring a safe, healthy, and successful start in life. The data book uses nine indicators of child and adolescent health, education, and socio-economic well-being to measure the condition of American children. They are: low birth weight babies, infant mortality, child death, teen violence, single teen births, juvenile custody, high school graduation, poverty, and proportion of single parent families. In all but two of these categories (infant mortality and child death) the U.S. has suffered worsening statistics in the 1980's.

David Blankenhorn, et al., (Eds.). (1990). Rebuilding the Nest: A New Commitment to the American Family. Milwaukee: Family Service America.

Rebuilding the Nest illustrates the renewed cultural importance of the American family. Its aim is to push the discussion of family "values" and family policy beyond the arena of partisan political debate and to create a critical public consensus focused on the well-being of families. Rebuilding the Nest describes the value of the family as an institution and its importance in reproducing the humane qualities necessary to a good society. It presents evidence of the variety of ways American culture is unfriendly to families. It concludes with a discussion of policy initiatives intended to revitalize what families do best: provide a place for nurturing children. Rebuilding the Nest seeks to build a public philosophy to advance the stature of families. Its policy agenda for the 1990's includes calls to "reinvigorate cultural ideals" of the family, provide larger tax credits for families, advocate workplace policies which halt the erosion of "family time," and reconstruct family law to support the institution of the family as a social unit rather than enshrining "personal autonomy as our reigning legal norm."

Charles Bruner. (1993). So You Think You Need Some Help? Making Effective Use of Technical Assistance: Resource Brief #1. New York: National Center for Service Integration.

This Resource Brief #1 specifically addresses the application of technical assistance (TA) to service integration initiatives. However, it includes definitions, procedures, advice, and a checklist of key points in making effective use of technical assistance, and these are general enough to be useful to programs and states considering contracted technical assistance for FBS development. Currently, job descriptions, training, and professional credentials for TA providers do not exist. For this reason states and communities must develop their own specific procedures. This resource brief draws from business management and public administration literature on the use of consultants. It offers practical advice on how to make effective use of technical assistance, and how to avoid some of the problems experienced and identified by others. Its purpose is to help those seeking TA to find the help they need.

Charles Bruner, et al. (1992). Making Welfare Work: A Family Approach. Des Moines, IA: The Child and Family Policy Center.

This is an assessment of Iowa's family development and self-sufficiency demonstration program. This program developed from a simple finding—that families bring much more than employment needs to the welfare office. The Family Development and Self-Sufficiency program (FaDSS) was a response to this fact. Seeking to go beyond provisions of the Family Support Act, which focused on employment skills and work readiness, the FaDSS program was designed to improve the conditions for child development within families and the overall psychological well-being of families in order to improve the results of the emphasis on employment skills. It does this through the introduction of a new worker, a "family development specialist," who serves as a partner to families in their work towards self-sufficiency. The FaDSS program is based upon applying family support and development principles to the welfare-to-work concepts of the Family Support Act.

Center for the Study of Social Policy. (1988). The Use of Medicaid to Support Community-Based Services to Children and Families. Working Paper Series (FIN-1). Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy.

Although Medicaid payments result from a complex interpretation of policy and regulation at state and federal levels, this paper provides a strong introduction to using Medicaid as a financing mechanism for services to children and families. Established under Title XIX of the Social Security Act in 1965, Medicaid is an "open-ended entitlement program" that pays to the states an established percentage for allowable services. Between 1986 and 1988, Congress broadened eligibility. Eight Medicaid provisions can become the building blocks for state initiatives: (1) Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment services (EPSDT), (2) Case Management services, (3) Clinic services, (4) Rehabilitation services, (5) Special Education "related services", (6) Personal Care services, (7) Home and Community-Based Waivers, and (8) Medicaid Administrative Activities. Another provision is "preventive services," an area with broad potential, but as yet underutilized. The paper includes state examples.

Center for the Study of Social Policy. (1991). Leveraging Dollars, Leveraging Change: How Five States Are Using Refinancing as an Entry Point for Systems Change. Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy.

This report summarizes findings from the Center's work with five states and localities in helping them restructure and refinance various human services programs for children and families. The states and localities are Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, Broward County in Florida, and Contra Costa County in California. The focus of this work is to make service delivery systems more responsive to children and families by conceiving ways to cut across categorical boundaries fixed in place by particular funding mechanisms. To do this, funding streams from federal, state and local governments must be combined. To maximize the effectiveness of this strategy, states must be able to fully access federal entitlement funds from such sources as AFDC, Medicaid, and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. This strategy can be an important step toward a service delivery system driven by family needs at the community level.

Child Welfare League of America. (1990). Crack and Other Addictions: Old Realities and New Challenges for Child Welfare. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

Crack and Other Addictions: Old Realities and New Challenges for Child Welfare combines proceedings of a national symposium with policy recommendations to address the effects of epidemic levels of substance abuse on children and families. This collection begins with a presentation of the problem: trends in drug use and availability, the dynamics of maternal drug use, the character of the federal response to drugs, and the impact of drugs on the child welfare system. The overwhelming need is for innovative services to preserve and treat families. Meeting this challenge requires an unprecedented degree of service coordination to treat the medical, psychosocial, and legal facets of this problem. The policy agenda here includes basic research on the "extent and nature of alcohol and drug related child welfare problems," specialized training for professionals across disciplines, and adequate funding for an array of necessary services. An important qualification: drugs are not themselves the cause of social dysfunction but a symptom of long-standing societal problems. Understanding this is important to a balanced approach to this subject.

Judith K. Chynoweth and Barbara R. Dyer. (1991). Strengthening Families: A Guide for State Policymaking. Washington, DC: Council of Governors' Policy Advisors.

"This policy guide for governors and other public leaders offers a practical approach to designing policy—one that permits the welfare of families and children and helps them to achieve positive results." The guide is based on the experience of ten states that have developed comprehensive family initiatives through the Council of Governors' Policy Advisors Policy Academy. The volume is based on a policy cycle proceeding through a series of steps: scanning the policy environment, assessing problems and opportunities, setting goals and objectives, developing and selecting strategies, planning for implementation, building accountability, and gaining support. This is a valuable contribution to the effort to advance family policy.

Madelyn DeWoody. (1993). Making Sense of Federal Dollars: A Funding Guide for Social Services. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

This new guide first provides basic information on the range of federal funding programs now available and then targets those programs that can be accessed by child welfare agencies to specifically address the needs of vulnerable children, youth, and families. Contents include: Medicaid; Supplemental Security Income; Income Support Services; Child Day Care Funding; Funding for Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Services; Federal Funding for Educational Services; and Nutrition Programs.

Mark Hardin. (1992). Establishing a Core of Services for Families Subject to State Intervention: A Blueprint for Statutory and Regulatory Action. Washington, DC: American Bar Association.

This volume—according to the author, the culmination of ten years' study of the relation of the legal system to children and families—is guided by a core principle: "When the state decides to take coercive steps against a family or to label it as abusive or neglectful, the state should also be prepared to offer help to the family." Hardin provides concrete and comprehensive steps for doing just that. Useful in whole or in part, Establishing a Core of Services can be used to improve legislation, reconceive agency regulations, or just help public child welfare professionals better understand the organization and delivery of children and family services. It provides general and specific models of core services legislation, addresses interagency collaboration issues, discusses the administration of services, and provides a plan for improved judicial and administrative accountability.

Mary Ann Jimenez. (1990). "Historical Evolution and the Future Challenges of the Human Services Professions," Families in Society, 71(1), 3-12.

This article provides an historical overview of the development of services for children and families, the process of professionalization in human services, and the relationship of private funding and delivery of services to government sponsorship in the twentieth century. See also the article's bibliography for additional references on this topic. Creates a context for understanding family-based services by suggesting where it fits in in the development of the profession of social work.

Alfred J. Kahn and Sheila B. Kamerman. (1992). Integrating Services Integration: An Overview of Initiatives, Issues and Possibilities. New York: National Center for Children in Poverty.

Services integration (SI) is a recurring concern in human services reform. A wave of interest came during the 1970's. The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare sought to counteract a "hardening of the categories" in 500 overlapping programs. Hundreds of demonstrations and state level reorganizations were funded, but with little clear long term effect. The current interest in SI stems from the narrowly categorical spending of the 1980's which led to a fragmented response to social services needs around the country. New initiatives are now being undertaken. These initiatives emphasize "case level" approaches, although administrative aspects cannot be ignored. Most importantly, they emphasize community-based solutions, using a family-centered approach: focusing on the family unit, featuring family assessments and holistic family strategies. They also involve interagency instruments for developing case plans, case management, pooled and decategorized funding, and co-location of services. This paper is an overview of the contemporary interest in SI. The authors advocate a strategy of integration from three "clusters": (1) programs offering money on a means-tested basis, (2) services for adolescents, and (3) services for children and families where the children are less than twelve years old.

Sheila B. Kamerman and Alfred J. Kahn. (1989). Social Services for Children, Youth and Families in the United States. Greenwich, CT: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

This is the report of a two-year study of the variety of approaches adopted in states and counties around the country for delivering social services to children, youth and their families. The report provides an overview of problems facing this service system, offers relevant historical background, examines prevalent coping strategies, describes social innovations, and makes policy recommendations. The latter include ongoing public education campaigns to teach people about the needs of families and the problems they can encounter, the need for government to have a strong hand in shaping the service environment for families, comprehensive services that go beyond targeting populations in crisis to play a role in promoting healthy development, reducing categorical gridlock through cross-system reform, the need for a strong Child Protection Services (CPS) system operating at the highest professional standards, and a revitalization of family foster care as a critical component to a successful child welfare system. This report has been influential in setting the agenda for reform in the child welfare system.

Atelia I. Melaville and Martin J. Blank. (1993). Together We Can: A Guide for Crafting a Profamily System of Education and Human Services. Washington, DC: Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services. Available from: U.S. Government Printing Office.

A services integration study group was charged with the task of capturing the experiences of school-based collaborative endeavors across the country and creating a guide for integrating services. The goal is a vision of communities where "learning can happen" and the guide describes a five-stage process. The stages discussed are: (1) organizing the right people around a commitment to collaborate; (2) building trust and a locally based conception of ownership; (3) developing a strategic plan; (4) taking action—basic steps toward successful implementation; (5) going to scale. The guide is practice-based. School-linked services are one important direction for family-based services in the future. Also, the principles described here can be translated fruitfully to other contexts.

National Commission on Child Welfare and Family Preservation. (1991). Commitment to Change. Washington, DC: American Public Welfare Association.

This report proposes a three part, interlinking service approach to address families' and children's needs. (1) The first broadly supports all families through community service networks built in neighborhood centers. Services are voluntary and non-judgmental, build on family strengths, and range from prenatal care to literacy and employment programs. (2) The second assists families in need and mobilizes a coordinated service system for families in crisis. The emphasis is on early intervention, community-based service mechanisms, and cultural responsiveness. (3) The third protects children from abuse and neglect. Here the emphasis is on clear Child Protection Services standards in cases of abuse and neglect as well as a core of services to assure "reasonable efforts" at reunification and consistent permanency planning.

National Commission on Children. (1991). Beyond Rhetoric: A New American Agenda for Children and Families. Washington, DC: National Commission on Children.

This report from the bipartisan congressional group, the National Commission on Children, presents a comprehensive agenda of national policy for children and families for the 1990's. Recommendations cover ensuring income security, providing health care, encouraging educational achievement, increasing family support services, and others. The report emphasizes the importance of preventive services and early intervention, as well as the need for well integrated services to preserve, support and protect families in need. In the wake of this report announcing such an ambitious agenda comes the need for strong advocacy in order that policy recommendations become translated into legislation and adequately funded programs.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. (1991). The Reasonable Efforts Training Video Notebook. Reno, NV: University of Nevada.

A key provision of the Child Welfare Act of 1980, PL 96-272, made "reasonable efforts" to prevent placement the standard for funding foster care placement. Implementing the concept has proved a challenge, with states responding in a variety of ways from the development of "reasonable efforts" protocols to the simple inclusion of boilerplate language in court documents. This set of eight videotapes helps to answer policy and practice questions important to implementing "reasonable efforts" standards. The Video Notebook addresses three questions: (1) How do we influence the perspective of professionals involved in placement to help them avoid unnecessary separation of children and families? (2) What services and interventions do families need to remain safely in their homes? (3) What barriers exist to full implementation of the concept of reasonable efforts?

North American Council on Adoptable Children. (1990). The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272): The First Ten Years. St. Paul, MN: North American Council on Adoptable Children.

This collection of articles surveys the effects of this key child welfare reform legislation. The collection is useful for reminding us that the much heralded family preservation programs are just part of the options for permanence given an order of priority by the legislation. The goal of permanency planning—lifetime relationships for children—needs to be reaffirmed. This reaffirmation reveals the importance of new resources for family maintenance, reunification, therapeutic foster care, foster parent adoption, special needs adoption, a variety of post-adoption services, and other necessary options on the service continuum. Although it has had considerable effect, PL 96-272 has only begun to be implemented. The collection includes useful bibliography.

Theodora Ooms and Deborah Beck. (1990). Keeping Troubled Families Together: Promising Programs and Statewide Reforms. Washington, DC: The Family Impact Seminar.

This report covers a Family Impact Seminar meeting and contains a background briefing report assessing what authors refer to as the "movement" toward a family-centered social service system. Specifically, the report focuses on the role of family preservation programs in that movement. According to the report, family preservation programs represent an effort to provide a particular service at the so-called "portals of placement" that will interrupt the process by which families become dismembered—fragmented into individual units interacting with different categorically defined sectors of the social service system. The background briefing report examines the impetus behind family preservation, the goals and methods, the success of the programs and the possibilities for measuring that success, what moves are being made to institutionalize the services, and the federal role in these developments.

Note: The Family Impact Seminar is the policy unit of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), Research and Education Foundation. In addition to addressing family preservation policy, recent reports have addressed service integration strategies for serving families more effectively, case management, child care, families in schools, welfare reform, issues surrounding adolescents at risk, substance abuse, medically complex children, and family poverty.

Theodora Ooms and Steven Presiter (Eds.). (1992). A Strategy for Strengthening Families: Using Family Criteria in Policy Making and Program Evaluation. Washington, DC: The Family Impact Seminar.

This report presents criteria developed to determine the degree to which programs and policies meet the needs of families. It is written in response to the fact that policymakers and program evaluators at federal, state, and local levels do not really know how to "think family." As a result, family-centered policies and programs remain underdeveloped. The report proceeds through a set of clear definitions—of family, of policy, and of program components. It then develops six principles of a family perspective: (1) support the family stability; (2) supplement (not substitute for) family functioning; (3) recognize the persistence of family ties; (4) treat families as partners in a variety of societal tasks; (5) recognize the diversity of family life; (6) give families in greatest need the highest priority.

Note: The Family Impact Seminar is the policy unit of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), Research and Education Foundation. In addition to addressing family preservation policy, recent reports have addressed service integration strategies for serving families more effectively, case management, child care, families in schools, welfare reform, issues surrounding adolescents at risk, substance abuse, medically complex children, and family poverty.

Peter J. Pecora, et al. (1990). "Selecting an Agency Auspice for Family Preservation Services." Social Service Review, 64(2), 288-307.

This article addresses some of the variety of considerations to be noted in starting up a family preservation program, including program implementation, funding, service effectiveness, program efficiency, and organizational politics, among others. To select the appropriate social service agency to provide family preservation services (FPS), administrators and program managers must consider the advantages and limitations of both public and private agencies. Organizational hindrances to effective FPS are associated more with public agencies. Pecora et al. argue that comparative studies regarding the cost effectiveness of public vs. private FPS programs are needed, along with research to identify barriers to implementation of high quality FPS. This will contribute knowledge necessary to establish an adequate basis for choosing public vs. private FPS.

Leroy H. Pelton. (1989). For Reasons of Poverty: A Critical Analysis of the Public Child Welfare System in the United States. New York: Praeger Publishers.

Pelton's analysis goes beyond the boundaries of the family-based services movement and addresses the public child welfare system as a whole. For Reasons of Poverty documents the fact that "child removal has survived as a major tactic in regard to child welfare programs despite a long-standing policy of family preservation." Understanding the reasons for this will make family-based service initiatives more effective.

Debra Ratterman. (1987). Reasonable Efforts: A Manual for Judges. Washington DC: American Bar Association.

This handbook deals with the variety of factors which must be considered in order to make effective use of "reasonable efforts" provisions in federal or state legislation. Ratterman surveys the "reasonable efforts" requirement—its purpose and scope, agency responsibility, and types of appropriate services. She presents the judicial perspective: the judicial role in determining "reasonable efforts," standards, emergency placement, types of cases requiring "reasonable efforts," and the point in the judicial process at which the determination should be made. Throughout, Ratterman emphasizes the necessity of communication between the juvenile court and social service agencies in order to avoid unrealistic expectations, to get beyond technicalities and to realize "reasonable efforts" as a powerful tool to preserve families. The handbook includes judges' commentaries on diverse aspects of the "reasonable efforts" process and a one-page decision-making outline that makes the handbook instantly useful.

Debra Ratterman, G. Diane Dodson, and Mark A. Hardin. (1987). Reasonable Efforts to Prevent Foster Placement: A Guide to Implementation. Washington DC: American Bar Association.

This guide offers a comprehensive framework for implementing "reasonable efforts" provisions of state and federal legislation. In addition to covering agency responsibility, caseworker practice, and the role of judicial determination, the guide also provides sample forms for "reasonable efforts" decisions, federal regulations, and examples of state legislation. The guide demonstrates how "reasonable efforts" may become a standard for effective child welfare practice rather than another compliance requirement.

Susan D. Robinson. (1990). Putting the Pieces Together: Survey of State Systems for Children in Crisis. Denver CO: National Conference of State Legislatures.

This report surveys the organizational structures of state child welfare systems responsible for serving children, youth, and families. Service systems are organized in three primary configurations: Multiple autonomous agencies; multiple divisions within a single agency; consolidated children and family agency or division. Services are either provided by the state, provided by the counties (with state oversight), or directly provided or purchased by counties and municipal agencies. State systems too often function as separate bureaucratic realms, they suffer from a lack of family support services, and almost three-quarters report that coordination is a serious problem. At the same time, services are inadequately funded, and categorical funding streams constrain treatment plans. Promising state initiatives include: service delivery reform, flexible funding strategies; integrated functions; promotion of local solutions; creation of coordinating councils; and establishment of collaborative structures. Structural reform is needed to accommodate innovative service delivery projects. The report concludes with some examples.

Shelley L. Smith. (1991). Family Preservation Services: State Legislative Initiatives. Denver, CO: National Conference of State Legislatures.

This survey presents the general features of state legislation for family preservation services. The survey presents the development of state FPS legislation to date—12 states have implemented FPS by statute, seven others are implementing programs through appropriations processes, and reports from 31 states indicate legislation as a top priority. The survey suggests important policy considerations that should inform FPS legislation: Is the program intensive? Does it target children who would be otherwise placed? Does the service involve all service systems placing children? Is the service linked to federal mandates? Is program evaluation legislated? Are finance mechanisms linked to federal funding for out-of-home care? Is there support for necessary training? Overall the survey makes a determined pitch for "Homebuilders style" programs based upon their cost-effectiveness.

"A Special Issue: Family Policy." (1991). Families in Society, 72(5).

While the foregoing historical documents focus on the family through the social work profession and the child welfare system, this issue of Families in Society illustrates the way the American family has become a part of a broader social agenda for the 1990's. Issues include systemic reform of the social service delivery system, comprehensive services to families of children with mental and emotional disorders, the importance of comprehensive service systems for families, the role of empowering families in the development of self sufficiency, and the use of neighborhood schools as social and community "hubs" for organizing services. See especially Frank Farrow's article.

Theodore J. Stein. (1991). Child Welfare and the Law. New York: Longman Publishing Group.

An excellent overview of the relationship between child welfare practice and the law, Stein's book gives particular attention to the Child Welfare Act of 1980, PL 96-272. An important part of family-based service policy concerns implementation of legal mandates such as requirements for permanence plans, case review, "reasonable efforts," etc. Stein describes the relationships among federal law, state law, various kinds of regulation at different governmental levels, and sundry aspects of the policy implementation process. Stein conveys the complexities of these relationships while remaining intelligible to a general reader. His descriptions of the way social workers interact with the court system will be helpful in making family-based services work as institutional policy. A good view for anyone interested in understanding the way the system hangs together.

Margaret Tyler. (1990). The State Survey on Placement Prevention and Family Reunification Programs. Iowa City: The National Resource Center on Family Based Services.

Tyler's survey provides a snapshot of responding states' child welfare systems and the place of family-based services within them. It includes information on county- and state-based child welfare administration, on the relationship between states with FBS legislation and FBS program development, on states administering FBS under public and private auspices through purchase of service agreements, and on the number of states with FBS programs in the state.

Michael Wald. (1988). "Family Preservation: Are We Moving Too Fast?" Public Welfare, 46(Summer), 33-38.

Wald's argument proceeds from an overview of the development of family preservation services within child welfare. From this perspective, the development of family preservation is driven by influences other than empirical knowledge about effective treatment and services for children at risk of abuse and neglect. It is driven by the belief in minimizing state intervention in private life, the fiscal imperative to save money, attachment theory and its elaborations, and a generic judgment about the value of foster care. Wald poses an important question to policymakers and practitioners of family preservation services: Has family preservation become an end in itself, rather than a means to assure the safety of children? Wald makes clear the difference between (on the one hand) reducing placements, increasing reunifications, and preventing physical harm or reabuse, and (on the other hand) the achievement of academic, social, and emotional development. The former are successful outcomes of a family preservation program, the latter are the more complete objectives of a family-centered service system.

Practice

Harry J. Aponte, John J. Zarski, and Catherine Bixenstine. (1991). "Home/Community-Based Services: A Two-Tier Approach." American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 61(3).

Alleviating the dire stresses that wrack families and swell the child welfare population requires a comprehensive grasp of the multiplicity of systems creating and influencing family life. In practice, this means working with the family to stabilize and improve family functioning, but it also means working at a community level to improve the larger systems environment. This article addresses the need to work at those two levels. It presents a two-tier model for work with high-risk families, combining multiple family groups in the community with home-based therapy for individual families. The ecostructural framework of the model is the key concept, a meshing of family preservation and family support that sets the stage for community development. The application of this two-tier model is illustrated by a case example. This direction in family-based services promises to deepen the emphasis in family-based services on prevention and empowerment.

Insoo Kim Berg (1992). Family Based Services: A Solution-Focused Approach. Milwaukee, WI: The Brief Family Therapy Center.

This a practitioner's handbook for the family-based services worker. Berg focuses on the generic features of FBS work (family as the unit of service, goal-oriented treatment, use of treatment teams, limited caseloads and length of service, client driven services) and she concerns herself with the substance of the intervention for referred families. For Berg, family therapy has provided the conceptual underpinning and treatment technology for FBS. Within the broader field of family therapy, the "solution-focused" or "brief therapy" approach provides the best fit for FBS program options. Solution-focused therapy works well with the goal of family empowerment by looking to the client's own behavior (when something is "working") to disclose the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral resources necessary for change. This focus on "strengths"—not as a slogan, but in practice—also reinforces the time limited nature of the service. It is also very demanding of the practitioner because the success or the failure of the treatment emerges from the interaction of the FBS practitioner and the client. The ability to step behind the coercive power conferred by the client's "dysfunction" is gone. Fortunately this very practical book shows the way, covering assessment and problem definition, the client-worker relationship and developing cooperation, useful questions and interviewing ideas, and special problems and termination.

Gregory W. Brock and Charles P. Barnard. (1992). Procedures in Marriage and Family Therapy (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Brock and Barnard's Procedures provides a valuable, ground-level view of the practice of family therapy as it routinely occurs. Distinguishing itself from an array of texts advocating particular, specialized techniques, Brock and Barnard's handbook is for everyday use, conceived around an eclectic awareness that diverse techniques and therapeutic orientations are appropriate to the professional practice of family therapy. They accomplish this by not privileging any particular theory and how it may be used to govern the encounter between therapist and client. Instead they focus on the more common human substratum of the therapeutic process: a family (or couple) turning to a professional therapist for help. How does the therapist shape the initial encounter? How does he/she establish the complex rapport necessary for effective assessment and successful treatment? What are the primary factors to consider in the assessment phase of a therapeutic relationship? What is the implied (but inevitably present) conception of optimal family functioning operating as a guide to change? What kinds of practical assessment tools are available? What does the therapist do and say to make productive use of difficult clinical encounters? This client-focused practical approach to the basic processes of family therapy makes this a useful book to practicing professionals and to anyone who wants to understand what goes on at various stages of the therapeutic process. It also makes this a very humane and valuable book.

Johannah Bryant. (1988). "A Public-Private Partnership Builds Support for Family Preservation Services." Children Today, 17(1), 25-27.

Describes the various dimensions of preplanning preparatory to implementing a family preservation program in a Kansas community. A good account of the activities necessary to create a workable public-private partnership.

Marvin Bryce and June Lloyd (Eds.). (1981). Treating Families in the Home: An Alternative to Placement. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

This is a classic in the field. In his chapter on the St. Paul Family-Centered Project, Charles Horejsi remarks that reading that literature "yields some remarkable insight and practical guidance for the modern professional." The same can be said of this volume. A full range of issues important to the field can be found presented with the zeal of the formative stages of a social movement. Chapters address the historical perspective on child welfare and family policy, issues surrounding the assessment of families in the home, the dynamics of using the home as the locus of services delivery, and a broad range of issues important to a full vision of family-based services.

Harold E. Cheatham and James B. Stewart (Eds.). (1990). Black Families: Interdisciplinary Perspectives. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

The black family has long been of interest to public policy makers. This collection examines the black family from a multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. Topics include the history of the study of African-Americans from an African-American perspective, an ecological framework for the study of the development of African-American institutions, family structure and interpersonal relationships, economics, and the relation between service delivery systems and African-Americans. This volume makes available an array of resources to anyone interested in sophisticated multi-cultural understanding.

Child Welfare League of America. (1989). Standards for Services to Strengthen and Preserve Families with Children. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

From the introduction: "This volume of standards is intended to provide guidance to child welfare and other family-serving agencies for three central, critical types of service that should be part of any service system for strengthening and preserving families with children. Services in the first broad category described—Family Resource, Support, and Education Services—are designed to assist a wide range of families. Families' engagement with these service may be strong, but it often occurs in group settings and typically is not as intense as in therapeutic service. The second type of service, Family-Centered Casework Services, addresses families' problems, and thus tends to involve only those families with more severe needs, and approaches families with greater intensity. The third type of service, Intensive Family-Centered Crisis Service, is especially intense and is targeted to families in crisis. Although these services do not represent a full range of interdisciplinary services to strengthen and preserve families, they do constitute an array of family-centered services and thus are logically considered in relation to each other in this volume."

Elizabeth Cole and Joy Duva. (1990). Family Preservation: An Orientation for Administrators and Practitioners. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

As family preservation services become a part of the institutional structure of the child welfare system, there is an ongoing effort to define the characteristics of the service that make family preservation distinctive. This volume addresses some features of one approach to family preservation. Cole and Duva emphasize immediate response to referrals, risk of imminent placement criteria, assessment and treatment focuses on the family as the unit of service, concrete and realistic objectives, use of home and community as the locus of services, provision of a range of "hard" and "soft" services, flexible scheduling of work hours, intensive, short-term intervention, and limited caseload size to make the intervention a workable option. In a chapter on practice considerations the authors discuss the competencies necessary to the family preservation worker. Defining the role of the family preservation specialist as a type of family consultant, Cole and Duva set competencies within the context of practice, walking the reader through a step-by-step guide to family preservation practice in three phases. The beginning phase emphasizes determining the appropriateness of the referral and making a complete assessment of the family's circumstances. The middle phases discusses empowerment strategies, advocacy, service delivery, and organizing the family for change. The final phase focuses on strategies for reinforcing positive changes in order to make new family stability long lasting. Also addressed is the process of "letting go," which is particularly important given the intensity of the worker's involvement with the family. This volume provides a benchmark from which to develop a family preservation program appropriate to a given organizational setting.

Carl Dunst, et al., (1988). Enabling and Empowering Families: Principles and Guidelines for Practice. Cambridge, MA: Brookline Books.

Dunst's book is noteworthy for its effort to provide resources to realize the goal of family empowerment in social service practice. Dunst and his colleagues' model of assessment and intervention is based upon four "operational components." First, family needs and aspirations are identified to determine what the family believes is important enough to devote themselves to. Second, family strengths are identified through looking at the unique pattern of family functioning used to deal successfully with life's problems. Third, the family's social network is "mapped" to identify existing or potential supports and resources both formal and informal. Fourth, the professional service provider works to achieve an optimal integration of the three parts of the family system. Empowerment is nurtured through allowing the affected family optimum control and responsibility. Using this model, the authors claim, is a craft to be learned, not a technique to be applied. The volume contains a number of useful assessment instruments/scales.

Peter Edelman and Joyce Ladner (Eds.). (1991). Adolescence and Poverty: Challenge for the 1990s. Washington, DC: Center for National Policy Press.

This collection of essays addresses the developmental needs of adolescents. It serves as a corrective to a growing belief that prevention, focused on early intervention in the lives of young children, will provide a pervasive cure to all social ills. This is not strictly true. Adolescence is a developmental period analogous to early childhood, a transitional period in which a child becomes an adult through intimacy, work, and citizenship. To reasonably ensure that developing potential meshes with available opportunity is the responsibility of a public policy creating partnership between government, business, education, and community.

Thelma Jean Goodrich (Ed.). (1991). Women and Power: Perspectives for Family Therapy. New York: W. W. Norton.

Women and Power addresses the difficult question of power relations between the sexes in the therapeutic context. The volume recognizes power as a central organizing principle within families, and it draws attention to the different cultural messages for women and men concerning access to power, the desirability of power, the pursuit of power, and the ways of exercising it. The volume pays particular attention to the subordinate position typically occupied by women in their power relations within the family, exploring the effects of such subordination, as well as the consequences and strategies for change.

Ann Hartman and Joan Laird. (1983). Family-Centered Social Work Practice. New York: The Free Press.

This is one of the enduring classics of the field. It presents comprehensive integration of concepts and techniques important to successful social work practice with families. Based on ecological systems concepts, Hartman and Laird's model integrates theory and practice, and offers a "how to" approach to family therapy congenial to competency-based thinking. Numerous case examples illustrate the approach. Part I of the book establishes the cultural context for family practice and scrutinizes the most relevant theories of family therapy. Part II concentrates on beginning the work; it addresses engagement, contracting, and interviewing between family clients and social workers. The authors also look at agency setting and case management practices for how they help or hinder family-centered practice. Part III presents the heart of family practice: assessment and intervention. This takes three related forms: (1) an ecological form, viewing the family in the context of its social environment, (2) an historical form, seeing the family within its intergenerational context, and (3) perceiving the family as a basic unit, or as an "inner system."

Neil J. Hochstadt and Diane M. Yost (Eds). (1991). The Medically Complex Child: The Transition to Home Care. New York: Harwood Academic Publishers.

The Medically Complex Child: The Transition to Home Care addresses the complicated needs of children (also known by names such as "medically fragile" or "technologically dependent") requiring sustained, sophisticated medical care. Because of advances in technology, escalating health care costs, and the work of the family based services reform movement generally, home care is seen as a goal for a medically complex child, necessary in promoting "a balance between the child's medical, psychological, and social needs by normalizing the child's life in a non-institutional setting." Because of the relatively high percentage of these children unable to return to their biological parents, the book gives special attention to specialized foster care and adoption. Emphasizing the importance of "discharge planning," "case management" (often the family functions as the case manager), and service coordination, the book cuts across issues from medicine, to social services, to education, to the stresses of caring for a medically complex child. It also contains a section on innovative models of specialized care. Because of this, it is a volume useful to anyone working in any part of the field. It also contains a useful resource directory.

Evan Imber-Black. (1988). Families and Larger Systems. New York: Guilford Press.

The institutional contexts affecting families is the primary topic of Imber-Black's book. A working understanding of the inter-related systems intended to serve families has always been important. But it is receiving renewed attention as service systems examine ways to deliver comprehensive services to children and families. Imber-Black's basic claim is that too often social workers and family therapists view the family as the unit of service, but in isolation from the variety of social and social service institutions affecting their lives. Families are neither passive recipients of services, nor are they completely rational agents capable of fully sorting through the labyrinth of the service system in order to achieve a clear path to well-being and self-sufficiency. Too often, in the absence of recognition of the way service systems interact with families, families will receive conflicting assessments, contradictory service plans, redundant services, or their intra-familial conflicts will be reflected in other contexts, sometimes institutionalizing a family's relationship to social service systems for generations. "Our larger systems spring from policy norms that at one and the same time venerate mythical families and denigrate the integrity of actual families." Imber-Black's book is a good step towards understanding the role of the larger systemic context of family treatment.

Curtis Janzen and Oliver Harris. (1986). Family Treatment in Social Work Practice (2nd ed.). Itasca, IL: F. E. Peacock, Inc.

This volume offers a comprehensive account of family treatment. The authors find antecedents of the family treatment model in the social work technique of "multiple client interviewing." Janzen and Harris explain theoretical frameworks for family treatment (structural and communicative-interactive); they account for the role of critical transitions in families' lives; and they discuss means for assessing family functioning, planning intervention strategies, and planning treatment goals. Particular topics include work with African-American families, families in poverty, elderly parents and adult children, abusive families, families confronting alcoholism, adolescent conflicts, and marriage dissolution and remarriage. Janzen and Harris close the book with a chapter on issues important in the relationship between therapists and social service agencies.

Lisa Kaplan. (1986). Working with Multiproblem Families. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

Although written in the mid-1980's Lisa Kaplan has ensured the value of her book by focusing on issues that continue to influence the field. She presents the multiproblem family in systemic terms, finding the multiproblems family beset by difficulties cutting across many dimensions of family life. Such families suffer from "underorganization" (Aponte's term). Their patterns of activity are not reciprocal, complementary, or oriented around shared family goals. As a result the family cannot work together. Internal difficulties are compounded by external ones: educational and economic problems. This mix is rendered more unstable by the high risk social environments such families face. When such families come into contact with categorically based social services, the results are discouraging. A narrowly conceived and fragmented intervention will often only make things worse for such a family by straining or souring relations with a service provider: the family may be labeled uncooperative, and the service providers viewed as insensitive or uninformed. Kaplan changes the values in this equation. She clarifies the meaning of the "family" as the unit of treatment. She discusses referral criteria, presents a framework for assessment, describes intervention strategies, and outlines the features of a comprehensive program model. The principles of FBS she describes continue to be central to the field: "The philosophical underpinnings of the human service profession must undergo a total reorientation if the commitment to family preservation is to become a reality."

Gary W. Lawson and Ann W. Lawson (Eds.). (1992). Adolescent Substance Abuse: Etiology, Treatment, and Prevention. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers.

The importance of adolescence as a developmental stage emphasizes the need to address the multiple risks adolescents face. This volume is a comprehensive handbook of substance abuse issues. It addresses the cultural and psychological conditions leading to substance abuse. It presents alternative theories of substance abusing behavior. It presents screening and assessment processes, evaluates different treatment options, and addresses work with special populations. The final section of the volume contains a series of chapters on designing effective prevention measures.

Karen Gail Lewis (Ed.). (1991). Family Systems Application to Social Work. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press.

This collection gathers together articles devoted to applying family systems therapy concepts to clinical social work. Lewis believes that social work is unique among mental health professions in that it combines emphases on policy and clinical practice in a single discipline. The strength of its past and the promise of its future exist in a practice which fuses these emphases. Such a fusion, occurring through the use of family systems theory, could generate "a new paradigm," one that "encompasses the worker, the client, the extended family, the community, the government—a paradigm that understands the context in which people live and sees behaviors as attempts to adapt to impossible situations."

Lewis works to counter a perceived antipathy between family therapy and social work, and her insight gives urgency and energy to the collection. Topics include family systems social work administrators, the training of social work professionals in a family systems approach to multicultural families, and an ecosystemic approach to the treatment of families suffering with AIDS and substance abuse. Overall, Lewis's volume extends the boundaries of family therapy into some of the most important issues confronting social work professionals today.

Laura M. Markowitz. (1992). "Making House Calls." The Family Therapy Networker, 16(4), 23-46.

Markowitz provides good mainstream exposition of the family-based/home-based services movement: an unwieldy child welfare bureaucracy and a foster care system faced with soaring placement rates turns to family-based services for systematic reform. Featured prominently are Families, Inc., of West Branch, Iowa, as the most significant pioneer in the field during the mid-1970's, and the Homebuilders program of Tacoma Washington, the program popularized nationally through the multi-million dollar investment of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. The main line of productive argument presented is between the pragmatic approach of Homebuilders style programs emphasizing quick behavior changes and the family systems/family therapy approach represented by the National Resource Center on Family Based Services emphasizing long term improvements in family functioning, in part through understanding the intrinsic worth of families and individual family members. The article ends by emphasizing the continuity between family-based services and the historical mission of the social work profession, as well as the movement of family-based services, into the larger context of empowering practice—the surrounding community.

Sheila Maybanks and Marvin Bryce. (1979). Home-Based Services for Children and Families. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

This collection is a classic from the formative days of the family-based services movement, before PL96-272, before the refinements in program components and service delivery came to a focus upon "family preservation" initiatives. This collection shows the common roots of family preservation, family-based services, and family support services in the work for a progressive family policy addressing economic well-being, daycare and educational services, health care, and community development.

Monica McGoldrick and R. Gerson. (1985). Genograms in Family Assessment. New York: W. W. Norton.

The genogram has become a standard tool of family-based services. This is a comprehensive account of the genogram and its uses.

E Susan Morton and R. Kevin Grigsby (Eds.). (1993). Advancing Family Preservation Practice. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

The field of family preservation practice has seen a dramatic increase in the publication of material. Most of this has been aimed at program description, or evaluation research. This book takes a different tack. It seeks to take stock of the way family preservation programs and policy have evolved over the nearly twenty years' time such programs have been in operation. Chapters of particular interest here address the relation between family preservation and child protective services, evolving practice models and work with special populations, and an assessment of future directions for the field. Of particular interest is the chapter on "shifting objectives in family preservation programs" from the research team at Chapin Hall in Chicago working on Illinois' Family First evaluation. This is a well informed piece on the complexities of program implementation and development.

National Association of Family-Based Services. Empowering Families: Conference Proceedings (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992). Riverdale, IL: National Association of Family-Based Services.

This series documents the national development of the movement for family based services through the NAFBS conference: an annual event gathering professionals from diverse disciplines and practice settings to determine and to chart the direction of the field. Presentations fall into topic areas covering policy, administrative and management issues, program development, treatment techniques, and practice interventions, as well as research and evaluation. Within those categories, issues critical to the field are addressed.

National Resource Center on Family Based Services. (1984). Placement Prevention and Family Reunification: A Handbook for the Family-Centered Service Practitioner. Iowa City, IA: National Resource Center on Family Based Services

Practitioners eager to get on with the business of serving families in their own homes have repeatedly asked for in-home treatment techniques, case examples, and information on how to formulate an in-home plan of care. The key features of model family-centered programs form the backbone of this book. The handbook covers a full range of topics, among them: how family-centered service differs from other service efforts and why these differences help families change; the major roles the family-centered practitioner must be prepared to fulfill with a given family; the process of focusing on the family in context, in relation to home, community, and society; and ways to creatively adapt existing skills for maximally effective use in the home.

Judith C. Nelsen. (1983). Family Treatment: An Integrative Approach. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.

"This book presents what experienced family practitioners tend to put together for themselves: a balanced, effective approach to family treatment based on an integration of existing theories, available research findings, and clinical experience" (p. ix). Discusses the development of family treatment within the context of prevailing individually oriented psychoanalytic theory, and so contrasts the two approaches well. Appropriate treatment strategies will vary according to a family's situation, often combining an insight-oriented approach to the family system, "homework assignments" to alter dysfunctional communications patterns, and behaviorally oriented efforts to realign family structure. Nelsen also clarifies the different strains of family treatment by presenting theory, approaches to assessment, and treatment goals, and strategies for each. She presents assumptions, characteristics, and problems of the crisis intervention approach. She discusses the difficulties of evaluating family treatment models. The goal of her comprehensive explication is an integrative treatment model.

Kristine Nelson, Miriam Landsman, and Wendy Deutelbaum. (1990). "Three Models of Family-Centered Placement Prevention Services." Child Welfare, LXIX(1), 3-21. (Reprint available from the National Resource Center on Family Based Services, Iowa City, IA).

The strength of the movement for family-based services continues to grow from its diversity. However, with growth and diversity, confusion over definitions arises. This article establishes a preliminary typology of family-based services programs. These are the "crisis intervention model," the "homebased model," and the "family treatment model." The first type includes varieties of "intensive" programs: "intensive family preservation services" (IFPS), and "family preservation services" (FPS). Intensive models are known for their short duration (6 weeks), behavioral orientation, and the assumption that families are most open to change during crises. They are connected conceptually to the concept of "imminent risk of placement," a decision point in the placement process which has been difficult to pin down. They are most often associated with Homebuilders, the program promoted by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. "Homebased" models offer a longer treatment phase (up to 6 months). They employ a family systems theory approach to emphasize family strengths, to set families within the context of extended families, and to help families understand their place within community support networks. Families, Inc., of West Branch, Iowa, is credited with the "homebased" approach. The family treatment model emphasizes therapeutic interventions over support services and do not use the home as a locus of services. The state of Oregon's Children's Services Division was one of the first programs to use the "family treatment" approach.

Susan P. Pfeifer and Marvin B. Sussman (Eds.). (1991). Families: Intergenerational and Generational Connections. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press.

This collection turns the difficulty of defining "family" into an opportunity to explore a variety of familial relationships. A decline in the importance of both the nuclear and extended families has created a pervasive need for support networks and sustained relationships. The collection's central thesis is that "kinship" is a social construct responding to social needs. It explores the substance and the implication of a full range of "familial ties" to which people are turning in order to respond to those needs. This leads to an understanding of the effects of modern social development on intergenerational ties. For years the ideal of the self-sufficient nuclear family has been a governing, if troubled, social norm. Now, however, shifting demographics, declining human service expenditures, increasing life expectancy, and exploding health care costs are giving new urgency to intergenerational ties. As family-based services develop to encompass the full family life cycle, this will be a useful resource.

Barbara A. Pine, et al. (Eds.). (1993). Together Again: Family Reunification in Foster Care. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

Family reunification is a close complement of family preservation and a key phase of the permanency planning process, when key decisions about the nature of a child's future familial relationships are structured. Preserving families who have been separated through placement requires informed policy changes, supportive programs implementing family-centered approaches to the complex systemic relationships generated by placement, and state-of-the-art practice strategies. This collection brings together resources for a comprehensive approach to the issue. Part I delineates the context for reunification practice, with a focus on the structures—both institutional and conceptual—needed for successful practice. This includes an overview of the reunification process, the role of court-agency partnerships, and training for competence in family reunification practice. Part II focuses on creating the methods for successful practice, methods such as goal setting with biological families, strategies for generating effective parental involvement, the role and best use of family visiting, and an approach for putting into practice a belief in the strengths and competencies of families. Part III is concerned with the use of research and evaluation—not as a detached observance of effectiveness, but with an emphasis on the best current knowledge base for reunification practice.

Gail D. Ryan and Sandy L. Lane. (1991). Juvenile Sexual Offending: Causes, Consequences and Corrections. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

Juvenile Sexual Offending details current conceptions of the juvenile sexual offender from a variety of key perspectives. The study of the sexual transgressions of minors is of great importance. In the past, juvenile sexual offenders have evaded responsibility for their actions, aided by folk rationalizations which saw such activities as exploratory, or as expressions of "adjustment problems" which would pass with age. However, the growing awareness of the long term psychological damage to victims, the continuity of adolescent and adult sexual transgression, and the discouraging prognosis for treating adult offenders have combined to lend greater importance to the study of the juvenile sexual offender. Ryan and Lane (and assorted other co-authors) define the population and the offenses, and establish their incidence and prevalence. They offer theoretical perspectives on normal sexual development in order to establish a clear concept of deviant development. They discuss intervention, treatment, and prevention, as well as the effects of the offenses on the victims. They conclude with a chapter discussing the effects of juvenile sexual offense upon the therapists working with the offenders.

Derald Wing Sue and David Sue. (1990). Counseling the Culturally Different: Theory and Practice. Somerset, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Now in its second edition, this is a clinical and pedagogical tool which treats the varying assumptions, needs, and biases of culturally different clients. It emphasizes the damaging effects of political and racial biases inherent in the mental health field and focuses on the need for developing culture-specific communication/helping styles for culturally different clients. Also highlighted are the key issues of ethnic and racial identity formation and culturally specific concepts of the family and their relationship to counseling. It is a substantive approach to a popular concern with multiculturalism.

Elizabeth M. Tracy, et al. (Eds.). (1991). Intensive Family Preservation Services: An Instructional Sourcebook. Cleveland, OH: Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University.

The promoters of "intensive family preservation services" (IFPS), a phrase encoding the Homebuilders model of family preservation, maintain a strict message discipline intended to assure the uniformity and the purity of their program. Due to this, there is unvarying consistency to any volume advocating IFPS. This "sourcebook" is a thorough presentation both of the Homebuilders IFPS model and related issues. The collection describes the primary goals of IFPS: protect children, strengthen families, stabilize crisis, elevate skills levels, facilitate the use of surrounding supports, and prevent needless placement. In addition, the basic Homebuilders model is presented: (1) the targeting of children at risk of imminent placement, (2) crisis orientation and 24-hour referral, (3) in-home (or within the community) service delivery, (4) social learning focus, (5) small worker caseloads, (6) four-to-six weeks length of service, (7) variety of worker tasks/roles. Other sections of the volume cover a variety of issues: transferring the principles of IFPS to other fields of practice such as residential treatment and adoption, providing culturally sensitive IFPS, ethical standards for family preservation workers, and the application of family preservation to drug-using families, among others.

Donald G. Unger and Douglas R. Powell (Eds.). (1991). Families as Nurturing Systems: Support Across the Life Span. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press.

The most broadly-based and diverse services for families fall in the category of family support/family resource programs. These community-based, neighborhood-focused, participant driven centers are rapidly gaining attention as a critical component of the continuum of services needed to achieve stability for families. The importance of these programs rests not only with the fact that families must necessarily serve a reciprocally defined nurturing role in child and human development across the life cycle. It rests on the recognition that family support and resource programs represent a "third way." They neither accede to the ideological demand that the intact nuclear family thrive in complete self-sufficiency without government interference, nor do they admit the viability of massive welfare state interventions which can be insensitive to family and community needs. This type of program, this "third way," recognizes the major changes in family structure, and the major stressors on traditional community supports, that make family resource organizations necessary. Family resource and support programs also recognize that self-sufficiency occurs in relation to community interdependence, and that the poor and disadvantaged may need sustained support to achieve successful family functioning. This collection explores all aspects of the family as a nurturing system, and the variety of means to support it. This includes policy options, program models, community contexts for family support, types of support interventions, and the value of support across the life cycle.

Donald G. Unger and Marvin Sussman (Eds.). (1990). Families in Community Settings: Interdisciplinary Perspectives. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press.

Families in Community Settings provides an ecological view of families, focusing on the implications for family life of programs and policies developed and implemented by schools, employers, and community health and mental health organizations, as well as by social welfare agencies. This collection looks to the future of the family. It is especially useful as people working at all levels within the family-based services field look to expand the relevant systemic contexts used to understand families and to create positive change.

Gillian Walker. (1991). In the Midst of Winter: Systemic Therapy with Families, Couples and Individuals with AIDS Infection. New York: W. W. Norton.

With projections indicating that more than one million American families will confront AIDS over the next decade, *In the Midst of Winter* is an especially significant work, a comprehensive investigation of family therapy for individuals and families with AIDS infection. Gillian Walker situates the AIDS epidemic within the family and larger cultural context, and at the same time introduces the principles of systemic family therapy applied to cases of chronic illness. She then leads readers through "The Illness Journey," a narrative construct embracing the course of the disease from the first hint of infection through the reorganizations of the family network necessary to accommodate the illness. Walker then addresses "Death and Bereavement," the process of coping with last tasks, dealing with the medical system, grieving their loved one, and caring for surviving family members. Finally Walker examines "The Inner City Experience," with special attention to pediatric AIDS and the consequences for children when parents die of the disease.

Froma Walsh (Ed.). (1982). Normal Family Processes. New York: Guilford Press.

Walsh's collection is important for addressing a difficult subject in the FBS literature. Because of the danger of definitions of the "normal family" becoming reified as structural norms within the implied value systems anchoring policy and program initiatives, the "normal family" is underrepresented in the literature. And yet, conceptually and practically, the treatment of dysfunction must occur in a context of implied optimal family functioning. To leave the concept of the "normal family" as simply implied, within service design and treatment process, is, after a point, risky. For this reason Walsh's collection remains valuable. In her very useful introductory chapter, Walsh provides a taxonomy, a set of definitions to help untangle what we mean when we say "normal." She then describes, in basic terms, the historical changes affecting all families, changes which need to be acknowledged regardless of where you stand when you use the term "normal family." Her chapter ends with a table that indexes various schools of family therapy against their concept of normal functioning, their view of dysfunction, and their goals of therapeutic intervention. The volume contains a set of contributions by major names in the field which, combined, offer a comprehensive inquiry into the subject.

Froma Walsh and Monica McGoldrick (Eds.). (1991). Living Beyond Loss: Death in the Family. New York: W. W. Norton.

Living Beyond Loss breaks new ground in the exploration of the meaning of death within the family system. Rather than focusing particularly on the pathological effects of loss on a bereaved individual, this volume examines the impact of loss on the entire family system, the long term effects of death on the family's "life cycle passage," and the relevance of cultural context in the process of grief and recovery. The volume is also especially useful for addressing the complexities of anticipated loss and the long term complications for family members engaged in the process of "living beyond loss." The collection includes the work of a wide variety of experts in the field, so the single volume incorporates diverse perspectives and a wide array of material.

Barbara Wasik, et al. (1990). Home Visiting: Procedures for Helping Families. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

Home visiting as a social service delivery technique is the core of family-based services. Understanding home visiting is essential to formulating coherent options for continued development in the field. This book offers comprehensive treatment of the concept. It represents one of the first attempts to present complete information about procedures and issues related to home visiting with families. It defines models of best practice and highlights critical issues that home visitors, trainers, program directors, and policymakers will find important as they operate home visiting programs. Though home visiting has been in use for "several centuries," recent growth in social programs has given it new prominence. This growth has emphasized the need for standards of practice in training, supervision, and services to families. The book defines home visiting as the use of the home as the locus of services focused on social, emotional, cognitive, and/or health needs, over a sustained period of time, by a professional or paraprofessional. It promotes the unique advantages of home visiting for working with families: reduced barriers to service delivery, opportunities for more holistic assessment, and increased ability to translate new attitudes, skills, and other information into ongoing, daily routines. It is a complete source on the subject.

James K Whittaker, et al. (Eds.). (1990). Reaching High Risk Families: Intensive Family Preservation in Human Services. Hawthorne, NY: Aldine de Gruyter.

Although this volume uses the Homebuilders model as a reference point, it does not give way to zealous advocacy of a single program option. The collection provides useful information on all aspects of family-based services. Chapters address adapting social work curriculum to teach family-based service concepts, the public policy context of FBS, the theoretical foundations of intensive family services, program design, and applying research methods. Especially noteworthy are Barth's article disentangling the theoretical assumptions of intensive programs and Magowan's discussion of the public policy context within which FBS have taken shape. Barth's explication of crisis, social learning, and family systems theories presents some of the key building blocks of program design, while Magowan's discussion of public policy history, federal legislation, and the contemporary context for implementing FBS helps to show what we should (and shouldn't) expect from FBS.

Katherine M. Wood, Ph.D., and Ludwig L. Geismar, Ph.D. (1989). Families at Risk: Treating the Multiproblem Family. New York: Human Sciences Press, Inc.

Wood and Geismar write from their experience with and work on the St. Paul Family Centered Project, a pioneering effort from the late 1950's to develop the principles and practice standards of family-centered social casework. That project was the work of Alice Overton, the charismatic social work leader whose efforts can be seen as a wellspring for those who want to intervene in the plight of troubled families. The authors work to put Overton's work into a broader theoretical and historical perspective. The book covers all aspects of work with multiproblem families: finding a focus for understanding the multiproblem family, integrating family social work with family therapy, expounding a framework of practice principles. It also brings readers to the roots of family-based services. Chapter 4, a history of the family in social work practice, is especially recommended for those needing an antidote to the simple myths about the antecedents of family preservation services.

Family Therapy

Insoo Kim Berg and Scott D. Miller. (1992). Working with the Problem Drinker: A Solution Focused Approach. New York: W. W. Norton.

Berg and Miller believe that a focus on solutions, rather than on pathology, is the most constructive strategy for working with problem drinkers. Their foremost concern is with what works. To this end they don't reject traditional treatment programs, but rather view them as one part of a flexible and multidimensional approach to alcohol abuse treatment. The solution-focused model introduces paradigmatic change in the approach to substance abuse treatment. Rather than treating the problem drinker, Berg and Miller work with clients to treat problem drinking.

Their solution-focused approach is based on the philosophy that encouraging change requires working with clients. Promoting positive change requires using clients' belief systems and patterns of experience as the primary resources for conceptualizing the problem and strategically locating solutions. This is a somewhat controversial, and extremely pragmatic, approach to working with problem drinking.

Robert Jay Green and James L. Framo (Eds.). (1981). Family Therapy: Major Contributions. New York: International Universities Press.

This comprehensive anthology brings together 18 major contributions to the field of family therapy. It gathers together in one source the most widely cited references in family theory and therapy. As the field of family therapy continues to develop and expand, interest in its origins becomes more specialized. This volume brings together the important founding documents by the major names in the field.

Alan S. Gurman, Ph.D., and David P. Kniskern, Psy.D. (1981, 1991). The Handbook of Family Therapy (Vols. I and II). New York: Brunner/Mazel.

Volume I (1981) of the Handbook has become a standard reference work for family therapists in all settings. Volume II (1991) is likely to become another. Both of these works have been made necessary by the huge growth in the field of family therapy. Coherently presenting the theoretical and practical knowledge on which the field is founded is the goal of these handbooks. Together they offer exhaustive coverage of the field. Relying on recognized experts in various subfields, Gurman and Kniskern present the different models of family therapy: behavioral, brief, contextual, strategic, structural, and symbolic, among others. Also presented are important special topics on divorced and blended families, on ethnicity and family therapy, on families and larger systems, and on training and supervision.

Scott W. Henggeler and Charles M. Bourduin. (1990). Family Therapy and Beyond: A Multisystemic Approach to Treating the Behavior Problems of Children and Adolescents. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company.

The authors of the "multisystemic approach" acknowledge the contributions to the mental health field of family therapy and family systems theory. However, they claim that family therapy models require continuing development in three different areas. First, family therapy models need to appreciate the significance of key variables pertaining to individual family members in relation to "extrafamilial systems" in which they are embedded. Second, the importance of individual developmental issues needs to be considered more specifically. Third, a more inclusive approach towards effective intervention strategies deriving from other treatment paradigms needs to be considered. Chapters discuss peer relationships and the school system, the influence of individual, developmental stages on family functioning, interventions with non-nuclear families, and the treatment of chemical dependency and sexual abuse, among other topics.

Lynn Hoffman. (1981). Foundations of Family Therapy. New York: Basic Books.

Family therapy has become one primary treatment modality within family-based services. Some would argue that conceiving of family-centeredness—understanding "the family" as a unit of treatment and analysis—requires acceptance of some elementary systemic concepts. Others would argue that family therapy, with its emphasis on circular causality, its concern for the individualized complexity of relationships, and its tendency to rely on seminal figures, or "gurus," in the development of treatment techniques, damages its own usefulness within contexts of service delivery, which must remain responsive to the hard-nosed bean-counting of policy analysts. Wherever you come down on these issues, Hoffman's book will be useful. Hoffman's book arises out of the need to build a framework to encompass the diverse developments that are a part of the family therapy movement. Starting with Gregory Bateson's ideas on social fields, the book examines key concepts that have come to family therapy from general systems theory. Hoffman looks at the early studies of communication patterns in schizophrenic families and then connects this research with related work on family typology. The second part of the book explores the major schools of family therapy and some of the major names in the field such as Minuchin, Bowen, Whitaker, Haley, Erickson, and Ackerman.

Evan Imber-Black (Ed.). (1993). Secrets in Families and Family Therapy. New York: W. W. Norton.

Secrets are a common part of human social life, from a simple pact between children, to the defense secrets of national governments. Within families, secrets are complex, differing in significance, in their importance to maintaining relationships, and in their effects on individual functioning. There are no fixed rules for dealing with secrets—only skills, strategies, and judgments to be applied. Here Imber-Black and a cast of talented family therapists offer an array of approaches to helping families deal with secrets involving sexuality, race, violence, parentage, substance abuse, illness, and death.

Richard Kagan and Shirley Schlosberg. (1989). Families in Perpetual Crisis. New York: W. W. Norton.

Building upon the premise that children need a predictable, dependable, nurturing and safe environment in which to grow, this book provides guidance for child welfare workers working with families with long histories of chronic and severe problems. The essence of the permanency work described here is to help the next generation avoid the terrors of abandonment, violence, or abuse experienced by previous ones.

When a family is addicted to crisis, half the challenge for the family worker is simply getting in the door, developing trust, and avoiding the trap of becoming another helper who cannot help. Kagan and Schlosberg specifically address strategies for engaging families and working against entrenched patterns of resistance.

Case examples stress the meaning of attachment, the importance of building connections for parents and children, and the necessity of a family worker's using him or herself to engage families. Included are strategies for helping practitioners to become resources for change, to care without claiming ownership of problems, to maintain objectivity while encountering a family's pain, and to confront abusive or neglectful behavior. Since placement of children is an issue for many of these families, the authors devote several chapters to foster care and the avoidance of foster care "drift."

Susan Lukas. (1993). Where to Start and What to Ask: An Assessment Handbook. New York: W. W. Norton.

A "fend for yourself" philosophy frequently prevails in mental health settings today. Supervisors are overworked, and social work students and therapists with little experience feel thrown into clinical situations with little guidance. Seldom are they told just where to start and what to ask. This book addresses that critical gap in training occurring early in a developing professional practice. It is intended for beginning therapists and their supervisors. It demonstrates how to organize an approach to the initial phase of treatment, and it alerts novice clinicians to circumstances in which they must seek support or information from their supervisor. In addition to offering a variety of necessary tools for gathering information from a client, the book also provides a framework for thinking about the information and formulating a thorough assessment. Topics include: conducting first interviews with a family, how to think and ask about medical histories, determining risks of various kinds, how to evaluate a report of psychological testing, and how to write up assessments. Sample forms and questionnaires, as well as examples of completed assessments, are also included.

Cloe Madanes. (1986). Strategic Family Therapy. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

This is a guide to the theory and practice of strategic family therapy by the leading practitioner of this technique. Strategic therapy focuses on the distribution of power in families. Intervention strategies, therefore, focus on correcting power imbalances and changing destructive patterns of interaction among family members. Madanes covers a wide range of problems in determining the applicability of strategic therapy, from behavioral problems, communications breakdown, and marital distress, to more extreme forms of symptomatic behavior such as psychosis, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and delinquency. The book also recommends ways to change parent-child interactions that serve to perpetuate rather than solve parental problems, and it demonstrates how therapists can encourage parents of severely troubled adolescents to jointly take charge of handling their children's problems. Fifteen case studies are included.

Monica McGoldrick, et al. (Eds.). (1989). Women in Families: A Framework for Family Therapy. New York: W. W. Norton.

This comprehensive book addresses the question of how women experience family life from a variety of perspectives. Insights from sociology, cultural anthropology, psychology, and human development form the basis for discussion of clinical issues. The first section of the book looks at gender influences in family therapy theory, practice, and training. Once the hidden gender dimension is acknowledged, basic tenets of family therapy must be reexamined. Rather than proposing that systems theory be abandoned, the contributors build a positive framework that is respectful of both sexes. The next section is concerned with women and families in context, as the contributors turn to women's family experience in different ethnic groups and across the life cycle. They consider marriage, motherhood, sisterhood, women alone, lesbian couples, and women in relation to larger medical and social service systems. The final section covers special issues, including women and work, such serious mental disorders as depression and addiction, and the power of stories and rituals in stabilizing and changing women's lives.

Salvador Minuchin and H. Charles Fishman. (1981). Family Therapy Techniques. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Salvador Minuchin is one of the recognized masters of the field of family therapy, in particular structural family therapy, and he is partially responsible for promoting the importance of family therapy to social work practice. Here he traces the minute operations of day-to-day practice, explaining in detail the maneuvers that constitute his work.

Minuchin offers guidelines to a full repertory of interventions. Understanding the family, joining the family, and planning treatment are basic steps in the process. More specific techniques include enacting the problem, reframing it, and intensifying it to the point of crisis. Still other tactics that every therapist must master are changing boundaries between family members, upsetting the balance of relationships, and reinforcing areas of harmony. Minuchin shows how to use paradoxical interventions, emphasize family strengths, and how to construct alternatives for the family. This book is a companion to Minuchin's (1974) Families and Family Therapy (Harvard). Together they provide a complete guide.

Augustus Y. Napier with Carl Whitaker. (1978). The Family Crucible. New York: Harper and Row.

Although it is an older work, this is a classic from the field of family therapy. It is an extremely readable introduction to the processes of family therapy through a portrait of a single family, a composite of various families' experiences in therapy. Through this device many of the issues likely to confront the therapist are explored. The book is useful for the way it conjures up the feel of family therapy, the experience of the systemic nature of family functioning, as well as the art and craft of the therapeutic process.

Thorana S. Nelson, Ph.D., and Terry S. Trepper, Ph.D. (Eds.). (1993). 101 Interventions in Family Therapy. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press.

101 Interventions features contributions by a diverse group of well-known leaders in the field, "therapists on the street," and faculty of family therapy training programs. Each clinician presents a creative intervention in the following form: complete description of the method, specific indications and contraindications for its application, and a particular case illustration. These are interventions tested in practice, useful for anyone doing family therapy or related counseling. The interventions address many circumstances in which family therapists inevitably find themselves. It is also a pleasure to read.

Dean Schuyler, M.D. (1991). A Practical Guide to Cognitive Therapy. New York: W. W. Norton.

Cognitive therapy is a therapeutic technique intended to demystify the therapeutic process with a constructive, practical, rational alternative. As a model for therapeutic intervention, it seeks a step-by-step process allowing patients to (1) identify thoughts, ideas and feelings relevant to the presenting problem, (2) recognize the connections between cognitions, affects, and behaviors, (3) examine the evidence for and against key beliefs, (4) try out alternative conceptualizations, (5) learn a manner of carrying out the cognitive intervention process independently. The cognitive therapist is a rationalist. She understands the person as an information processing organism, one who takes in data and generates "appraisals." Although this is not strictly a "family therapy" treatment technique, this may be useful in sorting out complex problems and introducing self-direction.

Steve de Shazer. (1988). Clues: Investigating Solutions in Brief Therapy. New York: W. W. Norton.

Studying the dynamics and the structure of the therapeutic interviewing process is motivated by a key question: How do solutions develop? This question leads de Shazer to a provocative discussion of all the solution related things that client and therapist do during a session, which ultimately point to a task that says, "Now that you know what works, do more of it." Once therapist and client are focused on investigating solutions rather than problems, therapy inevitably becomes brief—sometimes only one session. Engaging cases illustrate this practice-based theory of brief therapy with a wide range of complaints. Some of these, such as drug addiction or severe marital discord, previously have been thought too difficult for brief therapy. However, as de Shazer shows, once therapist and client together discover "what works," obstacles in the pathway to solution disappear. One innovation is de Shazer's use of computer analysis of therapy sessions, which provides a map for analyzing situations and finding solutions. Pieces of the computer program are highlighted with individual cases, enabling the reader to move easily from the map to the territory and back again. This is a significant development in brief therapy's "theory of solutions."

Programs

Mary Lee Allen, et al. (1992) Helping Children By Strengthening Families: A Look at Family Support Programs. Washington, DC: The Children's Defense Fund.

The goal of the child welfare system is sometimes obscured by crisis, but we all recognize it: a close-knit family in which worker(s) earn a living wage and in which family members have access to high quality health care, social, and educational services delivered in anticipation of problems, in places accessible to participants, and in ways that respond to the characteristic cultural beliefs of the population served. Attaining this goal will be a comprehensive social project, the work of a generation. No single service option or service coordination effort can do it alone. However, the current consideration of the principles and the programs of the family support movement among the continuum of child welfare services makes this a more accessible goal for many families. This report is a basic primer of family support. The principles for which it stands are clear: "By strengthening families' ability to nurture their children physically, emotionally, and intellectually, family support programs increase the likelihood that children will grow up healthy, safe and successful. By focusing on early and comprehensive support for parents, these programs ensure the best prevention of all: they enable parents to respond early to their children's emotional needs, within the family, and before healthy development is compromised." This report defines family support and its motivating principles, provides examples of different types of programs at work, describes the use of family support principles in combination with other social service options, and describes the broader context for the practical application of family support principles.

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Child Welfare League of America. (1992). Sharing Innovations: The Program Exchange Compendium. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

This directory speaks for itself: "The CWLA's Program Exchange identifies, reviews, and selects programs and management technologies that show promise of advancing practice, and disseminates information on them to child welfare agencies." The compendium includes program summaries. "The programs demonstrate creative strategies for addressing seemingly intractable social problems and barriers in service delivery." Programs are organized by state, and the compendium is indexed by program name and service characteristics.

Kathryn Goetz (Ed.). (1991). Programs to Strengthen Families: A Resource Guide (3rd ed.). Chicago, IL: The Family Resource Coalition.

The slow convergence of family-based services in the child welfare sector with the family support movement most closely identified with community development makes this program directory especially useful. It describes the status of family resource programs in the United States and Canada through program examples. The collection reflects the enormous growth and change in the field over the past three years spurred by renewed interest by policymakers and funding sources in programs focused on preventing and alleviating risk factors. The book is intended for a wide audience: program developers, policymakers, and anyone interested in understanding and documenting developments in family resource programs. The directory is organized for effective usage. One section contains programs providing collaborative or comprehensive services. The next documents programs built on family-school partnerships. A third category accounts for freestanding community based programs designed to enhance family functioning. A fourth section shows family support as a component of other organizations. A fifth addresses family support programs as state initiatives. Indices provide easy cross referencing.



Mary Funnys Goldson. (1989). The Lower East Side Family Union Practice Model. New York: Lower East Side Family Union.

LESFU has been operating since the mid 1970's, addressing the needs of the most underserved people in New York City: poor, multiproblem families. This approach, the "integrated services practice model," is based on an intensive case management approach. The model uses a team approach combining an MSW-degreed social worker, social work associates (BSW level) and family workers (at least high school education and relevant experience). Referrals come from a variety of sources. Team members do assessments, construct service plans, provide services in the home, and coordinate other necessary services. A key component to the model is the "convening," wherein the LESFU team assembles a "network" comprised of the participating family and the necessary array of service professionals. The convening allows relevant family members and service providers to come to an understanding about the treatment plan. LESFU's is a very well conceived service model, the mother of all intensive case management models.

Maryland Department of Human Resources. (1987). Intensive Family Services: A Family Preservation Service Delivery Model. Available from the National Resource Center on Family Based Services.

Intensive family services (IFS) is a service delivery method of concentrated and clearly defined services to children and families who are at risk of placement. The emphasis is on time-limited, intensive, home-based family-centered services with families in crisis or at risk of dissolution. Once a case is appropriately referred, IFS makes available a wide range of services to the client/family. Services include: initial assessment and determination of family problems and family strengths; application of basic family counseling and family systems techniques; provision of core support services within the family context; and the purchasing of community resources through the use of flexible dollars. Evaluation, reporting, and monitoring of the IFS unit's activities ensure adequate controls and effective service delivery. IFS is distinguished by its team approach, small caseloads, "flexible dollars," 90-day service period, specially trained staff, staff consultation with family therapists, and unlimited family contacts during the service period. Program officials report that families in IFS show a much lower rate of placement than families receiving conventional services.

Missouri Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services. (1990). Family-Centered Services Manual. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Social Services.

The Family-Centered Services Manual introduces a case management model that provides the framework for Missouri's protective and preventive services to families. The manual's philosophical approach recognizes the family unit's central role in the provision of services. Family involvement and empowerment is a major theme. Staff elicit family participation and identify family strengths and competencies during the assessment and case planning. Specific service needs, identified by the family and the social worker, are addressed in a time limited manner. A formal evaluation, at a minimum every four months, requires the social worker and his/her supervisor to justify keeping the case open. The decision to leave the case open must be based upon continued risk of abuse or neglect. The format for assessment and case planning is provided through the family assessment and treatment plan packet. The packet is also used to document case progress and evaluation information. Most of the critical information relating to the treatment period will be found in each packet.

National Association of Social Workers, Office of Peace and International Affairs. (1991). Strengthening Families Through International Innovations Transfer. Washington, DC: National Association of Social Workers.

This directory is a part of a larger project on international innovations transfer. The project will build the capacity of family and child welfare systems in the U.S. and other countries to better serve high-risk children, youth and families. This goal will be achieved through an international exchange of exemplary models of effective family preservation, reunification, and support initiatives. The directory represents programs from all over the country.

National Resource Center on Family Based Services. (1991). The Annotated Directory of Selected Family-Based Services Programs. Iowa City, IA: National Resource Center on Family Based Services.

Compiled through a survey of programs around the country, the Annotated Directory lists over 350 family-based services programs. The directory is organized by state, and the descriptions include program goals, background, description of services provided, client characteristics, staffing patterns, evaluation information, and funding sources. In addition, the volume is indexed according to a variety of program characteristics, providing access to particular program types. Program information includes contact person.

National Resource Center on Family Based Services. (1983). Family-Centered Social Services: A Model for Child Welfare Agencies. Iowa City, IA: National Resource Center on Family Based Services.

One of the strengths of the work of the National Resource Center on Family Based Services (NRC/FBS) is to operate from the perspective of "organizational strengths." That is, the NRC/FBS seeks to meet the needs and work with the competencies that organizations and agencies have in place to build and strengthen family-based services programs. For over ten years the NRC/FBS has collaborated with social service agencies, providing technical assistance and training in family-centered services as an alternative to placement. Planning includes review of state codes, agency policies, and administrative structures. This manual is prepared as a guide for those who are planning placement prevention and reunification programs. The program guidelines presented here are based on practice experience and consultation with state and local administrators.

Lynne Pooley and Julia H. Littell. (1986). The Family Resource Program Builder. Chicago, IL: The Family Resource Coalition.

This is one volume in the FRC's knowledge transfer project. It was developed in response to the growing interest in programs that strengthen family life and the need for information on how to establish and operate such programs. Based on the experience of family resource programs from across the country, it documents the need for such programs, defines service models, and offers concrete information on developing them. The book is intended primarily for those interested in starting new programs, including human service professionals, volunteers, and parents.

Beth A. Stroul. (1988). Series On Community-Based Services for Children And Adolescents Who Are Severely Emotionally Disturbed. Volume I: Home-Based Services. Washington DC: CASSP Technical Assistance Center, Georgetown University Child Development Center.

Stroul's work is part of a series including volumes on "Crisis Services," "Therapeutic Foster Care," and "Systems of Care." The series emerged in response to Jame Knitzer's (1982) report Unclaimed Children, documenting the inadequate and inappropriate care received by millions of emotionally disturbed children. The series describes a continuum of mental health services for severely emotionally disturbed children and adolescents. This volume addresses the home-based service option, adapting the key features of FBS from the child welfare to mental health fields. These include: (1) the home as the locus of services; (2) the family unit as the "client" of services; (3) an ecological perspective setting the family in the context of larger systems; (4) commitment to family preservation and reunification whenever possible; (5) flexible service delivery; (6) eclectic and multi-faceted services; (7) intensity and duration of service determined by family need and program focus; (8) small caseloads; (9) close relationship between worker and family; and (10) work based on principles of family empowerment. The volume includes discussions of programs enacting these principles.

Research and Evaluation

Philip AuClaire and Ira M. Schwartz. (1986). An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Intensive Home-Based Services as an Alternative to Placement for Adolescents and Their Families. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

This often-cited report presents findings of a study of the effectiveness of home-based services with an adolescent population. Adolescents aged 12 to 17 were eligible to participate if they were approved for out-of-home placement, were not wards of the state, and were not under court order into placement. From this population, 58 cases were unsystematically assigned to the home-based service unit and 58 cases were selected randomly as a control group. The service model was short term (length of service goal was four weeks) and intensive (caseload of two), employed a team approach, and used a structural family therapy approach. Over a tracking period of approximately one year, the researchers found no difference between the treatment and control groups in the number of placement episodes experienced. They did, however, find very significant differences in the type and duration of placements experienced. Home-based services clients experienced placements in short term, respite settings more often than control group children (63%-35%), with average length of stays almost half that of the control group. A follow-up of this study was done the next year.

Ariel Ahart, et al. (1992). Intensive Foster Care Reunification Programs: Final Report. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This is a recent study of family reunification programs. Although most children in the foster care system will eventually be reunited with their families, too little is known about the process of, and innovative strategies for, family reunification. This project had several components. It involved a literature review on family reunification, foster care re-entry, and permanency planning. It incorporated interviews with experts in the field. Finally, it drew upon site visits to nine innovative programs in five states: California, Connecticut, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington. Although the programs visited were very different from one another, they did share a number of components: they are new and small scale; they draw heavily on approaches developed for family preservation programs; predominantly, they serve families with pre-adolescent children who face multiple social and economic problems; they rely on visitation; and they provide the family access to a pool of flexible funding. In addition, they use team staffing and a family-centered approach. Permanency planning is emphasized as much as reunification.

W. Robert Beavers, M.D., and Robert B. Hampson. (1990). Successful Families: Assessment and Intervention. New York: W. W. Norton and Co.

A key observation guiding this book is that different families benefit from different therapeutic styles and strategies. Consequently, assessment is essential. In the first section of the book, addressing assessment, the authors discuss the two Beavers interactional scales. These assess families on two crucial dimensions: competence, viewed as a continuum from healthy to severely dysfunctional, and style, a continuum between centripetal and centrifugal. The scales are supplemented by self-report questionnaires. With these assessment tools, the therapist can determine into which of nine groups a particular family falls. Treatment and intervention follow naturally from assessment. In the second section, the authors address family interventions. Then they discuss specific attitudes and strategies beneficial with families from different groupings derived from the assessment: midrange, borderline, and severely dysfunctional centripetal, and midrange, borderline and severely dysfunctional centrifugal. The process is illustrated with clinical examples, and the relevant instruments are included in appendices.

Carol Bergquist, et al. (1993). Evaluation of Michigan's Families First Program: Summary Report. Lansing, MI: University Associates.

Families First was implemented in 1988. It attempts to stabilize families by addressing underlying sources of stress. The program provides families in crisis with support services on an intensive, short term basis. This study compared 225 children in the Families First Program to 225 similar children receiving Foster Care Services. Case workers and participating families reported high levels of satisfaction with the Families First service, and 82% of families reported positive behavioral changes in such areas as improved communications, appropriate discipline, and better care of children. Placement rates at 3, 6, and 12 months after services were, respectively, 7%, 12%, and 24% for Families First participants, compared to 15%, 26%, and 35% for Foster Care. When children referred for delinquency and reunification were removed from the analysis, placement rates improved by several percentage points.

Marianne Berry. (1991). "Assessment of Imminence of Risk of Placement: Lessons from a Family Preservation Program." Children and Youth Services Review, 13.

The triggering of intensive family preservation services by the risk of imminent placement has become one of the hallmarks of family preservation. "Imminent risk," in the ambiguous jargon of the field, determines access and eligibility, differentiates immediate, intensive, time limited services from other preventive efforts, helps to determine cost effectiveness, and structures the estimation of successful outcomes (i.e., the prevention of placement of those who are about to be placed). Unfortunately, it has been, and it remains, an elusive practice standard subject to a variety of uncontrolled variables. There is considerable debate, consequently, on how best to determine the risk of imminent placement. This article presents an analysis of the determination of imminent risk within one family preservation program, and finds that the conventional and accepted risk factors used in making a risk determination at intake are more accurate at predicting placement after leaving the program than in predicting who is to be judged at imminent risk at intake. Specific elements contributing to this discrepancy are discussed, with implications for risk assessment research and policy.

Douglas Besharov (Ed.). (1992). "Special Issue: Reforming Child Welfare Through Demonstration and Evaluation." Children and Youth Services Review, 14(1/2).

This collection of articles covers a wide variety of important topics in program design, demonstration projects, and evaluation. Among others, it includes Besharov on demonstration and evaluation strategies, Fanshel on foster care as a two-tiered system, and Rossi on assessing family preservation.

David Fanshel. (1992). Serving the Urban Poor. Westport, CT: Praeger.

In this volume, Fanshel presents findings of his evaluation of the Lower East Side Family Union (LESFU). LESFU was established in the early 1970's to treat the multiple problems of impoverished, urban, ethnically heterogeneous families with children at risk of placement in foster care. [LESFU's "integrated services practice model" is discussed above—see Goldson book in PROGRAMS section.] The project studied 160 client families who applied for service over an eleven-month period in 1982-83. LESFU does well in measures of placement prevention. According to Fanshel: "The results of our analyses confirmed that LESFU's work was valuable and that its model should be replicated." The author cites Wells and Biegel (1990) as having found, in a review of research, placement rates that varied from 12% to 16%. "The LESFU placement rate of an incremental 6% of client families having a child enter foster care was clearly in line with, and may have been better than, other professional experience." However, Fanshel emphasizes that LESFU is not the same as conventional "family prez" programs, and should not be considered an alternative to such. The mission of LESFU is a "deeper" family preservation based on earlier intervention, voluntary participation, and response to extreme urban stresses.

Leonard Feldman. (1990). Evaluating the Impact of Intensive Family Preservation Services in New Jersey. Trenton: New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, Bureau of Research, Evaluation, and Quality Assurance.

Feldman evaluated New Jersey's Family Preservation Services, a program modelled after the Homebuilders crisis intervention model. Target families were those in which placement seemed imminent. The study was planned as a true experiment, involving random assignment to FPS of traditional community services. Referral protocol included the following: children under 18; risk of first time placement; other options tried or deemed unlikely to be effective; one willing parent; homelessness a disqualifier; substance abuse a possible disqualifier. The study sample consisted of 183 families, 96 receiving FPS, 87 forming the control group. Overall, FPS families had fewer children enter placement, and at a slower rate, than control group families, from case termination through nine months later. After nine months, the net effect appears to dissipate.

Harvey Frankel. (1988). "Family-Centered, Home-Based Services in Child Protection: A Review of the Research." Social Service Review, March, 137-157.

PL96-272 created a strong impetus for family-centered home-based services as a child protection modality. Although its advocates claim that the effectiveness of these services is well-established, an examination of the available research is inconclusive. Frankel outlines the development of FBS and reviews the research literature. The research and evaluation of FBS programs is only in its first generation, Frankel writes, a fact that counters claims of great effectiveness. Frankel is critical of research design and theoretical assumptions. "The lack of control groups, combined with inadequate descriptions of service activities, make it impossible to generalize reliably across programs Further, inadequate descriptions of various programs make it difficult to determine the possible effects of differences between programs related to the service itself, selection criteria, or methods of evaluation." Frankel finds the current research literature most useful for suggesting future directions in the research: controlled studies; examination of child development, school performance, and subsequent abuse as key variables; optimal point of intervention; matching appropriate program and client characteristics; relationship between program design and outcome; and individual and family functioning and their links to placement outcomes.

M. W. Fraser, Peter Pecora, and David Haapala. (1991). Families in Crisis. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

This study summarizes findings of an evaluation of the Homebuilders programs in Utah and Washington. The evaluation, the "family-based intensive treatment research project" (FIT), was designed to identify which families benefit from family preservation services and which do not. The central research question was what factors were associated with family preservation failures. Failure was defined as placement, or another living arrangement, outside the home, in a setting other than a relative's home, for more than two weeks, within one year of intake into the family preservation program. A number of measures of family functioning were adopted to assess the impact of family preservation on family adaptability, cohesion, social support, parental functioning, and child behavior. Specific objectives of the project: Collect data on the three variables of (a) child and family characteristics, (b) service characteristics, and (c) organization and worker characteristics; study clients in family preservation programs operating under public and private auspices; describe placement outcomes by specific failure conditions; and describe the effect on service outcomes of client treatment and worker characteristics. The authors advise caution in interpreting this study because of the complexities of FBS research (see pp. 77-80), and they emphasize that placement prevention is, ultimately, not the best way to judge the success of programs. Placement prevention rates were 92.9% at the termination of service, 67.0% after one year.

Scott W. Henggeler, et al. (1992). "Advances in Family Therapy: Empirical Foundations." In Thomas H. Ollendick and Ronald J. Prinz (Eds.), Advances in Clinical Child Psychology (vol. 14). New York: Plenum Press.

Henggeler's work is a significant advance in the field of family therapy. Henggeler wants to appropriate the most workable aspects of family therapy and use them to advance successful treatment strategies. This means focusing on the varieties of family therapy that contribute to behavioral change and that lend themselves to empirical evaluation and verification. In this way such treatment strategies can be effectively replicated. In the course of developing this discussion Henggeler takes aim at family therapists from the "aesthetic constituency" who show anti-empirical research biases. Such therapists, in his view, focus on change within "intrapsychic structures," within "meaning systems" carried within family narratives. The goal of family therapy, in his view, should be change in a family's interactive patterns. And family therapy treatment should be grounded in empirically tested rationales. This is a thorough review of family therapy research literature.

Mary Ann Jones. (1985). A Second Chance for Families: Five Years Later: Follow-up of a Program to Prevent Foster Care. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

At a certain point within the development of evaluation research into family based/family preservation services, older studies become important as more than precedents to be superseded by current research. They are scrutinized for a critical understanding of research design, methodology, assumptions about reigning policy options, and prescience about the directions of the field. They become a part of the documentation of a social movement. Jones models this process with her own work. This study (1985) is based on the 1976 study (A Second Chance for Families). The original study incorporated an experimental design, and its findings were used to support the push towards family-based services in federal legislation 96-272. However, its positive findings were "based on extrapolations of the length of time children who were in care at the end of the evaluation would be likely to remain in care," and, while the experimental (placement prevention) group outperformed the control group on other outcome measures, "the differences were, in some instances, quite modest." Jones's four hypotheses for the five-year follow-up were borne out, somewhat. (1) Placement prevention: 12% fewer "experimental group" members were placed. (2) Delayed entry into foster care: placement was delayed by eight months. (3) Length of placement and (4) Indicated reports of maltreatment after assignment to the project did not generate statistically significant findings. Preventive services combined counseling, support services, and parenting education lasting, in the main, from six months to three years.

Stephen Magura. (1981). "Are Services to Prevent Foster Care Effective?" Children and Youth Services Review, 3, 193-212.

Early in the development of FBS program evaluation, Magura posed questions which have since returned for renewed consideration. The prevention of foster care became a child welfare priority in the late 1970's. At that time two types of prevention models emerged: crisis intervention programs intended to prevent placement presumed to be imminent, and intensive service programs designed to avert crises precipitating placement. Magura's critical analysis of program evaluations led to the conclusion that neither approach was particularly successful. Low nominal project placement rates seemed attributable to the inability to predict placement accurately, as well as to biases in the client selection process. Financially, preventive services were more expensive than conventional child welfare services, including short term foster care. Data indicate various problems providing and evaluating preventive services to families referred to protective services. Magura's analysis creates skepticism about making disproportionate efforts to keep seriously disturbed families intact (through crisis intervention at the moment preceding placement) while many less troubled families receive no services. A strong implication is that preventive programs must focus on early intervention in order to be preventive at all.

Stephen Magura and Beth Silverman Moses. (1986, 1987). Outcome Measures for Child Welfare Services: Theory and Applications; The Child Well-Being Scales; The Family Risk Scales. Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America.

Magura and Moses' work is among the most important in the field for measurement issues in child welfare. They have developed outcome measures for evaluating effectiveness of child welfare services; their child well-being scales are used to assess families on various dimensions of child maltreatment, focusing in detail on child abuse/neglect situations; and the family risk scales are widely used as a risk assessment instrument to examine parental characteristics and family conditions that are believed to be predictors or precursors of maltreatment.

William Meezan and Jacqueline McCroskey. (1993). Family-Centered, Home-Based Interventions for Abusive and Neglectful Families in Los Angeles. San Diego: University of Southern California, School of Social Work.

This paper presents preliminary findings of a study to evaluate in-home family support services of Children's Bureau of Southern California. The report summarizes interim findings on changes in family functioning between case opening and the end of service three months later. The study design (n=240) includes random assignment and assignment by "serious problems," but families did not need to meet a "risk of imminent placement" criteria. Families receiving services reported improvement in living conditions and financial conditions after a year. Case workers reported improvements in parent-child interactions, living conditions, supports available to families, and developmental stimulation to children. Parents in the service groups reported fewer psychological problems. For further information, contact the authors.

Christina Mitchell, Patricia Tovar, and Jane Knitzer. (1989). The Bronx Homebuilders Program: An Evaluation of the First 45 Families. New York: Bank Street College of Education, Division of Research, Demonstration, and Policy.

This evaluation focuses on a pilot program undertaken in the Bronx to assess the usefulness of the Homebuilders' intensive, short-term, family preservation services for New York families at risk of imminent placement. While the study employed a small control group, the data gathered from it was not especially useful. Families served were characterized by low income (50% under \$10,000) and largely minority status (Black and Latino). Substance abuse was an issue for at least one quarter of the families, about one third had experienced prior placement, and truancy affected 40%. Overall the provision of family preservation services averted placement for 80% of the total sample at three months, 74% at one year.

Kristine Nelson and Miriam Landsman. (1992). Alternative Models of Family Preservation: Family-Based Services in Context. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas and Co.

This study derives from the National Resource Center's study of eleven family-based service programs between 1985 and 1987. The primary goal of this study was to provide empirically-based guidelines for the further development of family-based child welfare services by identifying service and client characteristics that contributed to success or failure in preventing placement. It is not an objective of this study to determine whether family-based services actually reduced placement compared to other types of service families might have received. Some general information about the programs selected for the study, the methodology, definitions of key terms, and data analysis techniques are provided to serve as guides in understanding the findings presented in subsequent chapters. The family-based service programs studied included sites in public and private agencies, rural and urban areas, in-home and in-office services, addressing problems ranging from child maltreatment to juvenile offenses. The study isolates particular characteristics of the family-based service population and empirically evaluates the relation between that characteristic and FBS treatment. The literature review (chapter 2) is usefully organized according to "generations" of research to help contextualize the development of FBS evaluation practice. Also included are selected case studies which add a qualitative dimension to the study, enrich the empirical research findings, and elucidate the complexities of FBS research.

Carol L. Pearson and Philip A. King. (1987). Intensive Family Services: Evaluation of Foster Care Prevention in Maryland. Baltimore: Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration.

In the Maryland evaluation, a quasi-experimental design was employed to determine differential effectiveness between IFS services and traditional services. The IFS model consists of 90-day intensive services (with a worker caseload of six). An additional feature of the program is a flexible cash fund for emergency assistance. At intake, all children were assigned based on the level of risk of placement. Cases assigned to IFS were considered most at risk. The sample consisted of 148 cases assigned to traditional services as a comparison group and 80 assigned to the IFS experimental group. At termination, 18% of the comparison group had been placed and only 7.5% of the IFS group. At twelve-month follow-up, an additional 8% of the control group was placed, and an additional 3% for the IFS group.

Peter Rossi. (1991). Evaluating Family Preservation Programs: A Report to the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts, Social and Demographic Research Institute. [Papers based on this report have also been published in Children and Youth Services Review, 14, 1992.]

This report is an evaluation of the existing literature on family preservation programs and evaluations. Its main goal is to recommend the best strategies for evaluating family preservation programs. The reports main findings include the following. Family preservation programs exist as "diversion programs" at select decision points within the child protective services processing system. Targeting family preservation at families at the "risk of imminent placement" decision point is faulty because judgements about imminent placement currently are not made with any precision. The variety of theories behind the development of family preservation services are only loosely connected to actual practice leading to diverse implementation patterns (fourteen variations are described). The emphasis on "placement prevention" is misplaced. It should be seen as a means to the more worthy goal of improved conditions for children and families. Current evaluations provide an insufficient basis for judging the worth of the programs. Evaluation strategies should be carefully distinguished between "complex randomized experiments" (a "grand" strategy) aimed at determining optimum service and a "site" strategy aimed at providing information about best program management practices.

James R. Seaberg. (1988). "Child Well-Being Scales: A Critique." Social Work Research and Abstracts (Fall).

The Child Well-Being Scales (CWBS) were developed for use in the evaluation of child welfare service programs. Here the scales are reviewed with attention to their validity as the measure for the concept of child well-being. The case for their validity is questioned, given the absence of a clear definition or model of the concept. Other technical problems are also discussed. Seaberg's cautions concerning the use of the CWBS are noteworthy, especially at a time when fiscally stressed programs need reliable outcome measures to justify their continued existence. Seaberg's discussion of the limitations of the CWBS depends upon Magura and Moses' own discussion: "No assessment of, or decision about, an individual family should be predicated solely on the basis of one of these individual scales." This warning, however, is not included with the instructions for their use. He also highlights the fact that the CWBS are intended to be a program evaluation instrument and are unsuited to clinical evaluation. Seaberg's discussion may be taken as a generic caution against over-valuing any evaluation instrument.

John R. Shuerman, Tina Rzepnicki, and Julia Littel. (1992). Evaluation of the Illinois Family First Placement Prevention Program. Chicago: Chapin Hall Center for Children.

This ongoing evaluation of family preservation efforts in Illinois forthrightly illustrates the difficulties confronting implementation of statewide programs. At the top of the list were the effects of a class action lawsuit brought against the Division of Children and Family Services (B.H. v. Suter). This put the state under a consent decree which dominated state planning and required: (a) reductions in caseloads, (b) the provision of more prevention and reunification services, (c) more effective assessments, and (d) more frequent case reviews. These developments clashed with the state's budget shortfalls requiring cuts in funding allocations. This led the legislature to seek to "de-mandate" family preservation services, which in turn led to strong protests from private providers against "watering down" the program. Compromises included the delayed full implementation of Family First and conversion of substantial numbers of family preservation slots to reunification services and/or less intensive services. The Chapin Hall study has been subject to the full range of political uses to which evaluation research may be put.

The study is being conducted as a large scale experiment involving the random assignment of cases to either Family First or regular services of DCFS. Data collection concluded with 1,677 families in the experiment. Data analysis is supplemented with analyses of various subsample groups and with qualitative interviews of Family First staff. From the Executive Summary: (a) "The program significantly reduces the length of time that cases are open in DCFS, with the exception of cases in which there are cocaine problems;" (b) "[Families in one subsample] may have experienced greater problem reduction in three out of nine domains as a result of Family First services and these improvements were relatively durable;" (c) "New analysis of data shows that the Family First program has no significant effects on subsequent maltreatment or placement."

Theodore J. Stein and Gary David Comstock. (1987). Reasonable Efforts: A Report on Implementation by Child Welfare Agencies in Five States. Washington DC: The American Bar Association.

An often cited part of PL 96-272 is the "reasonable efforts" provision, requiring a judicial determination that such efforts have been made on the part of the child before any placement can occur. Implementation, at the federal level, lapsed in the 1980's. It was left up to state jurisdiction. Too often this encouraged the reduction of "reasonable efforts" to a formality, often as simplistic as boilerplate language on placement forms. In this pamphlet, Stein and Comstock survey state implementation of the "reasonable efforts" provision. Their findings include an account of services available to make reasonable efforts. These include emergency services (from crisis intervention to food, clothing, and energy assistance), 24-hour intake policies, support services, medical and mental health services, and family counseling. In addition to a concise discussion of these matters, the authors also address the practice environment where reasonable efforts are made. The primary responsibility for making reasonable efforts falls on public agency caseworkers. To successfully implement viable standards they must be able to accomplish: (1) identification of risk, (2) assessment of family needs, (3) service planning, (4) service delivery, (5) monitoring, and (6) documentation. There is a useful section for social work staff on presenting evidence to the court, and judicial expectations.

Alice Thieman and Paula Dall. (1992). "Family Preservation Services: Problems of Measurement and Assessment of Risk." *Family Relations*, 41(April), 186-191.

Thieman led the team conducting the evaluation of Iowa's family preservation services. A statewide Family Preservation program was evaluated using a pre- and post-service assessment of the risk of out-of-home placement for 995 families. Results indicate modest progress in family functioning during family preservation services, as measured by scales assessing parent-centered, child-centered, and economic risk. While the study did not employ an experimental design, the division of families into different risk groups yielded some interesting findings beyond the placement prevention figures. The instrument used in risk assessment, the Child Well-Being Scales, did not predict out-of-home placement as there was no difference between low-risk and high-risk groups in critical outcome measure. Thieman discusses implications of this for future service developments. Foremost among them is her assertion that measurements of family functioning are not adequately measured by the most commonly used instruments and that more careful attention to measurement issues "should include multiple methods of assessment (qualitative and quantitative) and multiple assessors of the family's problems, with a view toward obtaining the clearest possible picture of the level of functioning of the family."

Michael S. Wald, et al. (1988). Protecting Abused and Neglected Children. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

"We undertook this study because of our belief that public policy regarding the protection of abused and neglected children ought to be based on more than ideology and fiscal considerations." The study followed two groups of abused children over two years time. One group received in-home treatment, the other experienced foster care. A third group of non-abused children was studied as a control. Researchers considered physical well-being, academic performance, emotional health, social skills, personal happiness, and the "attachment" issue. In-home services, at their most intensive, included: several days of 24-hour crisis stabilization by the family worker, then weekly or bi-weekly visits, education in household organization and child-rearing skills, respite care, mental health therapy, emergency housing, medical care, and specialized school programs when necessary. Services were limited to six months. The findings were ambiguous. They suggest a limited ability of either type of services to significantly improve the children's well-being. Although this leads the authors to no categorical policy recommendations, it is an interesting study because it evaluates services from the perspective of their effects on child development rather than by use of a measure such as placement prevention (evaluation theorists like Rossi currently advocate a move away from an emphasis on placement prevention), and it attempts to address, or at least be aware of, the multiple variables that influence the well-being of children whose paths intersect with the social service system.

Michael S. Wald and Maria Woolverton. (1990). "Risk Assessment: The Emperor's New Clothes?" Child Welfare, LXIX(6), 483-511.

Risk assessment measures of various sorts are currently gaining increased attention as a means of better protecting children from abuse and neglect. This article reviews the risk assessment procedures and instruments that are being used by child protection agencies. The authors are supportive of the concept of risk assessment. However, they argue that many current instruments have major methodological flaws that limit the usefulness of such instruments as predictors of future abusive and neglectful behavior. The authors suggest a process for risk assessment decision making at each stage of a child protection investigation. Among their recommendations is to stop thinking of risk assessment measures as autonomous mechanisms for child protection decisions and to see them as a part of a process of training judgement.

Kathleen Wells and David E. Biegel (Eds.). (1991). Family Preservation Services: Research and Evaluation. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

Family Preservation Services consists of two parts. Part 1 reports on empirical studies of family preservation programs. Included are articles on some of the major research from Pecora, et al. and the Utah study, from AuClaire and Schwartz's Hennepin County (MN) study, from Feldman's evaluation, from Nelson's "Outcomes" study, and from Yuan's work in California. Part 2 deals with conceptual and policy issues: defining target populations, measuring outcomes, assessing public policy implications. The volume focuses on Intensive Family Preservation Services, the short term crisis intervention model. IFPS programs are intended to improve family functioning in a timely, efficient, and cost effective manner. Because of this claim, these programs are gaining the attention of policymakers who must work around constricted budgets. The possibility for an unintended shift in priority from empowering families to containing costs makes the critical scrutiny of IFPS programs very important in the years ahead.

Ying-Ying T. Yuan. (1990). Evaluation of AB 1562 In-Home Care Demonstration Projects: Final Report. Sacramento, CA: Walter R. McDonald and Associates, Inc.

As a result of California state legislation, eight projects were funded to provide intensive, short-term services to families at imminent risk of entry into foster care. The legislation called for external evaluation of the three-year demonstration. This is it. Using an experimental design, data were collected on over 700 referred families (1,185 adults and 1,740) children, including: characteristics of children and families, problems faced, services planned and provided, and placement outcomes for eight months following the referral. Half the families were single-parent households. Fifty-nine percent were receiving public assistance. On average, parents scored below a "marginal rating" for indices such as parental teaching, developmental stimulation, teenage supervision, consistency of discipline, parental approval, and parental expectations. Services were intensive, over 60 hours in seven weeks; half of this was in direct contact with the family; a third of this took place in the home. As a result, families learned new ways to parent their children. All the "marginal rating" indices showed improvement. "Projects were successful in avoiding placement of 85% of the children in 80% of the families." The comparison in the study consisted of 356 children randomly assigned to family preservation, and 357 randomly assigned to other services. "There were no significant differences in placement rates between the project group and the comparison group."

Ying-Ying T. Yuan and Michelle Rivest (Eds.). (1990). Preserving Families: Evaluation Resources for Practitioners and Policymakers. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

Preserving Families offers a comprehensive assessment of evaluation resources for practitioners and policy makers. It provides a sound overview of the uses of evaluation, as well as the construction of study designs, including defining a target population, fitting evaluation to a program environment, appraising outcome measures, and cost analysis. This collection is valuable not only to those who need to learn how to best evaluate their family preservation programs, but to those who are interested in the design and implementation of family preservation services, as well as the complexities of the policy process.

Publishers

NOTE: Publishers and other entries are alphabetized by the first letter/word of the first line.

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