

PREVENTION REPORT

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PREVENTION REPORT is a publication of the National Resource Center on Family Based Services, The University of Iowa School of Social Work, N240 Oakdale Hall, Iowa City, Iowa 52242, 319/353-5076.

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ATTENTION READERS!

The National Resource Center on Family Based Services welcomes articles related to family based services from practitioners, administrators, and other interested readers. Research, legislation, practice methods, responses to articles appearing in this publication, upcoming prevention conferences, and new materials in the field are all welcome. Please address inquiries or submit copy to Marcia Culver, Editor, at the National Resource Center.

HELPING ALCOHOLIC FAMILIES CHANGE

by
Marcia Allen, MSW
Director of Training National Resource Center on Family Based Services

(This is the second of a two-part series on working with alcoholic families. Part one appeared in the Summer 1986 issue of PREVENTION REPORT.)

Public agency social workers are often faced with the task of motivating alcoholic clients to accept treatment. Court orders may be helpful, and referrals to specialized alcohol and drug treatment programs are essential. But there is frequently a gap between the court order or referral and the client's acceptance of a treatment program. Recognition of the problem and the motivation to change are still lacking.

This is where the family becomes a vital resource for the social worker. For all of us, our closest emotional ties are with our families. This makes the family a powerful tool for promoting change — if it can be mobilized properly. The social worker's initial goals are thus to get the alcoholic into treatment and to help the family reorganize in a more functional way.

A variety of specific techniques may be helpful to social workers in intervening with alcoholic families:

1. Involve as many family members as possible in interviews. Regard each family member as an opportunity for change, because he or she may be a key person to the alcoholic.
2. Talk about drinking right away and treat it as an ordinary subject. Describe what drinking behavior you have observed in the family and allow family members to share their observations. Children will often "give away" the secret before adults will. Do not sensationalize the issue; maintain a low key approach. Provide information about alcoholism, hand out pamphlets, and answer questions.

3. Stay away from labels such as "alcoholic" or "alcoholism," but do talk about the issue. Use the family's terms if necessary.
4. Work through non-drinking family members. You may first need to find out who they are. Some family members may be covert rather than overt drinkers, so don't make assumptions about who doesn't drink. Give child management tools to the non-alcoholic parent if there is one.
5. Assume that the family picks up about a quarter of what you say. Repetition may be necessary.
6. Empower those family members who want help to get it. If the non-drinking spouse or the kids are willing to go to Al-Anon, start there. The focus does not have to stay on the alcoholic, just on the drinking.
7. Keep defining recovery for the family. Have them describe what it will be like when things get better. Keep stressing that drinking problems are treatable, and above all, **GIVE HOPE**.
8. Don't get into power struggles with the alcoholic; keep stating that you care. Show awareness of their pain and go back to caring when attacked.
9. Move on the issue as fast as the family will allow. Use whatever you can for whatever level of intervention. Perhaps an alcoholic father denies his own problem but is concerned about his son's drug use. He might be willing to go to an alcohol/drug counselor for his son. Encourage him to do so. It's a start. If the whole family won't deal with the issue, meet with the members who are willing to talk. Keep your foot in the door.
10. Help the family achieve a "tough love" attitude with the alcoholic: "I love you but I don't love your behavior."

11. Don't try to "fix" the alcoholic. It's easy to become frustrated and angry. This anger turns to blaming, which the alcoholic will use as an excuse to keep drinking.
12. Despite good social work training, don't push family members to express more feelings. Alcoholic families tend to be over-reactive anyway. Deal with behavior.
13. Relate all behavior back to the drinking. For example, if a wife talks about fighting with her husband, ask "Do you fight more with your husband when he's drinking?" Don't let the family sidetrack you.
14. Don't challenge the alcoholic directly, even if you believe he or she is lying. Challenge through other family members: "Do you agree with your husband's (brother's, mother's) statement about how much he drinks?"
15. Accelerate the crisis. Express concern about the alcoholic dying, and ask the family how they react to that. (Alcoholism, if not checked, is fatal.) Reframe responses to caring messages.

Of course, these techniques only serve as a beginning. Presuming that the alcoholic does accept treatment, the recovery process takes time, and significant family work remains. However, given the associations between alcohol abuse and out-of-control children, child neglect and abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence and other forms of family dysfunction, alcoholism is not a problem public agencies can afford to ignore. Fortunately, we are starting to find some ways to combat this problem, and social workers must take advantage of the opportunities available.

NOTE: Although this article describes issues specifically as they affect alcoholic families, most of the same principles apply to all chemical dependency. Because of similarities among forms of alcohol and drug abuse, more generic terms such as "dependent" rather than "alcoholic" are usually applied.

The National Resource Center on Family Based Services provides training in working with alcoholic families which includes identifying alcoholic families, the characteristics of these families, issues for assessment and family intervention during treatment and recovery. Please contact Marcia Allen or Wendy Deutelbaum at the Resource Center for further information.

SOME RECOMMENDED RESOURCES ON WORKING WITH ALCOHOLIC FAMILIES

Claudia Bepko and Joanne Krestan, *The Responsibility Trap: A Blueprint for Treating the Alcoholic Family*. New York: The Free Press, 1985.

Bepko and Krestan apply family therapy techniques to treating alcoholics and their families. They provide an understanding of the dynamics of the family affected by alcoholism, describing the interpersonal relationships, individual conflict, and gender roles. The book then outlines methods for intervention and presents the roles of children and the therapist in family treatment.

Claudia Black, "Children of Alcoholics" *Mental Health and Research World (Fall 1979): 23-27.*

Black explores the roles children of alcoholics assume and how they react to and deal with the alcoholic behavior of a parent. In seeking to prevent psychological damage and future abuse of chemicals by the child of the alcoholic, Black uses a group setting and art therapy.

Lena Di Cicco, Hilma Unterberger, and John E. Mack, "Confronting Denial: An Alcoholism Intervention Strategy," *Psychiatric Annals 8:11 (Nov. 1978): 54-64.*

The authors describe approaches used by the Alcoholism Program of the Cambridge-Somerville Mental Health and Retardation Center in Massachusetts for diagnosing and treating alcoholism. They present techniques for professionals working with alcoholics for confronting the alcoholic. Includes case studies and a list of helpful and unhelpful attitudes in treating alcoholics.

Michael Elkin, *Families Under the Influence: Changing Alcoholic Patterns*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1984. 224 pages, \$16.95.

A "commonsense approach" to understanding the "Development of an Alcoholic System" and the "Development of an Alcoholic Family," using a family systems approach to treating the people surrounding the alcoholic, along with the alcoholic individual.

Bradley Googins, "Avoidance of the Alcoholic Client," *Social Work (Mar.-Apr. 1984): 161-66.*

"Googins explores the widespread avoidance of the identification and treatment of alcoholism by the social work profession. The article examines the underlying causes of this avoidance and suggests guidelines to overcome the organizational and professional barriers that have kept alcoholics from seeking social work treatment." *Social Work*.

Gary Lawson, et al., *Alcoholism in the Family: A Guide to Treatment and Prevention*. Rockville, MD: Aspen Publications, 1983.

This book integrates family therapy with treating the alcoholic family, viewing the problem of alcoholism as an outgrowth of an ailing family system. The entire treatment process focuses on the family, and along with evaluation and assessment, the authors present strategies for treating four types of alcoholic families. Family problems related to alcoholism are also addressed.

Valerie R. Levinson and Shulamith L. Ashenberg Straussner, "Social Workers as 'Enablers' in the Treatment of Alcoholics," *Social Casework (Jan. 1978): 14-20.*

The authors discuss the traps social workers can fall into by assuming responsibilities that only the alcoholic individual should assume and present an understanding of alcoholism and examples for effective treatment.

Sharon Cruse Wegscheider, *Another Chance: Hope and Help for the Alcoholic Family*. Palo Alto: Science & Behavior Books, 1981.

Wegscheider offers a detailed and sensitive description of alcoholism and of the roles assumed by members of alcoholic families (Enabler, Hero, Scapegoat, Lost Child, Mascot). She also presents a treatment plan for the whole family that goes beyond recovery to continued growth and wholeness.

NEW FAMILY-BASED HEALTH CARE INITIATIVE

The Association for the Care of Children's Health in Washington D.C. has received a 3-year grant from the Division of Maternal and Child Health to develop a nationwide program to further the implementation of a family-centered approach to health care for infants, children, and adolescents with chronic illness and handicapping conditions. For more information on the services offered by the association, contact Terri Shelton, Project Director, Association for the Care of Children's Health, 3615 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 (202) 244-1801.

News from the Family-Based Services Associations

NEW ENGLAND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT RESOURCE NETWORK (FERN)

A new family-based services association, the New England Family Empowerment Resource Network, is being created to support the development of home-based services by providing support, empowerment, and educational opportunities for program directors, supervisors and family workers, and by advocating for public policies which support family empowerment and home-based services.

FERN has drafted a definition of home-based services to serve as its working "manifesto:"

1. The majority of services are provided in the home; the family unit is viewed as the client; and services include a mixture of concrete services, therapy, and 24-hour availability.
2. All work is based on a systems approach which utilizes both the internal family system and the community network.
3. Services are offered along a continuum of intensity (i.e., hours per week with the family) and duration based on the needs of each family.
4. Programs have a philosophical commitment to empowering parents, instilling hope in families and other providers, and advocating for families.

5. The family defines their problems and is supported to take control of their lives.
6. Programs are committed to family preservation and reunification unless there is clear evidence it is not in the best interests of the children.

The Network held its first meetings in Rutland, Vermont, in September and in Concord, New Hampshire, in October. We hope to have more news from FERN in our next issue.

All New England organizations which provide home-based service and individuals whose work involves advocacy for home-based services are invited to join in FERN. For information about the new association, please contact Ellen Furnari, Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services/Social Services, Waterbury, Vermont, (802) 241-2131.

Because of the particularly strong response at the initial meeting from home-based organizations in Vermont, a new Vermont home-based services association is also being formed, and a quarterly newsletter is planned by this group.

MINNESOTA FAMILY-BASED SERVICES

The Minnesota Family-Based Services Association will hold its 5th annual conference on February 11-13, 1987, in Brainerd, Minnesota. Lynn Hoffman will be the featured speaker. Participants will include professionals, paraprofessionals and volunteers from public and private social service agencies throughout Minnesota and the surrounding states. The Conference offers training opportunities, a chance to expand and strengthen network ties, and a Resource Fair featuring displays of materials and information from leading family-based services organizations.

For further information, contact Dale Twedt, Lutheran Social Service, 414 West Becker Avenue, Willmar, MN 56201, (612) 235-5411.

Training Opportunities

NRC SUMMER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The National Resource Center is offering a 5-day intensive residency program at the University of Iowa in Iowa City this summer (June 15-19, 1986). The program will provide training in family systems theory, diagnosis and treatment and is intended for social workers, social service supervisors and paraprofessionals who have not been able to attend our 9-day training workshops around the country. While the residency program is not limited to any one group of professionals, the training emphasizes understanding and practicing family systems casework and therapy in the context of public agencies.

Participants will study with National Resource Center trainers, most of whom are University of Iowa faculty, from 9 to 4, Monday through Friday, and will be housed for 5 nights on the University campus. Credit will be available for course work in the form of Continuing Education Credits. Registration will be limited to 50.

Dates: June 15-19, 1986

Tuition: \$125 (27.5 hours of instruction)

Housing Costs: single w/kitchenette \$65 for 5 nights; double w/kitchenette \$45 (per person) for 5 nights

Iowa City is a beautiful river town that is rolling, green and lush in summer, with a wide array of theater, music, films, walks and restaurants for summer visitors. It is a 4.5 hour drive from Chicago, 3.5 hours from Madison, and 6 hours from Minneapolis. Iowa City is served by the Cedar Rapids airport.

- I would like to register for the residency program
- Please send me an outline of the 5-day curriculum
- Please send me other information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

From AUNT FABS...

AUNT FABS is now accessible to 300 baud modems.

How to call AUNT FABS: A Step-by-Step Approach

1. First of all, you need a **computer**. If you have access to a mainframe (that's the large computers), ask the systems operator how to go about calling AUNT FABS.

2. If you have a personal computer, you will need a compatible **modem**. The modem is a unit that acts as an interface between computers, converting the computer's digital signals into phone line signals so the information can be transmitted over the phone lines from computer to computer. Modems operate at various speeds called baud rates. The most common speeds are 300 bits per second (BPS), and 1200 BPS. Now available are modems that transmit data at 2400 BPS. To find a modem to fit your needs will require some research and shopping on your part. Some recommended modems:

HAYES - The modem we use at the National Resource Center is the Hayes external 1200 BPS. One customer of the Hayes external called it a "workhorse." It's reliable and has set the industry standard for modems. The external and the internal 1200 BPS sell for \$599 retail, 300 BPS sells for \$199, and the 2400 BPS sells for \$899 external and \$799 internal. All the internal modems come with the Hayes communications software package Smartcom.

VEN-TEL - Both the internal and external Ven-Tel 1200 BPS modems are \$499. The internal modem includes the communications package Crosstalk XVI. The 2400 BPS is \$695.

3. Once you have the computer and modem, you will need a **telephone line** designated for on-line communication. Your modem instructions will specify the type of line you need, or your telephone company can advise you.

4. Finally, you need a **communications software** package. Communications software packages control the communication between computers. From a menu you will establish the protocol, set the baud rate, select the phone number. The communications package

will keep you informed on the status of the modem. Read the information that comes with the package to start-up. With the package you will need to set your communications parameters. With AUNT FABS you can set them at E,7,1 or N,8,1. These are parity, databits, stopbits. Parity is a way of checking incoming data to make sure it is not damaged — it must be the same at both ends; databits are the number of bits required to define a character (usually 8 bits to a byte); and stopbits are the number of bits that mark the end of a character.

Some companies sell the software package along with the modem you purchase. Again, to choose the package you like requires some shopping. Two of the available packages are described below:

CROSSTALK and **CROSSTALK XVI** - The most popular data communications software on the market. Retail at \$195.

PC TALK - A free package known as User-Ware, available from the National Resource Center. If you would like a copy, send us a blank double-sided double-density diskette, and we'll send you a copy of PC TALK.

Now, once you have connected with AUNT FABS what can you expect? Below, in bold type, are the questions AUNT FABS will ask when you connect with her. Following her questions are the responses you need to type at your terminal.

What is your first name? Type your first name.

What is your last name? Type your last name. Every time you call AUNT FABS you will be asked for your first and last name; use the same name every time you call.

What type of system are you calling from (press enter if IBMPC)? Type the name of the system you are calling from; if it is an IBM-PC, simply press the return.

What is your city and state? Type your city and state.

You now see the information AUNT FABS gives to all the new users of the bulletin board.

(C)hange name/address, (D)isconnect, (R)egister? Type r to register and continue.

Enter PASSWORD you'll use to logon again? Enter a password you assign to yourself. Be sure to remember it and use it whenever you call AUNT FABS.

Re-enter PASSWORD for verification (dots will echo)? Re-enter your password.

Can your terminal display lower case (Y/N)? Type y or n depending on whether your terminal can display lower case.

File transfer default type (A)scii, (X)modem, (C)xmodem/CRC, (Q)uit. AUNT FABS is not available for downloading files at this time, so this does not apply. To move on, type x.

Want nulls? (Y/N)? Type n. You will not need nulls since AUNT FABS doesn't download files.

Welcome to AUNT FABS! You will automatically see the Bulletins Menu, where you can view *Jobline* and the index to the Resource Center library. To view any of the bulletins, type the number of the bulletin and press return. Then, when you are finished reading the bulletins, press return and you will see the AUNT FABS main menu. You can choose the functions represented by typing the letter of the function you want. AUNT FABS will walk you through the bulletins and main menu by explaining as you go.

If you would like to call AUNT FABS but are still not sure how to go about it, or have any questions, call the National Resource Center at 319-353-5076.

JOBLINE

Jobline is a new resource from AUNT FABS. Job openings in family-based services are advertised in bulletin 15. *If you have any job openings you want advertised*, please send the information to the National Resource Center on Family Based Services and we will place it on AUNT FABS free of charge. It's also an excellent resource for those of you looking for professional positions in family-based services.

Personal: Dear Dick, Please call back. All is well. Love, AUNT FABS

RESOURCES FOR PREVENTION

Children's Home Society of California. *THE CHANGING PICTURE OF ADOPTION*, 1984. 144 pages, \$14.95.

Leaders in the field of adoption express their views on topics such as open or closed adoption, permanency planning, ethnicity, special needs children, and support groups. CHS states its position on each of the special topics covered.

Beulah Roberts Compton and Burt Galaway. *SOCIAL WORK PROCESSES*. Homewood, IL: Dorsey Press, 1984. 609 pages.

Social Work Processes gives beginning students in social work the basic principles needed to develop a foundation in general social work practice. The text is divided into three sections: The Context for Deciding What to Do; Tools for Deciding What to Do; and Tools for Doing the Decided.

Martha J. Cox and Roger D. Cox, editors. *FOSTER CARE: CURRENT ISSUES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES*. Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing, 1984. 245 pages, \$32.50.

A collection by professionals aware of current practices and trends in foster care, this book introduces the foster care system, presents a brief history of public policy for dependent and neglected children, gives an overview of state and federal initiatives in foster care, and addresses other important foster care issues. Of interest is the basic information provided on permanency planning.

Nona Dearth, et al. *FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES: LIVING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA*. New York: Norton, 1986. 163 pages, \$14.95.

Realizing a need for literature addressing the problems parents face in coping with mentally ill children, four of the founders of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill have written this book intended to help families deal with mental illness and provide professionals with an inside look at the feelings and difficulties of the parents of the mentally ill.

Merle A. Fossum and Marilyn J. Mason, *FACING SHAME: FAMILIES IN RECOVERY*. New York: Norton, 1986. 192 pages, \$19.95.

"Shame occurs when you haven't been able to get away with the 'who' you want people to think you are" (Carl Whitaker). A therapeutic model, this book views shame as perfection imposed on the family by society and on the individual by the family. Noting the correlation between shame and families experiencing addiction and abuse, Fossum and Mason found that when individuals and families discussed their feelings of shame in a supportive environment, they were able to begin reducing addictive

behaviors and move toward maturity and health.

Ludwig Geismar and Katherine Wood. *FAMILY AND DELINQUENCY: RESOCIALIZING THE YOUNG OFFENDER*. New York: Human Sciences Press, 1986. 242 pages, \$19.95.

Geismar's research (Coull, Geismar and Waff, 1982) suggests that faulty family functioning is related to recidivism in juvenile delinquency, and the authors seek to provide a foundation for research on the relationship between family functioning and delinquency by defining family variables, functioning, and treatment, and a problem analysis and model for intervention.

Jay Haley, editor. *CHANGING FAMILIES: A FAMILY THERAPY READER*. Orlando, FL: Grune & Stratton, 1971. 353 pages, \$31.

Papers by such notable family therapists as Milton Erickson, Jay Haley, Salvador Minuchin, Virginia Satir, and Carl Whitaker, arranged chronologically to reveal the development of family therapy throughout a decade. The book's orientation is toward treatment techniques, including Conjoint, Multiple Impact, and Conflict Resolution. This collection provides a solid background in the development of family therapy.

Mark Hardin, editor. *FOSTER CHILDREN IN THE COURTS*. Boston: Butterworth Legal Publishers, 1983. 653 pages, \$16.95.

An excellent resource for practitioners who work in foster care, *Foster Children in the Courts* provides guidelines to aid attorneys through all phases of the legal process which protects children from family disruption. Although statutes differ, the functional characteristics of the laws are similar enough for a clear understanding of the overall legal process. The book is divided into 5 parts: 1. The Early Stages of Intervention; 2. Securing Placement for Children in Foster Care; 3. The Rights of Foster Parents; 4. Interdisciplinary Issues in Case Planning for Foster Children; and 5. Working with Mental Health Professionals. It also presents a guide to the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980.

Debra P. Hymovich and Martha Underwood Barnard. *FAMILY HEALTH CARE*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979. 2 volumes, \$22 each.

Written by and for nurses, *Family Health Care* can be used by anyone working with families and may be especially useful in training parent aides or volunteers. An informative study of how to view and treat the family, the two volumes adopt a family systems approach in presenting theories of

family development and crisis, an historical perspective on the American family, a profile of low income families, family assessment guidelines, principles of family counseling, and an explanation of the family life cycle.

Beverly James and Maria Nasjleti. *TREATING SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES*. Palo Alto, CA: Consulting Psychologists Press, 1983. 152 pages, \$12.95.

Viewing child sexual abuse as a family dysfunction, *Treating Sexually Abused Children* describes the family dynamics of the sexually abusive family, including characteristics of the molested child, the victimizer, and the mother of the victim. It outlines the cycle of sexual abuse and offers treatment techniques for both the abuser and abused, and includes a case study and treatment exercises.

Curtis Janzen and Oliver Harris. *FAMILY TREATMENT IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE*. Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock, 1986. 314 pages, \$11.95.

Family Treatment in Social Work Practice is designed to introduce practitioners and students to the family systems approach to working with clients within an agency framework. The authors incorporate the family view in initial assessment and provide a family systems understanding of intervention with specific kinds of families and family problems.

Anthony Maluccio, Edith Fein, and Kathleen A. Olmstead. *PERMANENCY PLANNING FOR CHILDREN: CONCEPTS AND METHODS*. New York: Methuen, 1986. 328 pages, \$13.95.

A comprehensive handbook on permanency planning, this book focuses on the decision-making process and presents a thorough overview of permanency planning from definition to actual practice and administration.

Monica McGoldrick and Randy Gerson. *GENOGRAMS IN FAMILY ASSESSMENT*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1985. 174 pages, \$9.95.

"A genogram is a format for drawing a family tree that records information about family members and their relationships over the last three generations." With genograms being used more frequently in family therapy, the authors have developed a structure for using this tool and outlined the principles it is based upon. They offer guidance in constructing and interpreting genograms and present various uses in family therapy.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

In *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat and Other Clinical Tales* (Summit, 1985), a series of narratives as strange and compelling as the Arabian Nights, the neurologist Oliver Sacks recounts case histories from his work with people who suffer from brain disorders — losses, excesses, transports and simplicities which Sacks examines not only for his patients' own symptoms and ingenious solutions but for clues to mechanisms at work in us all.

In a case he calls "A Matter of Identity," Sacks touches on a theme from last month's column: the stories that provide a common link between literature and the construction of the self. Sacks describes a patient who found himself continually disoriented and unable to remember anything for more than a few seconds, who solved the dilemma of his amnesias by creating "fluent confabulations and fictions of all kinds." The patient had the fevered exuberance of the pathological liar on "Saturday Night Live," but without the recognition that his stories were lies. "For him," Sacks explains, "they were not fictions but how he suddenly saw or interpreted the world:"

If we wish to know about a man we ask "What is his story — his real, inmost story?" — for each of us **is** a biography, a story. Each of us **is** a singular narrative which is constructed, continually, unconsciously, by, through, and in us — through our perceptions, our feelings, our thoughts, our actions; and, not least, our discourse, our spoken narration. Biologically, physiologically, we are not so different from each other; historically, as narratives — we are each of us unique.

Each of us constructs our identity, the case of the amnesiac suggests, partly out of memories and partly out of fictions.

I suspect that much of what we do in our work with families is help them construct this identity. The tools of our trade involve not only "hard, concrete" services — the mortar and the mud — but also the "narrative" services we bring to bear in helping families construct and critique their life stories. Sometimes the stories we hear cry out for a narrator and so we become one, a voice that, knowing more than any single

one character could, constructs the larger context, the other players, the "what came before" to make a life look like that. Sometimes we simply hear an "untold" story — the event that was related to no one before us — and that sets the healing in motion. In this work, as caseworkers and as therapists, narratives are one of our greatest resources.

But what about the other side of the story, the one expressed in the maxim that "Life is stranger than fiction"? Are there ways that the narratives we know — the stories, plays, films and TV shows that inhabit our imaginations — constrain as much as they expand us? Think for a moment of a film you've seen or a story you've read where something just isn't right — maybe it's a character, or an event, or the way the story unfolds. What's wrong when it isn't right? We say things like "That just isn't plausible!" or "She's not realistic!" or "That would never happen!" We respond this way because made-up stories exist *under the constraint of likeliness*: they have to respect our expectations about how life should be represented in fiction, they have to respect the norms, the received ideas, the maxims and prejudices that constitute our system of values and vision of the world.

Whether from the stories we are read as children or from the comic books and TV shows we devour in our growing up, we learn what it is like to be male or female, poor or crazy, to live in a family or as an old person, to be successful or a "loser." The irony, of course, is that these stories we so eagerly ingest as portrayals of "real life" depend on a rich but limited set of narrative conventions that mirror back to us not the sense that *anything* can happen — for that is the domain of life and of "true confessions" — but that *certain* things are real and can happen at *certain* times to *certain* people. We tend to assume that stories are transparent reflections of real life, but in fact they tell us much more about the historically bound conventions that determine what's possible and plausible, when and for whom.

One consequence of this understanding is a loss of narrative naivete: we become *suspicious* as well as engrossed readers. It is as if we suddenly became literary critics — not only of the novels we read and the

films we see, but also of the stories we carry about in our heads and the stories we hear from our clients. We begin to wonder: What kinds of stories *do* we tell our clients? What views of reality do we inspire? Do we carry about stories of women who will only attain happiness if they marry and have families? Or of men who must master and maneuver? And what of the stories our clients carry about in *their* heads? How full or flat are they? Could they be told differently and in a way that would empower rather than defeat? In celebration of this suspiciousness, I would like to draw your attention in this quarterly report to another series of stories, rather different from the last ones, stories whose very concern, it seems, is to make us aware of narrative convention, to disrupt our commonsensical expectations, and to stimulate our powers of invention.

Roland Barthes, *Barthes* (French and European Publications, 1975): an unusual autobiography narrating the construction of the self.

Jorge Luis Borges, *Labyrinths* (New Directions, 1969): stories that wind round and round and round...

Angela Carter, *Nights at the Circus* (Penguin, 1984): unpredictable and fabulous, a novel about a woman with wings, her foster mother, and their bizarre and funny feminist flights of fantasy from the European continent to the frozen tundra of Siberia.

Louise Erdrich, *The Beet Queen* (Holt, 1986): Like her earlier *Love Medicine*, this stunning family novel alternates between different and sometimes contradictory points of view.

William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury* (Random House, 1967): four narrators, including Bengy the idiot, tell the story of the Southern Compson family.

Sally Gearhardt, *The Wanderground: Stories of the Hill Women* (Persephone Press, 1978): visionary stories of women living in a culture of their own.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (Harper & Row, 1970): a dazzling novel which tracks the rise and fall of the Buendia family.

Wendy Deutelbaum

WISCONSIN'S NEW FAMILY-BASED SERVICES INITIATIVE

Twenty-two Wisconsin counties will be developing and expanding family-based services under a new program initiated by the state Department of Health and Social Services. Wisconsin is reinvesting savings on foster care (unexpended IV-E funds which were transferred to IV-B) and reallocated IV-B funds unused by other states. A total of \$1.2 million has been allocated for family-based services in 22 counties for the first year of the initiative.

The Family Based Services Development Program reflects Wisconsin's longstanding commitment to family preservation and a groundswell of interest in family-based services from Wisconsin counties. A major factor in Wisconsin's decision to launch the program was the effectiveness of 14 Wisconsin placement prevention projects during 1983-1985. The projects were evaluated by the National Resource Center on Family Based Services, and the positive evaluation report received statewide media attention. County agency interest in family-based services was also stimulated by several training events for county social workers during 1985 and 1986, presented by Bill Showell from the Oregon Children's Services Division, Marcia Allen, formerly with the Oregon agency and now Director of Training for the National Resource Center, and Janet Hutchinson, Director of the National Resource Center.

The new program is funding 5 "model" family-based services counties and 17 "development" counties. The model counties are analyzing and redesigning their child welfare services to achieve comprehensive family-based service systems. The other 17 counties were selected for funding because of their high rates of out-

of-home placement, high incidence of child abuse and neglect, and interest in family-based service development. County project activities are being jointly planned with state staff. Projects include retraining of county staff and other community professionals and development and expansion of intensive family treatment, parent aide services, concrete assistance for families, and other services. Many of the county projects will focus on designing and implementing internal and external systems changes using a combination of public and private agency services.

Training, technical assistance and information on family-based services will be provided throughout Wisconsin during the next year by the state Office for Children, Youth and Families, the National Resource Center on Family Based Services, and others.

Wisconsin plans to continue its Family Based Services Development Program in subsequent years by providing partial second-year funding for most of the 22 project counties and adding several new project counties each year. As the program achieves its goals of reducing placements and providing more effective child welfare services, more funds will be available for reinvestment each year.

For more information on the Wisconsin Family Based Services Development Program, contact Kay Hendon, Office for Children, Youth and Families, 1 West Wilson, PO Box 7851, Madison, WI 53707, 608/266-3595.

**Kay Hendon, Child Welfare Planner
Wisconsin Department of Health and
Social Services**

Conference Notes NATIONAL FAMILY-BASED SERVICES CONFERENCE Fall 1987

The first national conference planned by family-based service providers and practitioners will be held at the Nicolett Mall Holiday Inn in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from September 30 through October 2, 1987. The conference is being planned by 20 people representing the Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and New England family-based associations, the Child Welfare League of America, and the National Resource Center on Family Based Services.

Inspiration for the conference came from requests by local program administrators and practitioners for an opportunity to share experiences, discuss issues and "network" with colleagues in other states and regions of the country. Planners are anxious to demonstrate their sensitivity to these requests and are looking to participants for contributions to the two-track agenda: enhancing family-based services (practice and program), and promoting family-based services (policy, administration and advocacy).

A formal "call for presentations" is being issued with the request that 200-word abstracts be submitted by individuals and organizations interested in presenting their family-based treatment approach or technique, training materials, program design, research study results, model administrative support systems, legislation and policy. To obtain a description of topic areas and criteria for acceptance on the program, call or write the National Resource Center on Family Based Services.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Annotated Directory of Selected Family-Based Service Programs (1986). \$12. Descriptions of 238 family-based service programs across the county, including information on goals, background, services, client characteristics, staff, evaluation, funding, and who to contact.

A Comparative Analysis of the Costs of Substitute Care and Family Based Services (1982). No charge. A method for comparing costs of foster care and family-based services, using the present-value-of-money concept to demonstrate savings in foster care maintenance expenditure.

Evaluation of Fourteen Child Placement Prevention Projects in Wisconsin

(1985). \$3.50. Based on a study funded by the Wisconsin Division of Community Services from 1983-1985, this report describes the project backgrounds, client characteristics, services, outcomes and related factors, and achievement of project goals. Includes data collection instruments.

Evaluation of Nebraska's Intensive Service Project: Lincoln and McCook, Nebraska (1984). \$2.50. Background, findings and evaluation of two family-centered service projects in Nebraska from March 1983 through February 1984, including data collection instruments.

Family Based Job Descriptions (1986). \$7.50. A compilation of job descriptions for

family-based service workers, including entries for social workers, supervisors, administrators, family therapists and paraprofessionals which are currently in use by selected public and private family based service programs throughout the country. The typical entry includes a job title, summary of the position, list of major responsibilities, and qualifying educational/employment background.

Family-Centered Services Employees Manual (1985). \$3.75. The Iowa Department of Human Services' family-centered services regulations, which define and structure the preventive services program, with accompanying procedures manual.

MATERIALS FROM THE NRC

Family-Centered Social Services: A Model for Child Welfare Agencies (1983). \$7. Planning and implementing family-centered services for public child welfare agency administrators, including a proposed model of service delivery, family typology, data collection instruments, comparative costs analysis, and extensive bibliography.

Measuring the Cost Effectiveness of Family-Based Services and Out-of-Home Care (1983). \$5. Data from the state of Maryland.

Placement Prevention and Family Unification: A Practitioner's Handbook (1984). \$7. Applications of family-based services, initiating the program, family assessment, functions and activities of the in-home worker, staff supports, case closure and service techniques.

Placement Prevention and Family Unification: A View from the Child Welfare Sector (1980). \$2. Reasons for and advantages of family-centered services, for use with legislators, boards, advocacy groups, and civic organizations.

Resources for Family Based Service Practice: An Annotated Source Book (1986). \$2.50. Annotated descriptions and ordering information for useful resources in family-based services, covering topics in family therapy, family-based services theory and practice, research and evaluation, legal issues, family-based services management, and training. Lists of family-based service associations and program directories are also included. Many are unpublished materials prepared by social service departments, not generally available in libraries.

Summaries of Evaluation Studies of Prevention Projects in Virginia and

Wisconsin (1985). \$3.50. Placement prevention projects in Wisconsin and Virginia were studied using similar methodologies, with results demonstrating substantial success in preventing out-of-home placement.

AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS: Home-Based Family-Centered Service: A Basic View (1980). \$77. An 18-minute, 80-slide synchronized presentation providing an introductory overview for use by advocacy and civic groups, boards of directors, legislators and policy-makers. Includes an 8-page study guide.

All of the materials listed above are available from the National Resource Center on Family Based Services, The University of Iowa School of Social Work, N240 Oakdale Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242, 319/353-5076 (after January 1, 1987: 319/335-4123).

NEW PHONE NUMBERS FOR THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER December 20, 1986

On December 20, 1986, The University of Iowa is scheduled to switch to a new telephone system, and the National Resource Center on Family-Based Services will have a new telephone number: **319/335-4123**. For those of you who have made the acquaintance of our electronic bulletin board, AUNT FABS will also have a new number: **319/335-4130**. Please make a note of these impending changes, and always feel free to give us a call!

MAILING LIST

Please notify us of address changes, additions, or deletions to our mailing list.

- Add to mailing list Delete from mailing list
 Address change (attach mailing label from current issue)

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Address _____

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Return this form to: **The National Resource Center on Family-Based Services,
240 Oakdale Hall, The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242.**

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