

Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice

The Advocate



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Apryl Alexander, PsyD

President

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and finding things that bring joy. Thank you to all our members who are actively working with children and families, conducting innovative research to improve the lives and well-being of our communities, and advocating at the policy level. Regarding advocacy, there are several open comment periods open for internal and governmental policies, so please pay attention to the listserv and contribute as you can. Your voice and expertise are needed.



As you may already know, our APA elections were recently completed (thank you for voting!). We would like to welcome our elected leaders:

- President-Elect: Jennifer Woolard, PhD
- Treasurer: Thomas J. Gross, PhD
- Member-at-Large, Communications: Colleen Sullivan, PhD

Thanks to all our candidates who ran for office in Division 37. For those interested in contributing to the Division in the future, [click here](#) to learn more about our leadership, task forces, and other committees.

The APA Convention in Washington, D.C. is quickly approaching. Our Division APA Convention Co-Chairs, Drs. Monica Barreto and Austen McGuire have put together an amazing collection of presentations

and symposia for our schedule. This year's presidential theme focuses on reimagining justice for youth and families. Given the breadth of global challenges, the goal is to spotlight innovative policy and practice that uplift and empower children, families, and communities. We also have early and distinguished career contribution addresses, honor our Section award winners, and our two co-sponsored social hours. This newsletter has all the details, and I hope you can join us throughout the conference.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the APA Convention. Thank you again for all your work and contributions to the Division. Please reach out to me (apryl.alexander@charlotte.edu) if you are interested in becoming more involved in the Division or Section on Child Maltreatment!

Apryl Alexander, PsyD

2026 President of the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice, Division 37

SECTION ON CHILD MALTREATMENT

Kristin Valentino, Ph.D.

President, Section on Child Maltreatment

Hello members of the Div. 37! I am excited to let you know about upcoming Section on Child Maltreatment activities at the APA Convention, to congratulate our Section award-winners, and to let you know about opportunities to become involved in the Section.

APA CONVENTION

First, the APA convention in Washington D.C. is fast approaching. We encourage you to attend Section Programming and to connect with us there this August! A few highlights:

- **Presidential Symposium: 8:30-9:30am on Friday August 7th.** I am thrilled to host a panel discussion with **Mary Dozier, Judi Smetana, Nicole Campione-Barr, Jennifer Rodriguez, and Ken Dodge** on their 2025 publication, Consensus Statement on Developmentally Appropriate Policy and Practice for Adolescents in Foster Care (Dozier et al., 2025). Please join us to hear from an excellent group of speakers on this important topic.
- **Section Award Ceremony: 10-11am on Thursday August 6th.** I encourage you to attend our Section awards ceremony, which is hosted in coordination with the Division 37 awards. Please join me in celebrating the achievements of our Section colleagues!

Additionally, please keep your eyes on our social media accounts for information about opportunities to connect across a variety of social hours during the Convention. I encourage you to follow us at the following accounts for details and updates:

LinkedIn: [APA Division 37, Section on Child Maltreatment | Groups | LinkedIn](#)

Twitter/X: @div37childmaltx

Bluesky: @div37childmaltx.bsky.social

Instagram: @div37childmaltx

Lastly, please consider participating in our Section fundraiser!

Every year around the APA convention, our Program Chairs select an organization located in the Convention area whose mission is aligned with the Section on Child Maltreatment. Even if you are not planning to attend the conference, this is a great way to show your support by contributing to this effort.

For its 2026 APA Convention fundraiser
Division 37's Section on Child Maltreatment
is proudly supporting:

SECTION ON CHILD MALTREATMENT
Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice
Division 37 of the American Psychological Association

Community of Hope of Washington, DC

Community OF HOPE

Scan the QR Code and donate by August 31, 2026

Sustaining Donations:
<https://www.communityofhopedc.org/donate/>

Community of Hope works to improve health, end homelessness, and create a more equitable future for families across Washington, DC.

With support, families can access safe housing, healthcare, and resources that help children stay safe and families grow stronger together.

SECTION ON CHILD MALTREATMENT AWARD WINNERS!

Please congratulate the following outstanding scholars who are the winners of this year's Section Awards:

Karen Saywitz Early Career Award for Outstanding Research:

Samantha Brown, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Human Development & Family Studies and Colorado School of Public Health, Colorado State University

Mid-Career Award for Outstanding Work in Child Maltreatment:

Richard Liu, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.

Outstanding Teaching, Training, and Mentoring in the Field of Child Maltreatment:

Cynthia Nadjowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Albany.

Congratulations to all our award winners who have made significant and important contributions to the field of child maltreatment! We encourage everyone to join us at APA where we will honor these awardees.

BECOMING INVOLVED

The Section on Child Maltreatment remains dedicated to engaging and expanding our membership.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining us. Registration a separate process from your Division membership. Details are here: <https://childmaltreatment.clubexpress.com/>

We also invite you to consider running for one of our upcoming executive board positions. We are currently seeking nominations for the roles of **President-Elect and Member-at-Large for Advocacy**. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, we would love to hear from you and encourage you to get in touch.

Our Section thrives because of the dedication and passion of its members, who work to advance research, practice, and advocacy in the field of child maltreatment and prevention. We deeply value your ongoing contributions and are committed to supporting your efforts to improve the lives of children and families.

Sincerely,
Kristin Valentino
President, Section on Child Maltreatment

PRESIDENT-ELECT COLUMN

Yo Jackson, Ph.D., ABPP

President-Elect

I am deeply honored to serve as President-Elect of Division 37 and grateful for the opportunity to work alongside colleagues who are dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and families. Throughout its history, Division 37 has played an important role in advancing advocacy, research, practice, and public policy on behalf of children and families. I look forward to building on that legacy while supporting the division's continued growth and impact.

As I think about the opportunities facing our field, one theme stands out as particularly important: **partnership**. The challenges confronting children and families today - including mental health concerns, health disparities, child maltreatment, educational inequities, and barriers to accessing services - are complex and interconnected. Addressing these issues requires collaboration across disciplines, systems, and communities. Researchers, practitioners, educators, policymakers, advocates, families, and youth all bring valuable perspectives that can strengthen our collective efforts.

I believe that strong partnerships can help us advance two additional priorities that are essential to the future of child and family well-being: **prevention and precision**. Prevention reminds us that our greatest impact often comes from supporting children and families before difficulties become crises. Precision challenges us to ensure that the services, interventions, and policies we develop are informed by evidence and responsive to the diverse strengths, needs, cultures, and lived experiences of the communities we serve.

During my term as President-Elect, I hope to engage members in conversations around these themes through convention programming, interdisciplinary collaborations, mentorship opportunities for students and early career professionals, and initiatives that strengthen the translation of psychological science into practice and policy. I am particularly interested in identifying ways Division 37 can continue to elevate its voice in national discussions related to child welfare, education, juvenile justice, mental health, and family well-being.

Most importantly, I hope to foster connections among our members and create opportunities for collaboration across the many areas of expertise represented within the division. By working together and learning from one another, we can strengthen our impact and continue advancing Division 37's mission of promoting the well-being of children, youth, and families.

I am excited for the work ahead and look forward to partnering with all of you in the coming year.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindy Miller-Perrin, PhD

Representative to APA Council

The American Psychological Association's Council of Representatives held a hybrid meeting Feb. 20-21, with in-person council members convening in Washington, D.C. Below is a Council summary of important policy decisions that impact children and families in particular, along with additional decisions impacting the general APA membership.

ANTISEMITISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2026 Resolution on Antisemitism

By a vote of 127-37 with five abstentions, Council adopted as policy a 2026 Resolution on Antisemitism. The resolution updates the 2007 APA Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice, strengthening APA's policy framework to reflect developments since 2007. The new policy includes a robust set of action items to materially enhance APA's response and education efforts to address the dramatic rise and evolving forms of antisemitism. It incorporates contemporary scholarship, addresses current manifestations of antisemitism, and affirms APA's resolve to ensure that Jewish members can participate fully and safely in the profession.

Proposed APA Ethnic Psychological Association Affiliation with the Association of Jewish Psychologists

Council voted 137-17 to defer to Council's next meeting in August 2026 a decision on APA affiliation with the Association of Jewish Psychologists as a recognized ethnic psychological association.

"The deferral gives council members time for robust discussion and critical deliberation about how best to ensure that all voices are heard and represented and that any action taken would be as effective as possible to address antisemitism," said Dr. Williams.

Reaffirming APA's Commitment to Human Rights and Free Speech

Council voted 146-5 (with three abstentions) to adopt a policy reaffirming APA's commitment to human rights and freedom of expression. The resolution condemns bigotry in all its forms and opposes efforts aimed at silencing or punishing non-violent advocacy directed toward safeguarding human life and upholding human dignity and human rights.

ACCREDITATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Standards of Accreditation for Programs in Health Service Psychology

Council voted 156-4 (with two abstentions) to adopt as APA policy the revised Standards of Accreditation for Programs in Health Service Psychology. The revisions went through three public comment periods to allow input by APA members and other psychologists, as well

as the public. In updating its standards, the Commission on Accreditation continues to serve as a leading resource for standards and evidence-informed guidelines in the field of graduate-level psychology education.

Policies for APA Approval of Sponsors of Continuing Education for Psychologists

Council unanimously approved a revision of the Policies and Procedures Manual for APA Approval of Sponsors of Continuing Education for Psychologists. The revised manual improves the audit process for annual reports for APA-approved sponsors, eliminates the term “co-sponsorship” but allows for continued collaborations, discontinues draft application reviews, and introduces the “Sponsors with Distinction” designation to recognize sponsors committed to continuous learning. The revised manual will reduce administrative burdens for the sponsors and support the development of high-quality continuing education.

SUPPORT FOR UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

Integrating Psychological Science into Natural Disaster Response

Council voted to receive a report by an APA presidential task force seated by 2025 APA President Dr. Debra Kawahara on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery that emphasizes the psychological and physical risk natural disasters pose to communities and the role of psychological science in strengthening national disaster resilience.

Based on the findings in the report, Council also adopted (by a vote of 146-1) a policy that calls for a national effort to increase research and partnerships among emergency management agencies, mental health organizations, and community health providers to improve coordination of disaster response efforts.

Expanding Access to Mental Healthcare in Rural Communities

By a vote of 166-0, with one abstention, Council approved a policy to acknowledge the unique challenges faced by rural communities and increase support for policies and adequate funding for programs to increase access to mental health care in rural communities. The new policy also advocates for expanding services to increase safe housing, food access, support for youth in juvenile justice and child protective systems, resources on domestic and intimate partner violence, maternal mental health care, elder abuse prevention and response, and suicide prevention, to help rural communities contend with unique structural and economic disadvantages.

Global Perspectives in Psychology

Recognizing the importance of diverse, global perspectives for a comprehensive understanding of psychology, Council via unanimous consent adopted an updated 2026 Resolution on Promoting Global Perspectives in U.S. Psychology. The policy calls on psychologists to examine psychological concepts based on U.S. research that are assumed to be universal; encourage assessment, intervention, and education that respects local communities; and promote international partnerships and initiatives to ensure global knowledge sharing.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Promoting Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

Council voted 145-3 (with two abstentions) to update a resolution on sexual health education to promote developmentally appropriate, comprehensive, and inclusive sexual health education. Acknowledging significant changes in technology and an increased understanding of sexuality and gender diversity, the resolution aims to ensure youth have access to accurate and appropriate sexual health information and to promote inclusion and equity for sexual and gender diverse communities.

Revised Resolution on Palliative Care

Council (via unanimous consent) approved an updated resolution on palliative care and end-of-life issues intended to emphasize the often underutilized but vital role of psychologists in palliative care systems. The 2026 Resolution on Palliative Care and End-of-Life Issues outlines a framework for implementation that includes developing practice guidelines for palliative and end-of-life care, increasing research and education that supports mental health in palliative and end-of-life care, and endorsing public policies that provide behavioral health services for patients and their caregivers across the lifespan.

Policies are posted online in the Council Policy Manual available at: <https://www.apa.org/about/policy>

CONFERENCE AGENDA

APA 2026

AUGUST 6-8 | WASHINGTON, DC + VIRTUAL

2026 APA Annual Convention Information for Division 37

We are excited to share the 2026 APA Annual Convention schedule for Division 37 with our membership. Division 37 has many wonderful events and activities planned for this year's convention, and we hope you will be able to attend as many as possible. Below is the most up-to-date information on Division 37 activities to support your conference planning. APA will be releasing the full convention schedule soon. As a reminder, the APA Annual Convention will be held in Washington, D.C., from August 6–8. There will also be options to attend some activities virtually. Helpful links are provided below for registration, continuing education information, and travel. Some programming is still being updated, and we will share additional details as they become available, as will APA.

We would again like to thank everyone who submitted a proposal, and we also extend a sincere **thank you** to our dedicated reviewers (see names below), who helped select our outstanding programming.

Sarah Cleary
Colleen Sullivan
I-An Su
Cynthia Brown
Linda Ruan
Elizabeth Demeusy
J'Nelle Stephenson
Sandra Bishop
Sukhpreet Tamana
Alexa Austin
Doris Pu
Thomas Gross
Paula Fite
Jheanett Portobanco
Austen McGuire
Donney Gala

Anya Keomurjian
Alexandria Maldonado
Anna Washington
Sandra Barrueco
Amy Dnamashek
Monica Barreto
Francis Bonadio
Alexandria Maldonado
Carla Adkison-Johnnson
Constance Fournier
Kirkland Vaughans
Ahmar Zaman
Zoe Lapham
Anupam Pandey
Nerissa Germain-Cronister
Shani Jean-Charles

Symposiums, Critical Conversations, and Award Ceremonies

* Continuing education credits available

Thursday August 6th

Early Career and Distinguished Contribution Ceremony

Presenters: Toria Herd, Kara Finck

Time: Thursday August 6th from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Street Level: 156

Description: The 2026 Division 37 Distinguished Contribution to Child Advocacy Award winner, Kara Finck, and Willis Early Career Award winner, Toria Herd, will each give invited addresses about their work related to the awards.

Brief Family Intervention for IDD Families

Chair: Reyhaneh Razavi

Time: Thursday August 6th from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Street Level: 146C

Description: This symposium presents findings from SPARC, a brief family-centered intervention for families raising a child with IDD and a typically developing adolescent sibling. Using four-wave longitudinal data and parallel-process growth models, we identify how conflict knowledge and emotional security change over time and relate to adolescent adjustment and communication.

Friday August 7th

Consensus statement on developmentally appropriate policy and practice for adolescents in foster care- Presidential Address from Kristin Valentino

Chair: Kristen Valentino

Time: Friday August 7th from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Street Level: 144B

Description: The authors of a new consensus statement highlight the gaps between developmental research and foster care reality. Despite advances in understanding adolescent development, current social service systems fail to integrate these insights. The talk proposes evidence-based recommendations to better support foster youth policy and practice.

Innovative Adaptations of PCIT to Treat Young Children in Child Welfare*

Chair: Kristin Dean

Time: Friday August 7th from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Room: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Level Two: 201

Description: This session will describe two adaptations of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) that target young children with disruptive behavior and trauma histories. We will review implementation of the PCIT Trauma Directed Interaction (TDI) and PCIT-Toddlers adaptations with community health centers working with families involved with the child welfare system.

Division 37 Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Chair: Apryl Alexander

Time: Friday August 7th from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Street Level: 156

Description: This is the business meeting and awards ceremony for Division 37- Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice. Members of Division 37 are welcome to attend.

Presidential Theme: From Punishment to Possibility: Centering Healing and Possibility for Justice-Involved Youth

Chair: Apryl Alexander

Time: Friday August 7th from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Street Level: 156

Description: In this presidential address, Apryl Alexander (UNC Charlotte) examines how punitive juvenile justice policies, such as detention, isolation, and long sentencing, undermine healthy development and disproportionately harm marginalized youth. Rooted in the social and structural determinants of health, factors such as community disinvestment, educational exclusion, and chronic trauma exposure can aid in developing effective solutions to youth crime and violence. Drawing on her work, she highlights how family- and community-centered, culturally grounded, and healing-centered approaches, including mentoring, restorative and transformative justice, and community-based supports, strengthen protective factors. Emphasizing a shift from punishment to collective care and reimagination, the session calls for re-examining policies and practices, investing in communities, and mobilizing psychological science to build systems in which justice-involved youth can truly thrive.

Saturday August 8th

Novel Prevention & Intervention Approaches for Bullying/Peer Victimization*

Chair: John Cooley

Time: Saturday August 8th from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Level Two: 202A

Description: There is an urgent need for novel approaches to support youth who have been negatively impacted by bullying/peer victimization. This session aims to help fill this gap through three studies evaluating (1) an individual outpatient intervention, (2) a school-based group intervention, and (3) parent perspectives on an online workshop.

Rethinking Child Maltreatment Training in Immigration Contexts*

Chair: Aileen Torres

Time: Saturday August 8th from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Level Two: 208

Description: This session will provide clinicians with practical guidance for incorporating immigration-related stressors and cultural context into child maltreatment assessments and interventions. It will also present training-focused recommendations educators and supervisors can apply to reduce bias and improve ethical decision-making when working with immigrant families.

Family Engagement of the Underserved in Schools and Treatment Services

Chair: Mirian Ofonedu

Time: Saturday August 8th from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Level Two: 208

Description: Families seeking educational and treatment services for their children face multilayered barriers including lack of providers knowledge and confidence to family engagement. This session will provide participants with a symbolic experience of the challenges faced by underserved and vulnerable families and best practices for family engagement that improves outcome.

Poster Sessions

In addition to our engaging symposiums and critical conversations, Division 37 will also host two in-person poster sessions. We will also have virtual Division posters available, which can be accessed at any time during the conference through APA's online poster links.

In-Person Poster Session #1

Time: Thursday August 6th from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Level Two: Hall D, Solutions Center, Posters

In-Person Poster Session #2

Time: Friday August 7th from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Level Two: Hall D, Solutions Center, Posters

Each of these poster sessions **features** exciting, timely, and informative research from our Division. Example titles are provided below.

- Beyond colorblindness: Evidence-based support for transracial adoptee identity development
- Parenting styles across cultures and relationship with child mental health
- Self-perceptions after parental incarceration: Effects of childhood adversity and treatment-seeking
- Family violence and housing instability: A systematic review
- Investigating the collaborative development of trauma-sensitive strategies
- recreational screen time and child flourishing in a national sample
- Ecological risk-resource profiles for children with special health needs
- Up-to-date barriers to healthcare access for publicly insured children: A random forest analysis

Social Hours

Division 37, along with partnering divisions and organizations, will host a variety of social hours and gatherings. APA is also hosting a new event at this year's convention: Block Party. More information about these events is provided below. We hope you will join us to network and connect with colleagues, as well as celebrating our Division and its award winners.

APA DC Block Party

Time: Friday August 6th from 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Location: Exhibit Hall A, Walter E. Washington Convention Center

Description From APA: Kick off APA 2026 with a DC Block Party bursting with local flavor, music, and energy. Step into a space that has been transformed with the spirit of Washington, DC. Sample crave-worthy bites, move to the rhythm while listening to local musicians, and soak in the color, creativity, and culture that make DC unforgettable. This is your night to explore, connect, and celebrate, all while supporting local artists, eateries, and vendors.

Joint Social Hour

Time: Friday August 7th from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location:

Note: This is a joint social hour with the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF), along with additional child-focused divisions. Updates will be provided as these details are confirmed.

Division Social Hour

Time: Friday August 7th from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Capitol Room at the Marriott Marquis

Note: This is a joint social hour with the Committee for the Advancement of General Applied Psychology, as well as Division's 9, 27, 41, and 48.

Division 37 Student Breakfast

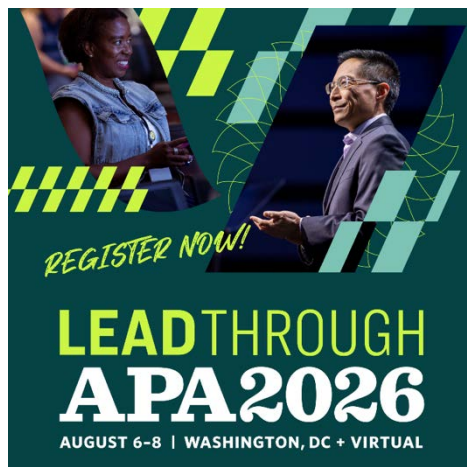
Time: Friday August 6th from 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Location: TBD

Note: This is open to students and members who would like to meet with students to support professional development and network.

Executive Board Meeting

Division 37's Executive Board Meeting will be held Thursday August 6th from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM. This event is only open to APA Executive Board members. Information reviewed at the meeting will be shared with the Division via the listserv after the convention.



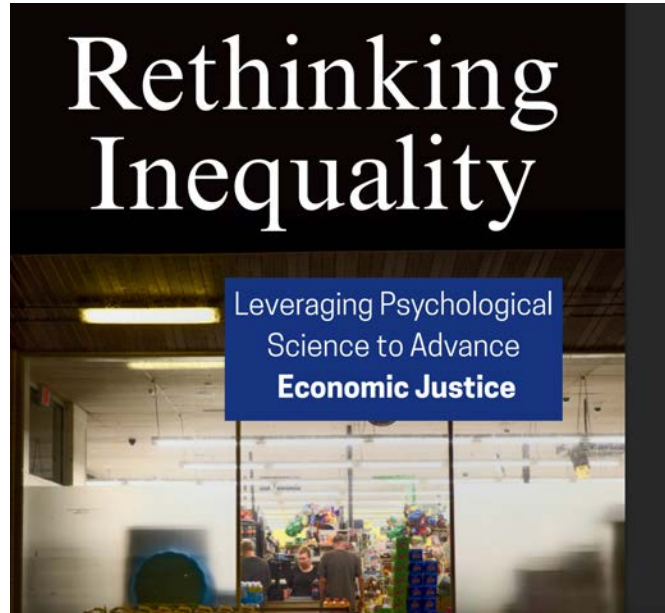
FEATURED ARTICLE

Alyssa Palmer, PhD

Division 37 members, Dr. Palmer, Dr. Herbers, and Dr. Cutuli, collaborated with several other APA divisions to create a collection of policy papers titled: Rethinking Inequality: Leveraging Psychological Science to Advance Economic Justice. The goal of this collection is to highlight the important role of psychological science in anti-poverty policymaking. Dr. Palmer and colleagues wrote about how policy makers and practitioners may work together to meet the developmental needs of young children experiencing homelessness. Young children are at increased risk for experiencing homelessness, and subsequently at risk for concurrent and future developmental challenges. Their brief advocates for increased early identification of developmental challenges, better connection to preventive and intervention services, and the promotion of anti-poverty initiatives.

The full report can be found at [here](#) or copy and paste the following link:

<https://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=document.viewdocument&ID=3F28EB86AE4CA3BB2EE025BE0093BF04F4DBB138279F87F23D2F993E20A69DFC8A419D9A5BFC2C3737450814D3839CB6>



2026 AWARD WINNERS

Please join us in congratulating the following award winners for 2025:

Diane J. Willis Early Career Award

Dr. Toria Herd (Senior Policy Analyst, National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, Duke University).

Dr Herd's scientific expertise focuses on social contextual influences, such as parenting and victimization, on adolescent development. What is particularly incredible about Dr. Herd is that she is using this expertise to affect policy and practice in a myriad of ways. She conducts training for researchers to enhance their ability to translate findings on children and families to policy makers, she provides non-partisan technical assistance to congressional offices on topics related to children and families, and she helps emerging communicate policy and practice needs back to researchers. She is perfect for an award that recognizes a psychologist whose efforts are designed to inform, advocate for, and improve the mental health and well-being of children and families, particularly through policy.

Distinguished Contribution to Child Advocacy Award

Dr. Kara Finck (Practice Professor of Law, Director of Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic, and Deputy Dean for Clinical Education, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School).

Widely recognized as a national expert on children and family law, Dr. Finck, is an ideal recipient of this distinguished contribution award. Dr. Finck's insightful, transformative, and forward-thinking approaches to interventions in family court have fundamentally improved the lives of countless families immersed in the justice system. At the Family Defense Fund in the Bronx, for example, she created a holistic, team-based practice for representing parents charged in Bronx Family Court with abuse and neglect, which expanded from a two-person pilot project into an interdisciplinary team of more than 30 attorneys, social workers, and parent advocates serving approximately 1,000 clients per year. As the Director of the Child Advocacy Center, she has expanded her efforts with ongoing policy and practice efforts, policy reports, and extensive mentoring of law students, scholars, and practitioners on effective ways of engaging and supporting families involved in the justice system.

Outstanding Dissertation Award

Dr. Austin Blake (Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical School).

Dr. Blake is a clinical scientist who uses rigorous methods to examine mental and physical health outcomes among youth in out-of-home care. Her dissertation, which is highly deserving of this award, examined sexually risky behaviors and substance abuse in youth living in out of home placement. She found that, even with multiple predictors considered and confounds included, youth removed from home evidence both sexual behavior and substance abuse problems, pointing to a need for ongoing services even after youth are placed in out of home care.

Graduate Student Research Grant

Frances Li (Advanced Doctoral Student, University of California, Irvine).

Ms. Li, a doctoral student in clinical psychology, is conducting an innovative dissertation examining the links between mothers' sexual abuse history and parenting behavior, specifically in terms of whether mothers who have experienced intrafamilial sexual abuse have altered patterns of risk detection that impact their decision-making. Her dissertation will employ a mixed methods design, the results of which will provide crucial novel insight into how mothers' history shapes their interactions with their children specifically around risk perceptions and decisions.

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Old Dominion University

CONNECT WITH US

MISSION STATEMENT

The Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (Div. 37 of the American Psychological Association; formerly Div. 37: Child, Youth and Family Services) is committed to the application of psychological knowledge to advocacy, social justice, service delivery and public policies affecting children, youth, and families in a diverse and inclusive society. The society advances research, education, training, and practice through a multidisciplinary and culturally informed perspective. The society is interested in supporting culturally informed, evidence-based practice that promotes health equity with underserved and vulnerable populations.

JOIN THE LISTSERV

Please join us on the Div. 37 Email List (apadivisions.org) to communicate with other Division members about upcoming meetings, funding opportunities, research, practice and policy relating to children, youth and families. To subscribe please follow the above link for instructions.

FOLLOW US!

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Twitter: Division 37 of APA, [@Division37ofAPA](https://twitter.com/Division37ofAPA)

Instagram: [Division37ofAPA](https://www.instagram.com/Division37ofAPA)

LinkedIn: APA Division 37 Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice

BlueSky: [@apadiv37.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/apadiv37.bsky.social)