

## **COMMITTEE ON PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH**

On April 16, 1931, the Executive Board established the Committee on Mental Hygiene to study the psychiatric problems of children. The committee addressed not only obvious mental problems, but difficulties that children faced in adjusting to changing circumstances in the family. In 1939, it became the Committee on Mental Health. In the 1940's, the committee, with the aid of funding by the Pet Milk Company, produced a film, "The Problem Child." The committee sought to improve the teaching of mental growth and development in pediatric departments. Unfortunately, most schools found it difficult to attract properly trained instructors at a salary they could afford. In the late 40s, when the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) established sections, the committee sought to establish a Section on Mental Growth and Development. The Executive Board agreed to this and in 1948, the Committee became the Section Executive Committee for the Section on Mental Growth and Development.

The new section had difficulty finding its focus for a time. In 1954 it became the Section on Mental Health. In 1958, the section was discontinued and a Committee on Child Development was established to address the concerns of the section. The committee soon resolved the problems of focus and the section reemerged in 1960 as the Section on Child Development. In 1988 it became the Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. During the 50s, 60s, and 70s, the section in its various formats, addressed the concerns of child development and childhood mental health.

In January 1979 the Legislative Issues Committee noted that the Academy had no formal policy on mental health. Soon afterward, Dr Jean D. Lockhart, Director of the Department of Health Services and Government Affairs, wrote to Henry H. Work, MD, FAAP, Deputy Medical Director of Professional Affairs of the American Psychiatric Association noting that there was no one Academy committee concerned with mental health. In his reply in March, 1979, Dr Work noted that there had been a Committee on Mental Hygiene established in the 30s and that the Section on Child Development was now the one piece of the Academy most concerned about mental health. Dr Work, a member of the section, thought that "it may well be that, as a section, it is not an appropriate action arm." He proposed to write to Dr Bruce Graham about the situation and expressed the hope that a workshop could be held on prevention of mental health problems. In her report to the Executive Board in April, 1979, Dr Lockhart suggested several options, one of which was to form a committee or task force devoted to mental health or appoint child psychiatrists to AAP committees. The Executive Board adopted the second suggestion and also referred the report to the Council on Child and Adolescent Health and the Section on Child Development.

In January 1980 the Council on Child and Adolescent Health recommended that a new committee be established on behavioral pediatrics and the family. The ACBOC approved the proposal in March and the Executive Board followed suit in April 1980. To keep costs down, the new Academy reduced slots for other committees and assigned them to the new committee. The Executive Board directed the new Provisional Committee on Behavioral Pediatrics and the Family to study and make recommendations relative to the role of the pediatrician as family-behavioral counselor knowledgeable about family dynamics; address social changes affecting families and advise the Executive Board on the implications to pediatricians and the children for whom they care; review AAP manuals and statements for behavioral and mental health content and implications, and make recommendations for

appropriate changes; review and analyze legislation in the behavioral and mental health fields and prepare (in conjunction with the Evanston and Washington offices) appropriate AAP responses and policy statements; develop liaison relationships with the other committees of the Council on Child and Adolescent Health, with related AAP sections, and with other organizations concerned with behavioral and mental health issues in children; assist the Department of Education of the Academy to develop educational content and programs in behavioral pediatrics for medical students, house staff, practicing pediatricians, and for other health professionals working for and with children; and make recommendations for the future work of this committee. The committee soon changed its name to Provisional Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. It met for the first time in October 1980. In 1982 the committee became a regular standing committee as it remains today.

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

##### Committee on Mental Hygiene

Bronson Crothers, MD, FAAP, 1931-1936  
Bert I. Beverly, MD, FAAP, 1936-1939

##### Committee on Mental Health

Bert I. Beverly, MD, FAAP, 1939-1947 (died in 1947)  
Milton J. E. Senn, MD, FAAP, 1947-1948

##### Section on Mental Growth and Development

Milton J. E. Senn, MD, FAAP, 1948-1952  
Richard Edward Wolf, MD, FAAP, 1952-1954

##### Section on Mental Health

Sherman Little, MD, FAAP, 1954-1958

##### Committee on Child Development

Julius B. Richmond, MD, FAAP, 1958-1960

##### Section on Child Development

Julius B. Richmond, MD, FAAP, 1960-1963  
Robert B. Kugel, MD, FAAP, 1963-1965  
Arthur H. Parmelee, Jr., MD, FAAP, 1965-1966  
Robert W. Deisher, MD, FAAP, 1966-1967  
Dane G. Prugh, MD, FAAP, 1967-1968  
Morris Green, MD, FAAP, 1968-1970  
T. Berry Brazelton, MD, FAAP, 1970-1972  
Lewis Fraad, MD, FAAP, 1972-1973  
David Friedman, MD, FAAP, 1973-1975  
John B. Bartram, MD, FAAP, 1975-1977  
Lawrence Taft, MD, FAAP, 1977-1979  
Barbara M. Korsch, MD, FAAP, 1979-1981

##### Provisional Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health

Morris Green, MD, FAAP, 1980-1982

##### Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health

Morris Green, MD, FAAP, 1982-1984  
Barbara M. Korsch, MD, FAAP, 1984-1988  
Robert H. Pantell, MD, FAAP, 1988-1992  
Martin T. Stein, MD, FAAP, 1992-1996  
Mark L. Wolraich, MD, FAAP, 1996-2000  
Joseph F. Hagan, Jr., MD, FAAP, 2000-