



Los Angeles
Child Guidance
Clinic

in touch

Clinic Executive Director Appointed by Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas to Chair Mental Health Committee



*Clinic Executive Director Betsy Pfromm with
Assemblymember Mark-Ridley Thomas.*

As a former President of the California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies, Betsy Pfromm, the Clinic's Executive Director, worked to help pass the ballot initiative that would generate funding to support mental health services to over 300,000 children and families throughout the state who currently are not able to access services. With the passage of Proposition 63, Ms. Pfromm has been advocating to help ensure an effective implementation of the Mental Health Services Act. Included have been her county and statewide efforts to promote the benefits of funding early intervention services for at risk populations of children five and younger.

Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas,

who serves on the statewide Mental Health Services Act Oversight and Accountability Commission, has appointed Ms. Pfromm to chair a special Mental Health Committee to solicit the input and counsel of various local mental health service stakeholders so that the assemblymember can better understand the specific mental health issues, concerns and needs in the South and Central Los Angeles community. As chair of the committee, Ms. Pfromm will make sure that the viewpoints of community representatives are considered by the Commission, whose goal it is to ensure that services provided pursuant to the Act embrace the perspectives of consumers and their families and are delivered in accordance with best practices.

Most recently, Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas invited Ms. Pfromm and his fellow Mental Health Service Act Commissioners to tour the downtown Skid Row area to learn more about the severity of issues and challenges faced by those individuals who are homeless and mentally ill.

The Clinic is grateful for another partnership with Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas who is a long-time supporter of the Clinic and has worked tirelessly and compassionately on behalf of our city's most vulnerable residents.



Message from Chairperson: Enhancing Technology to Improve Service Delivery

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After an extensive process of deliberation, the Clinic has selected UniCare as its vendor for implementation of the Clinic Management Software System (CMSS). A team of board members and staff worked together to select a software system that will enhance the quality of services we provide by:



- Easing the tremendous workflow of the current (paper) client chart system.
- Increasing our infrastructure and service capacity.

The CMSS will allow us to systematically collect data necessary to measure and articulate program successes and client outcomes, for both internal and external reporting purposes.

As we move forward in building our capacity to capture a wide variety of data and evaluate programs and services, I would like to express my thanks to the many Clinic staff and board members who provided important input and expertise into this process and who will be involved in the implementation throughout this New Year.

Michael W. Stoddard
Chairperson of the Board

Clinic Helps Hurricane Katrina Victims

With Los Angeles serving as a new home for many families displaced by Hurricane Katrina, the Clinic is helping to respond to the needs of children who have experienced the trauma associated with this national disaster. Through our school-based services, the Clinic has responded to requests for services to help children and their families who have been impacted directly by this tragedy.



Special Thanks



New Supporters

♥ **Commercial Capital Bank Community Foundation - \$11,667**
The Foundation supports organizations to improve the quality of life for under served communities. This grant supports the capital campaign that established the Clinic's Child and Youth Development Center.

♥ **California Hospital Medical Center Foundation - \$12,500**
The hospital has been supporting services to the Los Angeles community for more than a century. Funds will support the First Steps Program, providing parents of at risk infants and toddlers the opportunity to improve familial attachment bonds to facilitate healthy child development.

♥ **The Aron Warner Fund - \$2,500**
The Aron Warner Fund made a generous donation for general support of programs and services.



(L-R) Clinic Board members Eugene Friedlander, John Liebman and Michael Stoddard accept check from Olivia LaMothe of Commercial Capital Bank Community Foundation.



Barbara Stroud, Director of Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, receives a grant from Mark A. Meyers, President, California Hospital Medical Center Foundation.

Our Grateful Appreciation to Old Friends

♥ **Mark Liebman – Web Hosting**
Many thanks to Mark Liebman and Vividata, Inc. for donating over six years of Web site hosting and consulting services to the Clinic, from the Web site's initial stages through August 2005.

♥ **Martha de la Torre – Web Translation**
Our deep appreciation to Martha, Clinic board member, and her staff at *El Clasificado/Al Borde/Auto Plaza* for developing the Spanish-language portion of the Clinic's Web site.

♥ **Lon V. Smith Foundation - \$5,000**
We are grateful to the Lon V. Smith Foundation for its continued support for our Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, providing an array of services for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

♥ **Atlas Family Foundation - \$75,000**
A long-time funder, the Atlas Family Foundation is also a committed supporter of the Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, working in partnership with the Clinic to improve the developmental, social and emotional outcomes of young children.

♥ **Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation - \$8,500**
Funds will be used to support the Clinic's Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, including specialized programs provided at a Clinic site, at preschools and in families' homes.

♥ **ECHO Northrop Grumman - \$3,000**
A supporter since 1992 of the Clinic's no-appointment Walk-In Clinic and the Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, the Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman has consistently selected the Clinic for top-level grant funding in its health category.

♥ **Rose Hills Foundation - \$15,000**
Funds will be used to support the First Steps Program, providing home-based, bilingual services to at-risk families in Central and South Los Angeles.

♥ **Lions Club of Los Angeles - \$2,000**
This dedicated Clinic partner has provided another year of funding to support services for children and families.

In Memory of Edgar H. Twine

A dedicated member of the Clinic's Board of Directors for eight years, serving as Secretary and Vice-Chairperson, Edgar H. Twine, Esq., died on November 10, 2005.

Edgar began his career at the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial lawyer and later joined Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), where he advanced to heading their government affairs unit. In 1994 Edgar began a private practice where he served as a mediator and arbitrator.

During his distinguished legal career Edgar earned many accolades and awards including the Langston Bar's Corporate Lawyer of the Year Award. An appointee to the County's retirement board, he was recently chosen by Los Angeles County Supervisor Burke to serve on the County's Civil Service Commission. Edgar was also an active member of the nation's oldest invitational fraternity of African American leaders – Sigma Pi Phi.

Edgar will be greatly missed by his Clinic family. He was truly a consummate gentleman who gave generously of his time and talent to disadvantaged children and their families.

Did you know?

A recent study found that as many as seven out of every 1,000 preschoolers are being expelled from preschool – a rate that is three times higher than that of their counterparts in grades K-12?

In order to succeed in school, and yes, even in preschool, children must be prepared to learn. For 3-5 year olds this means being able to express their emotions in appropriate ways, follow directions, communicate effectively and develop positive relationships with peers and adults. Children learn these skills in the context of parent-child relationships.

We provide a solution:

The First Steps Program provides home-based services to at risk families with infants and toddlers to help parents and caregivers understand the importance of their role in nurturing and stimulating young children, to facilitate healthy child development. By developing a strong attachment relationship with their children, parents are then able to positively contribute to their children's school readiness.

In addition, the Clinic's Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division provides day treatment and outpatient services for preschoolers expelled for significant behavioral problems.

Gear Up for Spring Bike Ride



On Saturday, May 13th, Clinic board member John Liebman will be leading the pack once again in the 40-mile *Le Tour de l'Orange Bike Ride* that raises funds to support Clinic services. The ride begins in Chatsworth and ends in Santa Paula, and although it includes some gentle hills, overall it is a leisurely ride. Sign up with friends and celebrate with lunch following the event. Contact Amanda Ray for details, 323-766-2360, ext. 3360 or aray@lacgc.org.

Clinic Staff Making A Difference

National Fellowship

Dr. Barbara Stroud, the Clinic's Director of Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, was selected among other professionals from the United States, Europe and South Africa to serve as one of 25 fellows for ZERO TO THREE's prestigious *Leaders for the 21st Century Program*. As a national organization dedicated to promoting healthy infant development, ZERO TO THREE provides each program participant with an opportunity to collaborate with top leaders from a variety of disciplines, as well as develop innovative individual projects aimed at improving the lives of very young children. The Clinic is especially proud of this accomplishment and looks forward to learning more about early childhood development through Dr. Stroud's participation in this program.

Representation at National Conference

In November, several Clinic staff attended ZERO TO THREE'S National Training Institute, *Keeping Babies on the Map: Progressive Policies, Cutting-Edge Research and Innovative Practices*. Staff presentations included Dr. Barbara Stroud on "Searching for Cultural Competence" and Leticia Lara, LCSW, Associate Director of Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, co-presenting with Diane Kellegrew, Ph.D. of USC on "Unraveling the Program Evaluation Mystery: An Evidence-Based Approach."

Generous support from The Atlas Family Foundation made it possible for three Clinic representatives to attend the conference in Washington DC: Dr. Elena Judd, Director of Programs, Leticia Lara, and board member Bob Neary.



The mission of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic is to provide quality mental health services to a community in great need by ensuring easy access and promoting early intervention.



Celebrating 80 Years of Service to the Community!

**Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Established 1924**

University Park Office
*Child and Youth Development Center
and Administrative Offices*
3031 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(323) 373-2400

Exposition Park Office
*The Harriet and Charles Luckman
Building*
3787 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(323) 766-2345

Leimert Park Office
4401 Crenshaw Boulevard, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90043
(323) 290-8360

Access to voicemail for all three offices:
(323) 766-2360

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Elizabeth W. Pfromm, M.S., MPA

- **Affiliate of USC Keck School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**
- **Accredited by The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission for Job Development and Placement Services**
- **A Short-Doyle Contractor of the County of Los Angeles**
- **A Non-Public School Contractor of the Los Angeles Unified School District**

in touch
Debbi Winter, Editor
EmJay Creative, Graphics

New Web site

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Clinic's new Web site, offering easy and secure online donating, up-to-date program and services information (in English and Spanish), current employment opportunities and Clinic news and events.

**Come check us out at:
www.lacgc.org**



**Los Angeles
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