

Second Annual Conference

Violence and youth

Overcoming the Odds:
Helping Children and Families at Risk

Friday, May 1, 1998
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Victor E. Clarke Center for Health Education
South Miami Hospital
U.S. 1 and SW 62 Avenue

Sponsored by



The Melissa Institute
For Violence Prevention and Treatment

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This second annual conference is dedicated to the memory of Melissa Aptman, a charming and gifted young woman who was tragically murdered on May 5, 1995. In her name, family and friends founded the Melissa Institute, turning their grief into social action.

The focus on “Helping children and families at risk” fulfills part of the Institute’s mandate: to help those in need. Any efforts to reduce violence should be informed by the research findings on those children and families who live in high-risk environments (poverty, crime, exposure to various stressors), but who, in spite of the odds, seem to “make it.”

This conference brings together experts in the areas of education, clinical practice and community interventions, to identify and critically evaluate what research findings

indicate are **protective factors** and the practical implications for developing prevention and intervention programs. In both conference presentations and in the smaller breakout sessions, these experts will detail practical ways to establish, implement and evaluate specific programs. Their presentations range from the classroom to the school yard to the entire community.

A second mission of the Institute is to nurture a dialogue among practitioners, policy makers and researchers. In the setting of a town hall meeting, this year’s conference faculty will discuss with Miami leaders the alternative strategies for prevention and treatment of violence.

If you attended last year’s conference, you know that it was an exciting, stimulating day. Our second annual conference promises to be that — and more. We hope you will join us!

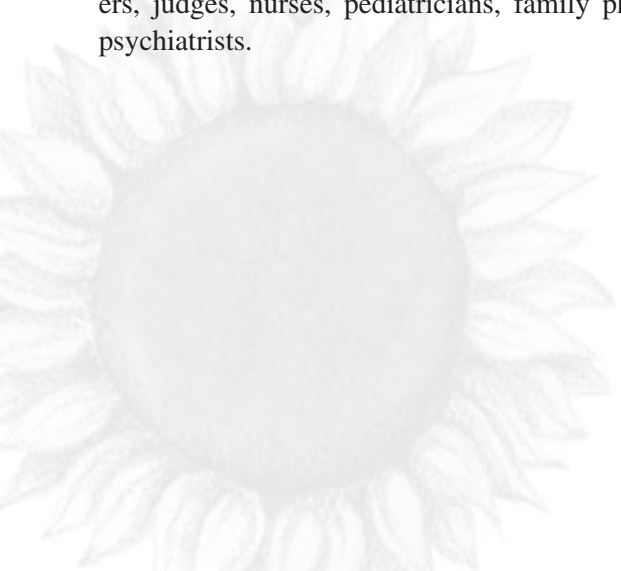
TARGET AUDIENCE

Teachers, guidance counselors, principals, psychologists, school psychologists, social workers, mental health workers, judges, nurses, pediatricians, family physicians and psychiatrists.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this conference, participants should be able to:

- Develop risk and protective assessment and intervention models;
- Develop and critically evaluate educational, family-based and community-based violence prevention programs;
- Develop and evaluate educational programs for high-risk children and their families;
- Nurture protective factors for high-risk children and their families.



SCHEDULE

Friday, May 1, 1998

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 9:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D., president of The Melissa Institute
- 9:10 a.m. **Why Many Children Who Are at High Risk Make It:
Implications of a Protective Factors Model**
Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
(To review the findings and implications of the literature on “resilience.”)
- 9:30 a.m. **Lessons Learned from Research on Bullying**
Debra Pepler, Ph.D.
(*How to bully-proof schools.*)
- 9:50 a.m. **Peers and Delinquency: Implications for Prevention and Intervention**
Clifford O’Donnell, Ph.D.
(*To examine the important role peers play in delinquency and implications for interventions.*)
- 10:15 a.m. **Violence Prevention Programs in High Schools: The State of the Art**
James Larson, Ph.D.
(*To critically evaluate school-based interventions and how to develop intervention and evaluation guidelines.*)
- 10:35 a.m. **Break**
- 10:50 a.m. **Family Empowerment Intervention for Juvenile Offenders and Their Families**
Richard Dembo, Ph.D.
(*How to implement and evaluate a home-based intervention service.*)
- 11:20 a.m. **Community and Our Responsibility**
Pedro Jose Greer, M.D.
(*How we, as individuals and members of our community, can help reduce risk to those most vulnerable.*)
- 12:00 noon. **Buffet Luncheon**
- 1:00 p.m. Concurrent Break-out Sessions (Choose One)
- **Addressing the Educational Needs of “High Risk” Children and Their Families**
Workshop Leaders: Barbara H. Wasik, Ph.D., and Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
(*How to establish family literacy programs and how to tailor instruction.*)
- **Violence Prevention Programs in Schools**
Workshop Leaders: Debra Pepler, Ph.D., and James Larson, Ph.D.
(*How to establish and evaluate violence prevention programs in elementary and high schools.*)
- **Family and Community-based Interventions**
Workshop Leaders: Richard Dembo, Ph.D., and Clifford O’Donnell, Ph.D.
(*How to implement and evaluate home-based and peer-based intervention services.*)
- 3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:15 p.m. **Ways to Nurture Protective Factors: The Miami Perspective**
Moderator: Judge Norman Gerstein, Eleventh Judicial Court, Miami-Dade County
Panel of local experts includes: Patrick A. White, Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney, on
“Strategies for Community-based Interventions.” (Other local experts to be announced.)
- 3:45 p.m. **Practical Next Steps: Question-and-Answer Period**
Moderator: Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D.
Dialogue among the panel of local experts, the presenters, and the audience
(*To answer the question, “What are the best ways to spend money and expend efforts on reducing violence?”*)
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

Suzanne L. Keeley, Ph.D., is president of The Melissa Institute and a psychologist in private practice. She is also affiliated with Baptist Health Systems of South Florida. She has had extensive clinical experience treating victims and perpetrators of violence.

SCIENTIFIC BOARD OF THE MELISSA INSTITUTE

Donald Meichenbaum, Ph.D., is a professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, and one of the founders of cognitive behavior modification. He has lectured worldwide on the impact of violence and has published a major *Clinical Handbook on Post-traumatic Stress Disorder*. In a recent survey reported in *American Psychologist*, he was voted by clinicians to be "one of the 10 most influential psychotherapists of the century." He is a founding member of The Melissa Institute.

James Larson, Ph.D., is a professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and coordinator of the School Psychology Training Program. He is a leader in violence prevention in the schools and has developed videotape training programs for children and adolescents. His training manuals and materials have been widely used. He is also an expert in parent management training programs.

Clifford O'Donnell, Ph.D., is a professor of Psychology at the University of Hawaii, and director of the Community Studies program. He is an authority on childhood aggression and violence. He has addressed the issue of gun control and youth. He brings an international perspective to the meeting, having developed culturally compatible community programs for youth and their families.

Debra Pepler, Ph.D., is a professor of Psychology at York University, Toronto, Ontario, and director of the Judy LaMarsh Center for Research on Violence and Conflict Resolution. She is a leader in the area of the developmental correlates of childhood aggression, victimization/bullying and an expert on school-based interventions. She has also studied domestic violence.

Barbara H. Wasik, Ph.D., is a professor of Education and director of the University of North Carolina Center for Home Visiting, Chapel Hill. She is a pioneer and leading authority in the areas of home visiting and family literacy programs. Her book on *Home Visiting: Procedures for Helping Families* (Sage Publishers) is a classic in the field. She has consulted internationally on home visiting and community-based interventions.

GUEST FACULTY

Richard Dembo, Ph.D., is professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida in Tampa and is chair of the American Sociological Association Section on Substance Abuse Prevention. He is responsible for research at the Juvenile Assessment Center in Tampa (which he helped develop). He is working on a five-year NIDA Family Empowerment Intervention Program with high-risk youth and their families.

LOCAL FACULTY

Pedro Jose Greer, M.D., is founder and medical director of Camillus Health Concern, St. John Bosco and Penalver Clinic, a free walk-in health care clinic for the homeless in Miami-Dade County, and chief of Gastroenterology at Mercy Hospital. Dr. Greer has received numerous awards, including the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship and the 1997 Presidential Award. He is a trustee and chairman of the Rand Corporation Drug Policy Center.

The Honorable Norman S. Gerstein, Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Dade County, Florida, has served as a circuit court judge for 15 years. As an active advocate for children, the disabled, the elderly and crime victims, he has held positions on many boards and committees. He has been granted many honors and awards for his outstanding contributions.

Patrick A. White, Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney and Chairman of the Weed and Seed Initiative in Liberty City.

REGISTRATION

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Victor E. Clarke Center for Health Education at South Miami Hospital

Please check one:

\$45 Registration Fee (\$50 on site)

\$25 Student Fee (\$30 on site)

A check made payable to The Melissa Institute should accompany this application and be sent no later than April 23, 1998. Conference proceeds will benefit The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment.

For group rate information, call 305-668-5210.

Select the break-out session you wish to attend (one only):

Educational Interventions
Wasik / Meichenbaum

Violence Prevention in Schools
Pepler / Larson

Community Intervention
Dembo / O'Donnell

Specify professional credits required:

Florida Board of Psychological Examiners

Florida State Board of Nursing

State of Florida AHCA

Dade County Public Schools

NAME _____

LIST MEDICAL SPECIALTY, PROFESSION, OR GRADE LEVEL IF STUDENT _____

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

Mail to: Registrar, Medical Education Department
Baptist Health Systems of South Florida
8900 North Kendall Drive, Miami, FL 33176

Cancellations must be sent in writing and postmarked by April 23, 1998, to receive a refund of the registration fee, less a \$10 administrative fee. Cancellations postmarked after April 23 will forfeit the registration fee.

CREDITS

Baptist Hospital of Miami is approved as a provider of Continuing Psychological Education by the Florida Board of Psychological Examiners, provider #P-258-98. This continuing education activity has been approved for 6.5 credit hours of Continuing Psychological Education credits.

This activity has been approved for 6.5 contact hours by the Florida State Board of Nursing, provider #27H0046.

Baptist Hospital of Miami's Department of Social Work is approved as a provider of continuing education by the State of Florida AHCA Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling, provider #CM376, expiration 1/99. This continuing education activity has been approved for 6.5 contact hours.

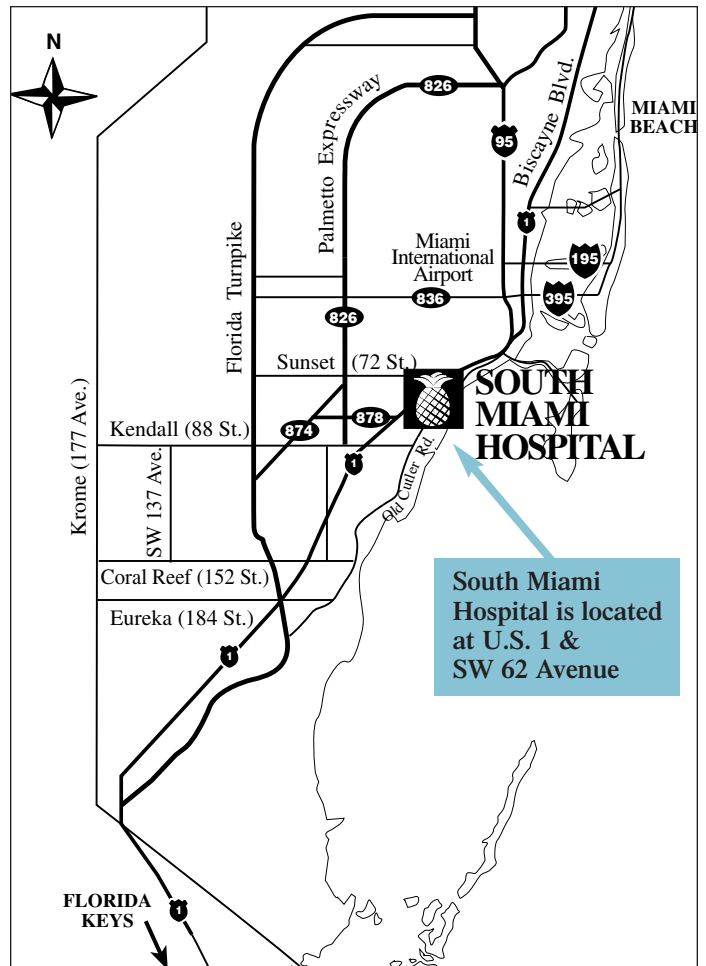
Dade County Public Schools will award 7 master plan points (TEC credits).

FOR INFORMATION



The Melissa Institute
For Violence Prevention and Treatment
305-668-5210

We wish to thank Baptist Health Systems of South Florida for supporting this educational activity.





**Baptist Health Systems
of South Florida**

8900 North Kendall Drive, Miami, FL 33176

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