

NRCFCPP

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PERMANENCY PLANNING WITH CHILDREN OF COLOR ABSTRACT

Abramson, S. "Use of court-appointed advocates to assist in permanency planning for minority children."
Child-Welfare 70(4): 477-87, July/Aug. 1991.

ABSTRACT: Despite federal law on reuniting children in care with their families, minority children remain in dependency longer and are more likely to be placed in long-term foster care than white children. This article describes the Fresno Amicus (friend) Program, a program of volunteer, court-appointed special advocates (CASA) who assist in cases of abuse and neglect involving minority families. In a quota sample of 28 amicus families and 28 comparison group families, findings of the Fresno Amicus Program indicate that use of trained CASAs is a promising approach for enhancing permanency planning efforts for abused and neglected minority children. Results showed that significantly fewer children were placed in long-term foster care and significantly more children were placed in adoptive families than in a comparison group of families. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Ahn, H.N. "Intimacy and discipline in family life: a cross-cultural analysis with implications for theory and practice in child abuse prevention." DA DISSERTATION AFFILIATION: Univ. of California at Berkeley, Ph.D., Dec. 1990. HC HARDCOPY: 27(3), 1991, No. 1141

ABSTRACT: A study examined patterns of ethnic differences and similarities in attitudes toward family intimacy and discipline. A cross-sectional interview survey of 364 Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, and Asian mothers was completed between 1988 and 1989. A newly developed instrument with a set of vignettes depicting specific incidents of parent-child interaction was used. The findings revealed that there is great ethnic diversity in attitudes toward family intimacy and discipline owing to unique historical and cultural backgrounds of each ethnic group. Generally, Asian mothers tended to be most receptive of physical intimacy in family life while African Americans and Hispanics were least receptive. African Americans, Koreans, and Vietnamese were most accepting of physical discipline, while Cambodians and Hispanics were least accepting. Caucasians were in the middle of the continuum in most instances. Implications of the findings for child abuse definition and child abuse prevention are considered.

Almas, T. "After recruitment: putting the preparation and training of Asian carers on the agenda." *Adoption-and-Fostering*. 16(3): 25-29, Autumn 1992.

Andujo, E. "Ethnic identity of transethnically adopted Hispanic adolescents." *Social-Work*. 33(6): 531-35, Nov./Dec. 1988.

ABSTRACT: A study examining Hispanic children's experience of transethnic adoption examined the following research questions: (1) Are there differences in the development of a positive sense of self between Hispanic children adopted by non-Hispanic parents and those adopted by Hispanics parents? (2) Are the perceptions of ethnic identity of Hispanic children raised in white families different from those of Hispanic children raised in Hispanic families? (3) What environmental and familial factors affect the development of ethnic identity in children? A stratified sample of 30 white families and 30 Mexican American families who had adopted Mexican American children were selected from the case records of a Los Angeles adoption

agency to serve as study subjects. The Tennessee Self-Concept Scale, the Twenty Statements Test, the Mexican-American Value Attitude Scale, and a 60-item interview schedule were administered in separate face-to-face interviews with adoptees and their parents. No significant differences were found in the overall level of self-esteem between the transethnic and same-ethnic adoptees; however, differences were noted in the self-identifying references and levels of acculturation between the two groups. A discussion delineates potential psychological and ethnic dilemmas that transethnic adoptees may experience as a result of their adoptive experience.

Alford, K.A. Gavazzi, S.M. McKenry, P.C. "Culturally specific programs for foster care youth: the sample case of an African American rites of passage program." *Family-Relations*. 45(2): 166-74, Apr. 1996.

ABSTRACT: In tandem with increased recognition that many social interventions have been limited by their failure to deal with issues related to ethnicity, program developers are increasingly utilizing culturally specific programming in the design and implementation of programs for youth and families. The study describes a culturally specific rites of passage program designed for African American youth in foster care as an adjunct to an independent living program. In addition, the study presents some preliminary evaluative data of this Africentric rites-based initiative. (Journal abstract.)

Bailey-Etta, B. Brown, A.W. "An out-of-home care system in crisis: implications for African American children in the child welfare system." *Child-Welfare* 76(1): 65-83, Jan./Feb. 1997.

ABSTRACT: An out-of-home care system that is itself in crisis lacks adequate resources to provide the services needed by families and children in distress. Increasingly, these families are composed of people of color, particularly African Americans. Using current child welfare statistics and a review of the literature, this article examines the nature of the crisis in child welfare, and how poverty and an array of social problems, as well as problems specific to the child welfare system, increase the over-representation of African American children and families in the out-of-home care system. Implications for child welfare practice and advocacy are also discussed. (Journal abstract.)

Bausch, R.S, Serpe, R.T, "Negative outcomes of interethnic adoption of Mexican American children." *Social-Work*. 42(2): 136-43, March 1997.

ABSTRACT: This study identifies concerns about four possible negative outcomes of interethnic adoption involving Mexican American children and non-Mexican American parents. A sample of 861 Mexican Americans age 18 or older were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that four outcomes result from interethnic adoption: (1) the child may have an ethnic identity conflict, (2) the child may forget his or her Latino background, (3) the child's participation in Latino cultural events may be limited, and (4) the child may not acquire the skills to cope with racism. Respondents' agreement with the likelihood of these outcomes was associated with a belief in the importance of structural and cultural barriers preventing Latinos from adopting; with higher levels of participation in Mexican American cultural events; and with income, education, and acculturation. However, agreement that the outcomes were likely did not necessarily reflect approval or disapproval of interethnic adoption. Suggestions are made for future research on Mexican American children adopted by non-Mexican American parents. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Boisen, L.S. "African American kinship foster parents' perceptions of kinship foster care." DA DISSERTATION AFFILIATION: Univ. of Minnesota, Ph.D., July 1997. HC HARDCOPY: NOT PRINTED IN JOURNAL

ABSTRACT: This study reports findings from semi-structured interviews conducted in the latter months of 1996 with ten African American kinship foster mothers regarding the most commonly debated issues raised in kinship foster care practice and policy literature. These issues included protection of the kinship foster child, placement of a child in a family system that already produced a "troubled" birth parent, negotiating the dual role of family member and state-sponsored kinship foster parent, the personal costs of providing kinship foster care, how the formal child welfare system impeded or facilitated the assumption of a kinship foster care role, and permanency planning. Implications for practice, policy, and research are discussed.

Bonecutter, F.J. Gleeson, J.P. "Broadening our view: lessons from kinship foster care." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 5(1/2): 99-119, 1997.

ABSTRACT: The growth in child welfare caseloads and the increasing use of kinship foster care has raised new questions about effective permanency planning. The majority of children in kinship foster care are children of color and have been less likely to exit the custody of the child welfare system than children placed in traditional foster care. Permanency planning which ensures the long-term protection and well-being of children from diverse cultural backgrounds requires a broad view of family, ongoing striving for cultural competence, collaboration between the formal child welfare system and the kinship systems of children in state custody, and a long-term view of permanency planning and child-rearing that builds on the case-management capacities of kinship networks to support permanent plans, looks beyond the child's exit from state custody, and helps families and larger kinship systems make long-term plans for the protection, permanence, and well-being of children. (Journal abstract.)

Burnette, D. "Grandmother caregivers in inner-city Latino families: a descriptive profile and informal social supports." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 5(3/4): 121-37, 1997.

ABSTRACT: This study presents a profile of 42 Latina (primarily Puerto Rican and Dominican) grandmothers, and the children they are rearing in New York City. Informal support systems of these families are then described. While most respondents appeared to have social connections, nearly half lived only with their grandchildren. Fourteen percent reported no available help with child-related activities and only 58 percent of those who had help felt confident that it would continue. Barriers to information, referrals, and use of additional services are discussed, as are implications for practice, policy, and further research. (Journal abstract.)

Carten, A.J. Fennoy, I. "African American families and HIV/AIDS: caring for surviving children." *Child-Welfare*. 76(1): 107-25, Jan./Feb. 1997.

ABSTRACT: This article presents the preliminary findings of a national project undertaken to examine the medical/health, social service, and legal needs of African American children who have experienced or will experience the death of one or both parents as a result of HIV/AIDS. The project seeks to guide the development of culturally competent policies and practices across delivery systems responsible for managing the care of these children and their families. Services have expanded for the children but much remains to be accomplished to achieve culturally competent, integrated care systems for surviving children and their caregivers. (Journal abstract.)

Carter, C.S. "Using African-centered principles in family-preservation services." *Families-in-Society*. 78(5): 531-538, Sept./Oct. 1997.

ABSTRACT: The author discusses African-centered family preservation services and the use of a strengths perspective in work with African American families, focusing on the heterogeneous structure of African American families and critical issues facing African American communities. African traditions and ways of integrating these traditions into family-preservation work with African American families are described. Integrating African traditions reflects a holistic approach to family-preservation services, improves the breadth and cultural relevance of services, protects children, and empowers families within the natural context of their communities. These outcomes complement the goals of family-preservation services and enhance the chances of families remaining intact. (Journal abstract.)

Cheung, K.F. Leung, P. Stevenson, K.M. "A strengths approach to ethnically sensitive practice for child protective service workers." *Child-Welfare* 73(6): 707-21, Nov./Dec. 1994.

ABSTRACT: This study suggests that a strengths approach, with guiding principles of family preservation be used to empower child protective service (CPS) caseworkers and to enhance their cultural competence. A three-dimensional training model for planning and evaluating CPS cases has been developed to encourage workers to examine their attitudes, knowledge, and skills in working with ethnically different clients through various phases of intervention. Questions related to case planning, intervention, evaluation, and termination are presented for self-monitoring and training purposes, and practice implications are discussed. (Note: This article supplements and extends an article by these authors published in the July-August 1992 issue of *Child Welfare*). (Journal abstract.)

Chipungu, S.S. Everett, J.E. "The power of information: exchange patterns between African-American foster parents and child welfare workers." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 3(3): 17-33, 1994.

ABSTRACT: This article explores the interactions of African American foster parents with child welfare agencies. Data from the 1980 Survey of Foster Parents in eight states were used in assessing the information exchange patterns between two groups of foster parents--traditional and extended—and child welfare workers. Findings show that traditional foster parents request and receive more information about general agency policies and services as well as the role of foster parenting than the extended types of foster families. Implications of these findings are discussed in the context of recruitment and differences in expectations child welfare workers and foster parents have about the role and function of foster parents and the delivery of services within the child welfare field. Empowerment strategies are recommended to increase the power of foster parents, especially among related foster parents. (Journal abstract.)

Ciliberti, P.E. "An innovative family preservation and support program in an African American community: analysis of six- and twelve-month follow-up data." DA DISSERTATION AFFILIATION: Portland State Univ., PhD, June 1997. HC HARDCOPY: NOT PRINTED IN JOURNAL

ABSTRACT: Neglect affects many African American children who live in poverty, causing developmental delays, health problems, low academic achievement, and placement. This study hypothesized that families served by a culturally responsive family preservation program, when compared with similar families served directly by state child protective services, would improve significantly more on relevant outcome measures. The study utilized a matched groups longitudinal comparison design, with both groups composed of African-American families. At six- and twelve-month follow-ups, number of placements, number of days in placement, and number of reported incidents of maltreatment were assessed. Findings show that although treatment families have significantly greater improvements than comparison families at the six-month follow-up, the treatment effect lowers at twelve months. Additional analyses revealed that most of the families who continue to have children in placement at the twelve-month follow-up are using kinship care, an important element within African American communities.

Curtis, C.M. "The adoption of African American children by whites: a renewed conflict." *Families-in-Society*. 77(3): 156-65, Mar. 1996.

ABSTRACT: During the turbulent 1960s and the civil rights movement, African Americans called for the reexamination of major institutional policies. One of the policy changes demanded by African American social workers was the cessation of whites adopting African American children. The view of the fledgling Association of Black Social Workers was that such practices would result in cultural genocide. This view influenced policy as family-court judges and child advocates pursued same-race adoption with respect to African American children. Some child advocates called the policy of excluding white parents from adopting African American children imprudent and discriminatory, and in the 1980s, judges began to rule in favor of white parents who wanted to adopt black children. Legislation was introduced and signed into law that makes it illegal for states or agencies receiving federal funding to consider race in the adoption of children. This shift in policy has enraged many African American social workers and has resulted in major disagreements between them and individuals who advocate for transracial adoption. The author explores the arguments of each side and suggests policy recommendations. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Danzy, J. Jackson, S.M. "Family preservation and support services: a missed opportunity for kinship care." *Child-Welfare*. 76(1): 31-44, Jan./Feb. 1997.

ABSTRACT: This article discusses the historical significance of kinship care in preserving the African American family, the development of kinship care and family preservation programs, and the importance of the natural relationship between kinship care and family preservation services. Findings of a survey of states' use of kinship care in the development of plans for the Family Preservation and Support Services Act are presented. Whether child welfare agencies missed an opportunity to plan for kinship care in their family preservation plans is also explored. (Journal abstract.)

Derezotes, D.S. Snowden, L.R. "Cultural factors in the intervention of child maltreatment." *Child-and-Adolescent-Social-Work-Journal*. 7(2): 161-75, Apr. 1990.

ABSTRACT: Described is an approach to cultural factors in intervention efforts with child maltreatment cases. General issues, as well as issues specific to Black and Hispanic Americans, are explored. Various risk factors commonly used to guide intervention efforts are examined from a cultural perspective, and recommendations are provided in four key practice areas: organizational and administrative adaptations, staff recruitment and training, research, and public relations. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Dillon, D. "Understanding and assessment of intragroup dynamics in family foster care: African American families." *Child-Welfare* 73(2): 129-39 Mar./Apr. 1994.

ABSTRACT: This study discusses requirements of culturally competent practice with African American clients. Ethnic identity, differential levels of cultural assimilation, social class, and cultural values, for example, affect the provision of clinical services in family foster care. It is necessary to consider the extent that assessment, treatment, and case planning reflect cultural competence, which requires not only tolerance, but a profound intracultural understanding. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Dozier, C.D. Gardner, L.B. Jackson-White, G. Oliver, J.T. "Why African American adoption agencies succeed: a new perspective on self-help." *Child-Welfare* 76(1): 239-54, Jan./Feb. 1997.

ABSTRACT: This article traces the history of self-help in the African American community, with emphasis on services and programs for children. The traditions of self-help are very much alive in the African American community, and are manifest in a range of activities. The self-help activities specific to one adoption agency illustrate contemporary models of self-help in the African American community. (Journal abstract.)

Faria, G. "Training for family preservation practice with lesbian families." *Families-in-Society*. 75(7): 416-22, Sept. 1994.

ABSTRACT: To work effectively with lesbian families, family preservation workers must be equipped with additional knowledge and skills beyond those usually provided in family preservation curricula. The author discusses the specific content that should be included in a family preservation curriculum to address the needs of lesbian families and presents three case examples. (Journal abstract.)

Fein, E. Staff, I. "Inside the black box: an exploration of service delivery in a family reunification program." *Child-Welfare*. 73(3): 195-211, May/June 1994.

ABSTRACT: Findings from the evaluation of a family reunification program illustrate the importance of examining program process as well as outcomes. The emphasis on study of process has vital effects on practice, importance for program planning, and implications for research. (Journal abstract.)

Fong, R. "Family preservation: making it work for Asians." *Child-Welfare* 73(4): 331-41, July/Aug. 1994.

ABSTRACT: Asian American families, immigrant and native born, face many problems. Asians usually rely on family members for help, but occasions do arise when they will go to social service agencies. Providers of family preservation services value cultural sensitivity and cultural competence. This study discusses family preservation values and Asian family values, where these values are in conflict and how to resolve the conflicts, how practitioners can inform themselves about Asian American families, and the principles that guide culturally appropriate service to Asian families. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Garcia, A.A. "The impact of ethnic matching in foster family placements: the experience of Hispanic children in foster care." DA DISSERTATION AFFILIATION: Univ. of Denver, Ph.D. Dissertation, Nov. 1989. HC HARDCOPY: 26(3), 1990, No. 1251

ABSTRACT: A study examined the general concern of discrimination by the child welfare system against Hispanic children. Ethnically matched and non-ethnically matched placements of Hispanic and non-Hispanic (white) foster children were compared with the foster families' ethnicity to determine the duration of placement, number of placements, and reasons for termination of placements. The study utilized data from the State of New Mexico Human Services Department concerning Hispanic and non-Hispanic foster children in care between August 1984 and July 1986. A total of 568 children and 365 foster families made up the study sample. The findings revealed that when foster children and foster families were ethnically matched, children had favorable placement outcomes. Ethnic matching was found to be associated with more positive placement terminations than were placements that were not ethnically matched.

Gibson, P.A. "The lived experience of kinship care: African American grandmothers and their grandchildren." DA DISSERTATION AFFILIATION: Univ. of Denver, PhD, Aug. 1996. HC
HARDCOPY: not printed in Sept. 1996 issue, No. 123

ABSTRACT: The primary goal in this study was to capture the voices of African American grandmothers who have taken the role of primary caregivers for grandchildren. The secondary goal was to provide the social work profession with information about this group of caregivers that could influence policy, research, and direct practice. Qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews with 12 African American grandmothers, were used. Grounded theory procedures and a computer software program were used to analyze data, generating a descriptive, analytical, and interpretative account. The results show that these grandmothers experienced a role shift from grandmother to primary caregivers. The role shift involved a series of decisions that move grandmothers through a process with the goal of providing the most effective caring of the grandchild. There are implications provided for the social work profession in kinship care.

Giovannoni, J.M, Leake, B, Lewis, M.A. "Ethnic variations in the two-year living arrangements of prenatally drug-exposed and comparison children placed at birth." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 6(1/2): 17-40, 1997.

ABSTRACT: This study reports on the outcomes of foster home placements of 1,038 African American, Latino, and white infants, prenatally exposed to drugs, removed from their mothers' custody at birth, and placed in foster care and the outcomes of a comparison group of 203 infants similarly removed, but not known to have been drug-exposed. Twenty-four months after placement, slightly more than half of the white drug-exposed infants and two thirds of the African American and Hispanic infants were still under court supervision. A similar situation existed for the comparison group, but the ethnic distributions were reversed. Although African American children predominated in the proportion that were in kinship care, the largest proportion of both Latino and white children were in kinship care. Policy and practice implications are discussed in terms of enhancing placement outcomes for prenatally drug-exposed infants in general and in terms of encouraging placement options that may vary depending upon the ethnicity of the child and the child's kinship ties. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Grape,H. McRoy, R.G. Oglesby, Z. "Achieving same-race adoptive placements for African American children: culturally sensitive practice approaches." *Child-Welfare* 76(1): 85-104, Jan./Feb. 1997.

ABSTRACT: A disproportionately large number of African American children are entering the public child welfare system, and many are in need of planning for adoptive placement. Although agencies specializing in adoption of minority children have been extremely successful in achieving same-race adoptive placements for African American children, funding and support for some of these initiatives have been withheld due to federal and state legislation designed to limit the consideration of race as a major factor in the selection of adoptive families. This article analyzes these issues, and describes successful placement practices used by a private agency in California and a public agency in Texas. Suggestions for culturally competent practice are elaborated. (Journal abstract.)

Hamm, W. "Guide for effectively recruiting African American adoptive families." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 5(3/4): 139-149, 1997.

ABSTRACT: African American children are over-represented in the child welfare system. They are more likely to be placed in foster care, remain in foster care for longer periods, and are less likely to be adopted than are Caucasian children. Given that a permanent home is enormously important to children, efforts should be made to obtain permanent adoptive families in the least amount of time possible for children who

cannot return to their biological parents. Recruitment efforts should locate and retain suitable families that can maximally meet the children's developmental and psychosocial needs. This should include an effort to recruit African American families to adopt African American children. To do this, child welfare systems must become more responsive and culturally relevant to the African American community.

Harrigan, M.P. Seaberg, J.R. "Family functioning in foster care." *Families-in-Society*. 78(5): 463-470, Sept./Oct. 1997.

ABSTRACT: This study examined the family functioning of a cross-sectional sample of all approved and insured child-foster-care families in a mid- Atlantic state. The families studied functioned from well to excellent according to the Family Assessment Device. White and African American foster families showed relatively little difference in family functioning and both consistently scored better than did normative samples. Foster care's perceived impact on the families was minimal and tended to be more positive than negative. The authors compare these results with other studies and suggest implications of their findings for practice. (Journal abstract.)

Harris, M.S. "Factors that affect family reunification of African American birth mothers and their children placed in kinship care." DA DISSERTATION AFFILIATION: Smith College, PhD, Feb. 1997. HC HARDCOPY: NOT PRINTED IN JOURNAL.

ABSTRACT: This exploratory-descriptive study examined the relationships of object relations, substance abuse problem severity, and extended family support with family reunification of African American birth mothers and their children placed in kinship care. The study sample consisted of ten mothers whose children had been returned to their care and ten mothers whose children remained in kinship care. This purposive sample was selected from three private, non-profit child welfare agencies. Data were collected through lengthy interviews with each respondent at a single point in time utilizing the Birth Mother Interview, Blatt's Concept of the Object Scale, the Addiction Severity Index, and McAdoo's Scales and Protocols for Assessing Extended Family Support of Single Black Mothers (seven questions and one scale). While no statistically significant differences were observed in the substance abuse problem severity areas at the .05 level, differences between the two groups of mothers approached statistical significance at the .10 level for drug abuse and psychiatric ratings. Also, qualitative data revealed some patterns that provide support for future examination of object relations and extended family support.

Hegar, R.L. McAlpine, C. Scannapieco, M. "Kinship care and foster care: a comparison of characteristics and outcomes." *Families-in-Society*. 78(5): 480-488, Sept./Oct. 1997.

ABSTRACT: The increase in children entering foster care, together with a range of other political, economic, and social factors, has helped fuel the newest phenomenon in the child welfare system--a substantial proportion of children in formal kinship care. Kinship care is defined as out-of-home placement with relatives of children who are in the custody of state and local child welfare agencies. The authors present a review of previous research and report on a study that examined differences and similarities between kinship and traditional foster care in Baltimore County, Maryland, a suburban county that surrounds the city of Baltimore. This study supports many earlier conclusions concerning kinship care, such as children remain in care longer, caregivers are primarily African American, and services provided by kin are less extensive than those provided by traditional foster parents. (Journal abstract.)

Hogan, P.T. Siu, S.F. "Minority children and the child welfare system: an historical perspective." *Social-Work*. 33(6): 493-98, Nov./Dec. 1988.

ABSTRACT: Current treatment of minority children in the U.S. child welfare system continues to reflect racial bias. A study traces the historical treatment of minority children in the child welfare system, reviews recent child welfare statistics and research studies, and examines issues in policy and service provision. Data show black children to be more likely to be in foster homes than white children, to have less likelihood of adoptive placement, and to be overrepresented in child abuse and neglect reporting. Indicators of the vulnerability of American Indian children include a high infant mortality rate, increased numbers of orphans due to high adult mortality, high placement rates, and overrepresentation in the child welfare system. Hispanic children also are overrepresented in the foster care and child welfare systems, and service providers are more likely to recommend increased protective services for Hispanic children and to treat them as emotionally disturbed. The important issues that relate to the treatment of minority children into the child welfare system continue to be prevention of entry into the system; ensuring equal access, appropriateness of services, and equal treatment; and protecting civil rights. Discrimination, poverty, unemployment, inferior housing, and other social problems are among the reasons children enter the child welfare system. The need for change in these basic factors is increasingly urgent, and the social work profession should be leading the change.

Hollingsworth, L.D. "Effect of transracial/transethnic adoption on children's racial and ethnic identity and self-esteem: a meta-analytic review." *Marriage-and-Family-Review*. 25(1/2): 99-130, 1997.

ABSTRACT: This paper reports the results of a meta-analytic review of comparative studies of racial identity and self-esteem in transracially/transethnically-adopted, intrracially-adopted/same ethnic group, and biologic African American and Mexican American children. Six studies, including one longitudinal study with four phases, met the established criteria. Study level effect sizes were calculated. Twenty-nine dependent measure effect sizes were also calculated. There was an overall effect, in the negative direction, of transracial adoption on a combined variable of racial/ethnic identity and self-esteem. The effect size increased when racial identity was considered separately. Effect size associated with self-esteem was not statistically significant, although a positive direction was noted. Tests failed to achieve homogeneity among included studies. Age of study participant was a moderating variable. Several other potential moderators were also identified. Results are discussed in terms of implications for future research. (Journal abstract.)

Hurd, E.P. Moore, C. Rogers, R. "Quiet success: parenting strengths among African Americans." *Families-in-Society*. 76(7): 434-43, Sept. 1995.

ABSTRACT: Building on a model of family competence, the authors examined strengths among African-American parents. Fifty-three parents described the values and behaviors that they imparted to their children. Support from external caregivers, which reinforced family competence, was studied. The study found substantial parental involvement, considerable support from other adults, and a high frequency of positive role modeling by African American men. (Journal abstract.)

Jackson, S. Scannapieco, M. "Kinship care: the African American response to family preservation." *Social-Work*. 41(2): 190-96, Mar. 1996.

ABSTRACT: The number of children entering the foster care system is increasing at an alarming rate. The increase in children entering foster care, compounded by political, economic, and social factors, has created a phenomenon in the African American community--formal kinship care. Formal kinship care is defined as a system through which the state or county has custody of the child but a relative takes care of the child. This study discusses increased kinship care as a resilient response by the African American community. The strengths and resilience of the African American family can be attributed in part to a strong kinship network.

In this manner, the African American community is preserving the family. This community clearly needs support through imaginative social work policies and practice. (Journal abstract.)

Keller, J, McDade, K. "Cultural diversity and help-seeking behavior: sources of help and obstacles to support for parents." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 5(1/2): 63-78, 1997.

ABSTRACT: Four hundred ninety-four parents were surveyed to determine their attitudes about parenting, help-seeking behavior, and obstacles to accessing help with parenting. Comparisons were made with regard to race/ethnicity, gender, and education to determine what attitudinal similarities and differences exist. Most parents identified family members and friends, as well as print and video materials as important sources of help. Parents were less likely to use social service agencies, teachers, doctors, and clergy. The likelihood of attending parenting classes was strongly associated with gender and education. High school graduates were more likely than non-graduates to use parenting classes and mothers were more likely than fathers to use parenting classes. African American parents were less likely than other groups to use print and video materials and African American and Hispanic/Latino parents were less likely to seek help from friends. (Journal abstract.)

Lawrence-Webb, C. "African American children in the modern child welfare system: a legacy of the Flemming Rule." *Child-Welfare* 76(1): 9-30, Jan./Feb. 1997.

ABSTRACT: Children of color throughout America--and especially those who are African American--are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. This article links this current child welfare condition to the most significant but little known ruling in the historical development of the modern child welfare system--the Flemming Rule. The Flemming Rule, although intended to be constructive, was negatively implemented in a way that has had long-term serious consequences for African American children and their families. Implications for future policies are discussed. (Journal abstract.)

Leashore, B.R. "African American men, child welfare, and permanency planning. *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*." 5(1/2): 39-48, 1997.

ABSTRACT: Like social services, child welfare and permanency planning services generally have failed to incorporate African American men as significant and serious participants in the service delivery process. Child welfare and permanency planning services have marginalized African American men such that children fail to benefit from the inclusion of these men in the service delivery process. This incomplete and inappropriate approach to permanency planning specifically, and to child welfare services more generally, is a disservice to African American children. Corrective measures are proffered to promote greater inclusion of African American men in child welfare and permanency planning services. (Journal abstract.)

Magruder, J. "Characteristics of relative and non-relative adoptions by California public adoption agencies." *Children-and-Youth-Services-Review*. 16(1/2): 123-31, 1994.

ABSTRACT: There are substantial differences between the characteristics of relative and non-relative adopting parents of children who come to adoption from the foster care system. Children adopted by relatives are more apt to be adopted by single parents, by parents who are older, with less formal education, and with lower incomes than are children adopted by non-relatives. The differences are present in three ethnic groups (black, Hispanic, and white) studied. (Journal abstract.)

Mallon, G.P. "Basic premises, guiding principles, and competent practices for a positive youth development approach to working with gay, lesbian, and bisexual youths in out-of-home care." *Child-Welfare* 76(5): 591-609, Sept./Oct. 1997.

ABSTRACT: The most effective way to help gay, lesbian, and bisexual youths in out-of-home care is to provide them with the same types of supports and services that all adolescents need. Organized around five core premises that define the principles and practices of a positive youth development approach, this article explores a model for supporting the development of these youths in out-of-home care. (Journal abstract.)

Mallon, G.P. "Toward a competent child welfare service delivery system for gay and lesbian adolescents and their families." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work.* 5(3/4): 177-94, 1997.

ABSTRACT: Analogous to the child welfare delivery system deficits that have been documented for people of color communities, the problems encountered by gay and lesbian adolescents and their families are frequently ignored and largely unrecognized by the majority of child welfare professionals. An understanding of the impact of societal stigmatization of gay and lesbian individuals and their families is crucial to the recognition of, and response to, the needs of this population. This paper posits that the development of competence in this area holds promise for preserving and supporting families and for the establishment of appropriate gay/lesbian-affirming child welfare services for these young people and their families. (Journal abstract.)

Mallon, G.P. "We don't exactly get the welcome wagon: the experience of gay and lesbian adolescents in New York City's child welfare system." DA DISSERTATION AFFILIATION: Hunter College, DSW, May 1994. HC HARDCOPY: 31(3), 1995, No. 1342

ABSTRACT: This study is an exploratory study of the experience of gay and lesbian adolescents in New York City's child welfare system. The study is an effort to uncover clues about how both professionals and the young people themselves perceive the experience. This study is the first attempt to comprehensively examine and investigate the experiences of self-identified gay and lesbian adolescents in out-of-home care child welfare settings. The findings strongly suggest that the presence of verbal harassment, physical violence, and lack of knowledge by staff caused many young people to perceive that group homes and foster homes were unsafe places for a gay or lesbian adolescent. Additionally, such findings indicate the need to consider and support specialized child welfare services for gay and lesbian adolescents, as well as intensive and on-going training and technical assistance for all levels of child welfare practitioners.

McMillen, C. Phillips, S. Sparks, J. Ueberle, M. "Concrete strategies for sensitizing youth-serving agencies to the needs of gay, lesbian, and other sexual minority youths." *Child-Welfare* 76(3): 393-409, May/June 1997.

ABSTRACT: In the past few years, several authors have detailed the needs of gay and lesbian youths and the obstacles youth-serving agencies face in addressing their needs. How administrators and practitioners can make changes in agencies that are not adequately serving sexual minority youths has been unclear. This article uses the experiences of two youth-serving agencies to offer recommendations on agency philosophies concerning the social realities of sexual minority youths and on several ways of creating a safe, welcoming, and productive environment. (Journal abstract, edited.)

McPhatter, A.R. "Cultural competence in child welfare: What is it? How do we achieve it? What happens without it?" *Child-Welfare* 76(1): 255-78, Jan./Feb. 1997.

ABSTRACT: The over-representation of minority children in the child welfare system is well-documented. Providing culturally relevant and effective medical and psychosocial services in the field, while an enduring goal, still remains elusive. This article asserts that before significant progress toward achieving these goals can be made, what constitutes cultural competence must be elucidated. A Cultural Competence Attainment Model, comprising a grounded knowledge base, affective dimensions, and cumulative skill proficiency, is described for use by child welfare practitioners. The effects of cultural incompetence are also addressed. (Journal abstract.)

McRoy, R.G. "Attachment and racial identity issues: implications for child placement decision making." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 3(3): 59-74, 1994.

ABSTRACT: Court battles are being waged and state laws are being challenged to enable white foster families to be considered as viable adoptive placements for black infants and young children. This article examines the issues associated with transracial adoption decision making and provides recommendations for agency practice and policy. (Journal abstract.)

Meezan, W, Rose, S.J, "Child neglect: a study of the perceptions of mothers and child welfare workers." *Children-and-Youth-Services-Review*. 17(4): 471-86, 1995.

ABSTRACT: This study explored the perceptions of the seriousness of specific components of child neglect by mothers from three cultural groups and of child welfare workers who perform two different functions. The study then compared the perceptions of the mothers to the workers. Using a factor analysis to specify four dimensions of child neglect, the findings confirm that judgments of the seriousness of child neglect vary by the subject's role and relationship to children, the mother's cultural group, and the worker's function. The mother's judgments of all categories of child neglect were more serious than those of the workers. White mothers rated all dimensions of child neglect as less serious than African American or Hispanic mothers (although only two of these differences were statistically significant), and investigative workers rated all dimensions of child neglect as more serious than service caseworkers. Comparisons to previous research and implications are drawn. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Miller, D.B. "Parenting against the odds: African-American parents in the child welfare system--a group approach." *Social-Work-with-Groups*. 20(1): 5-18, 1997.

ABSTRACT: Parent education programs often provide a genetic foundation of information on parenting practices and behaviors. While this information is relevant, gaps do exist in the content of these programs pertaining to minority families. As a population, African American families involved in the child welfare system are frequently the recipients of parenting education services that do not address or provide culturally relevant parenting information. This article describes a parent education group for parents who are clients in the child welfare system. The discussion highlights the unique parent education needs of these families. Implications for social group work practice are presented. (Journal abstract.)

Mumm, A.M. "Factors related to the number and type of reports of child maltreatment." DA DISSERTATION AFFILIATION: Rutgers Univ., PhD, May 1994. HC HARDCOPY: 30(3), 1994, No. 980

ABSTRACT: This study investigated the factors related to the type and number of reports of child maltreatment in a sample of 401 families reported to the local child protective agency. The data collection occurred between 1988 to 1989, both agency records and interviews with caretakers were utilized. Psychological distress was a significant predictor of whether a family had been reported for neglect. Hispanic respondents were less likely to be reported for neglect than white respondents, and black respondents were more likely than white respondents to be reported for neglect. Family conflict, psychological distress, and contact with friends and relatives were significant predictors of the number of neglect reports. Household composition and neighborhood safety predicted whether someone was reported for physical abuse. Two interactions were able to predict number of reports for neglect: (1) race and financial difficulties and (2) friends and household composition.

Niliwaambieni, M. Poitier, V.L. Rowe, C.L. "A rite of passage approach designed to preserve the families of substance-abusing African American women." *Child-Welfare* 76(1): 173-95, Jan./Feb. 1997.

ABSTRACT: This article approaches the treatment of addicted African American women in ways drawn from traditional African culture. While the modern African American woman is clearly not the same as her continental African foremother, the reality of her life is still predicated on the basis of her culture and her material wealth or lack of it. The approach recommended here, a rite of passage, derives from the belief that the value orientations drawn from the African wisdom of the ages offers the best way to work with families to recover both sobriety and a powerful understanding and repossession of culture that will help to ensure not only sobriety but also ways of holding together and rebuilding the families of today and the future. (Journal abstract.)

Pilotti, F.J. "Intercountry adoption: a view from Latin America." *Child-Welfare*. 64(1): 25-35, 1985.

ABSTRACT: Because of major, worldwide demographic changes, Latin America has become a major supplier of adoptable children for the developed world. The history and shape of this phenomenon are surveyed, the major problems affecting intercountry adoption in Latin America are examined, and pertinent policy and legal concerns are discussed. Intercountry adoption involves Latin American, European, and North American citizens. Therefore, adequate solutions to the problems involved demand the active participation and collaboration of all interested parties. To this effect, individuals and organizations from all concerned countries that are devoted to the promotion of children's rights and welfare must join forces to meet the challenge of providing permanent adoptive homes for Latin American children with a minimum of red tape but a maximum of safeguards to ensure that intercountry adoption is beneficial to the child, to the biological and adoptive parents, and to the countries involved. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Pinderhughes, E. "Developing diversity competence in child welfare and permanency planning." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 5(1/2): 19-38, 1997.

ABSTRACT: Competence in interaction with culturally and socially different others, particularly where such others may be coworkers, colleagues, students or clients, is now mandatory in the fields of business, education, and human services. Preparation to acquire the skills needed to work with diverse populations involves (1) knowledge about the dynamics of difference and power and how they operate in human functioning and (2) the capacity to apply this knowledge to the entire intervention process, which includes the client and his or her problem, the practitioner, and the intervention process, from engagement to evaluation of outcome. This paper examines concepts explaining difference and power as they apply to the development of cultural competence in child welfare service delivery and permanency planning.

Siegel, L. "Cultural differences and their impact on practice in child welfare." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 3(3): 87-96, 1994.

ABSTRACT: Values arising from cultural orientations have a significant impact on the way individuals view the world. Different cultures demonstrate distinct patterns in family structure, child-rearing practices, and help-seeking behavior. Differences in culture between worker and client in these three areas often interfere with effective delivery of services in child welfare. This study examines selected aspects of family structure, child-rearing practices, and help-seeking behavior in the black culture. Areas of conflict between the culture of individuals from this ethnic minority and those of the dominant American culture that result in ineffective delivery of services are addressed. (Journal abstract.)

Sullivan, T.R. "Obstacles to effective child welfare service with gay and lesbian youths." *Child-Welfare* 73(4): 291-304, July/Aug. 1994.

ABSTRACT: Agencies attempting to develop effective child welfare services for gay and lesbian youths must strive for effectiveness within a policy context that is politically polarized and generates more obstacles than directions. This study argues for a reconceptualization of service delivery that begins with a recognition of the unique developmental challenges facing sexual minority youths and proceeds to an examination of the systemic obstacles to providing competent services in their behalf. An ecological perspective informs the connections between developmental considerations, service issues, and human rights questions. (Journal abstract.)

Wilhelmus, M. "Mediation kinship care: another step in the provision of culturally relevant child welfare services." *Social-Work*. 43(2): 117-126, Mar. 1998.

ABSTRACT: With rising numbers of children entering the child welfare system and declining numbers of available foster homes, the foster care system has increasingly turned to placements with relatives to meet the needs of children removed from parental custody. Nowhere is this situation more evident than in the African American community. But the child welfare system did not invent the concept of kinship care. The foundation of current mediation practice can be traced to several ancient cultures, including African culture, where the kinship network often provided mediation services in the resolution of disputes. As an ethnocentrically designed child welfare system grapples with how to best incorporate kinship care into its array of services, conflicts between kinship caregivers and the foster care system have risen. The study suggested that the application of mediation to conflicts in agency-kinship family relationships can serve as yet another step in social workers' efforts to provide culturally relevant child welfare services. (Journal abstract, edited.)

Williams, C.W. "Personal reflections on permanency planning and cultural competency." *Journal-of-Multicultural-Social-Work*. 5(1/2): 9-18, 1997.

ABSTRACT: Achieving permanence and family stability for all children, but particularly children of color, is at a critical stage. An examination of the demographics of child welfare systems reveals that families served are increasingly more culturally diverse, and children of color are becoming the majority of children served by these systems. To deal effectively with the issue of permanence, a systemic perspective must encompass the ways in which children enter care, the availability of family support and family preservation services, the accessibility of reunification services, and the need for additional permanency options. This article provides an overview of this perspective and of cultural competence in child welfare.

Vidal, C. "Godparenting among Hispanic Americans." *Child-Welfare* 67(5): 453-59, Sept./Oct. 1988.

ABSTRACT: Minority children constitute a disproportionately large segment of those in foster care in New York City, and voluntary agencies have difficulty placing minority children in foster homes. Minority children are frequently placed in foster care situations that do not match the dominant social characteristics of the children's biological families. Among Puerto Ricans in the New York City area, the institution of godparenting would appear to offer a valuable natural support system that might provide a resource for permanency planning. In order to determine the extent of support available from Puerto Rican godparents, a study was conducted to determine the perceptions of a sample of Puerto Rican godparents in the New York City area regarding their roles and responsibilities toward their godchildren. The sample consisted of 71 Puerto Rican godparents who volunteered to participate in the investigation. A survey instrument was designed to elicit data concerning: (1) the reasons individuals are selected as godparents, (2) perceived roles of the godparent, (3) the extent and nature of contact between godparent and godchild, (4) the factors that limit contact, and (5) the willingness and ability of godparents to provide assistance to the godchild. The study findings indicate that within the Puerto Rican culture, the godparent is both a role model and a resource to be relied upon in times of stress. They regard themselves as potential surrogate parents in the event that they are needed. Social service workers should be aware of the institution of godparenting and make use of it in their practice.

Vroegh, K.S. "Transracial adoptees: developmental status after 17 years." *American-Journal-of-Orthopsychiatry*. 67(4): 568-575, Oct. 1997.

ABSTRACT: At the fifth phase of a longitudinal study of transracial adoption outcomes, 52 adolescents of black descent adopted in infancy were examined with respect to racial self-identity, general adjustment, and self-esteem. The 34 adolescents adopted into white families and the 18 adopted into black families identified themselves as black or of mixed race in similar proportions, and most were found to be well adjusted and to have good or very good self-esteem. The findings offer implications for adoption policy and placement decisions. (Journal abstract.)

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