



## **Getting the Word Out...**

**John Sullivan, President and CEO, Institute for Family Centered Services**  
**Bill Painter, Executive Vice President, Institute for Family Centered Services**  
**Melonie Sullivan, Executive Director, FamiliFirst**

**“Turning the Page”**  
**Association for the Advancement of Evidence-Based Practice (AAEBP)**  
**April 15 & 16, 2009**

In April, John Sullivan, President and CEO, and Bill Painter, Executive Vice President, both of Institute for Family Centered Services along with Melonie Sullivan, Executive Director, FamiliFirst, presented at the Association for the Advancement of Evidence-Based Practice (AAEBP) conference in Los Angeles. Joining a group of evidence-based program experts from across the country, they presented our model of “Family Centered Treatment” to professionals and politicians interested in accessing services for delinquent youth that are treatment and cost effective.

Presenting at this conference represents a significant milestone for FCT and IFCS. IFCS was invited to present FCT as an up and coming EBP, having recently been accepted as a model practice with the AAEBP. The recognition and acceptance of Family Centered Treatment as an emerging evidenced based model and the invitation to present our research provided the opportunity for IFCS to join the field of nationally recognized models of home based and foster treatment services.

Peter Greenwood, Executive Director of AAEBP greeted John, Melonie, and Bill and recognized our achievement in being accepted as an evidenced based practice not fully disseminated. Why is the AAEBP membership critical and significant? AAEBP is a cooperative association of innovative service providers, researchers, policy makers and program developers who are committed to improving the lives of youth who are at-risk for neglect, abuse, abandonment or violence; their families; and the communities in which they live.

**AAEBP Goals:**

- Provide easily accessible and authoritative information on the effectiveness of alternative interventions, and best practice for use with at risk youth and families.
- Educate policy makers regarding the value and effective use of evidence-based programs.
- Shift resources toward more effective evidence-based programs
- Assist providers and program developers to design, develop, test and implement more effective evidence-based programs and practices.

**AAEBP Core Values:**

- We honor and value families and the critical role they play in child development
- We honor and value community-based organizations, individuals and public officials who step forward to make a positive difference in children’s lives.
- We honor and value those who work to improve scientific knowledge about the youth and families we serve and the effectiveness of interventions that are intended to improve their lives.

**AAEBP Beliefs:**

- A home is the best place in which to raise a child
- Helping families and schools deal with troubled or difficult youth is the most effective means of public intervention.

- Services to families and children are best provided in their homes and the communities in which they live.
- How a child is treated plays a major role in determining what kind of young adult he or she will become.
- The negative effects of neglect, abuse, abandonment and other damaging forms of parenting are significant and can be long lasting.
- Healing and growth can come from many different directions involving physical, mental, spiritual, and social dimensions.
- Appropriate high-quality, evidence-based programs can significantly improve outcomes for at-risk youth and families.
- A number of evidence-based programs have been found to be highly cost-effective, producing cost-saving on the order of \$7 for every one dollar invested in running the program.
- Every at-risk child and family deserves to have access to these services.
- Evidence-based practice requires a high level of personal integrity, accountability and responsibility for outcomes on the part of organizations serving at-risk youth.
- Collaboration with research and evaluation efforts, and the measurement of outcomes contribute toward improved practice, and creating true long-term value for those we serve.
- We can make a difference.

*~Excerpt from the AAEBP website*