

news release

Child and Family Center/University of Oregon

195 West 12th Avenue • Eugene, OR 97401-3408
vox 541.346.4805 • fax 541.346.4858

Date: September 2008

Contact: Cheryl Mikkola, Science Editor
346.4419 or cmikkola@uoregon.edu

University of Oregon professor Beth Stormshak has been notified by the Centers for Disease Control that the Family Intervention to Prevent Child Maltreatment proposal will be funded for three years beginning in September 2008. Stormshak is the principal investigator for the project, which will bring close to \$900,000 to the university's research efforts.

The goal of the project is to test the implementation effectiveness of an ecologically based child and family intervention designed to reduce child and adolescent problem behavior and coercive family interactions, and prevent child maltreatment. The intervention, called the Family Check-Up, promotes healthy child development by enhancing effective parenting and reducing parenting strategies associated with violence and aggression. The Child and Family Center has refined the model by integrating findings from its developmental research and redesigning the model for community-based implementation.

The proposed research will involve collaboration with mental health providers in Portland, Oregon, to improve the effectiveness of their services for families at risk for child maltreatment by using an adapted version of the FCU model. One hundred twenty families with youth ages 10–15 will be randomly assigned to receive either the FCU intervention or treatment as usual through the mental health centers. Of particular interest is increasing the potential for therapists to focus on family management skills known to increase successful child adjustment and to decrease the coercive family processes associated with child maltreatment. Outcomes of interest will include successful therapist adoption of the FCU model, fidelity of implementation, improved cost effectiveness, improvements in family management and positive parenting skills, decreased family violence, and the prevention of child maltreatment.

For more information about this grant award or other research conducted at the Child and Family Center, contact CFC codirector Dr. Beth Stormshak at 346-4805.

#