



strategies for system change in children's mental health

a chapter action kit



American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



***Strategies for System Change in Children's Mental Health:
A Chapter Action Kit***

Recognizing that children's mental health needs are significant, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Board of Directors together with grassroots interest from many primary care pediatricians who were interested in enhancing their capacity to provide needed services to children, made children's mental health a top AAP priority. In 2004, the AAP Board established the Task Force on Mental Health (TFOMH), charging its members to assist primary care pediatricians in enhancing this capacity. The Task Force includes representatives from multi-disciplinary, multi-organizational groups, representing the AAP membership and national organizations concerned about children's mental health.

The soon to be released Chapter Action Kit was developed by the TFOMH to assist AAP chapters with addressing system level barriers to children's mental health care. The Chapter Action Kit focuses on the following 6 core action areas that provide ***strategies*** for system change in children's mental health:

- **Partner with Families**
- **Assess the Service Environment**
- **Collaborate with Mental Health Professionals**
- **Educate Chapter Members**
- **Partner with Child-Serving Agencies**
- **Improve Mental Health Financing**

While the primary users of the guide will be AAP chapter presidents, chapter vice presidents, and chapter executive directors, limited additional copies are available upon request and the kit will be made available electronically on our Web site at www.aap.org/mentalhealth in early October 2007.

The TFOMH hopes that the kit will be the catalyst to develop tools needed by the AAP chapter membership, open dialogue with potential mental health collaborators, and enhance partnerships with local mental health providers and community-based organizations.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Nelson at snelson@aap.org or Linda Paul at lpaul@aap.org.

The development and printing of the Chapter Action Kit was supported in full by Grant # G95MC05434 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act).