



BABY TALK

The Official Newsletter of the Ohio Association for Infant Mental Health

Special Introductory Edition

Volume MH: Issue 1

Notes From The President *by John Kinsel*

Welcome to this special edition of **Baby Talk**, the official newsletter of the Ohio Association for Infant Mental Health! The purpose of this edition is to give you some basic information about our organization, let you know about some of the activities we sponsor and, hopefully, entice you to join us as we work to promote Infant Mental Health awareness, excellence and opportunity here in Ohio.

If you are a mental health professional working with young children and their families, an early interventionist, an infant/toddler child-care provider, an Early Head Start employee, a service provider for Help Me Grow, an Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative consultant, a parent of a child under 3, an administrator of a social service or early childhood education organization, a child advocate, a student, or any of a myriad of roles related to serving our youngest Buckeyes **and** were ever an infant or toddler yourself, we think OAIMH membership has something to offer you.

If, after reading the mini-articles in this issue you are so excited you just can't wait to become an OAIMH member, you don't need Nikes to just do it. If there is not a membership form near this copy of **Baby Talk** as you read it, please contact Jan Kushmaul, OAIMH Treasurer immediately! Email her at tomjan@ameritech.net or call her toll free at 1-888-850-4521.

She will personally see to it that you get your very own form on which you will be pleased to note that membership is still a bargain basement \$25/year (\$10 for students!)!! For that pittance you get a years' subscription to **Baby Talk**, discounts on OAIMH sponsored trainings and a warm glow that comes from being a part of Ohio's strongest voice for Infant Mental Health! I hope soon to be able to say to you, personally: "Welcome to OAIMH!"

Zeanah to Headline OAIMH Third Annual Conference!

The Annual Conference Committee of the OAIMH Board is pleased to announce that Charles Zeanah, MD, of Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, has agreed to provide keynote and workshop leadership for this year's annual meeting.

Perhaps best know as editor of *The Handbook of Infant Mental Health*, Dr. Zeanah has been an international leader in the study of Infant/Parent Attachment in families from impoverished and violent environments. This expertise is reflected in the theme for the conference: "Babies on the Edge: Intervention Strategies with Young Families Affected by Violence, Separation and Stress." The content will be of special interest to practitioners.

The daylong conference will be held on November 8, 2002 at the Deer Creek State Park and Resort just southwest of Columbus. As usual, CEU's will be available and OAIMH members will receive a registration discount.

If you would like additional information or to make sure you get registration materials, contact a member of the Annual Conference Committee: Lisa Lockwood (llrms@aol.com), Roz Williams(rozw@Columbus.rr.com)

BABY TALK: It's Not Just Gibberish

The official OAIMH newsletter is published at least four times a year. Within its pages can be found information about OAIMH activities (such as the conference announcement above), book reviews (recent example: *The Out of Sync Child* by Carol Stock Kranowitz), reports from OAIMH Chapters (what's a chapter? See article on page 2.), a column on Infant Psychiatry by Elizabeth Finley-Belgrad, M.D., Infant Psychiatrist and OAIMH Board member (recent example: *(cont'd on page 2)*)

WEB SITE TO INCLUDE DATA BASE FROM PROVIDER DIRECTORY

Michael Thomasgard, M.D., OAIMH Vice-President recently announced plans for the development of a free standing Ohio Association for Infant Mental Health website. Currently under construction, the site will provide an opportunity for electronic distribution of **Baby Talk** and other OAIMH communiqués, links to other infant mental health related organizations (including the World Association for Infant Mental Health, and an opportunity to join on-line.

Perhaps most exciting, however, will be access to the data collected in a joint project between the Department of Health and OAIMH known as the Ohio Infant Mental Health Provider and Service Directory. This document contains listings by county and discipline of folks in Ohio who are identified as having expertise in IMH related areas: counseling, supervision, training, etc. Previously published on a limited basis in hard copy only, the web version will not only allow for easier and more widespread access, but also easier updating of the document, giving it a dynamic, "living" vs static, quality. Watch **Baby Talk** for information as to site up-and-running date as well as an official web address.

(Gibberish, Cont'd from page 1)

Autism, Autism Spectrum Disorders, PDD and MSDD) and an occasionally humorous column by the president (recent example: alternatives to the classic psychoanalytic "babies on couches?" reaction to Infant Mental Health, as in the Gestalt "Do you use the empty crib technique?")

Each issue comes in its own unique eye catching color. To my way of thinking, **Baby Talk** is worth the price of admission. But, then again, I'm the editor.

JDK

First OAIMH INFANT MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE IN PLANNING STAGES

The OAIMH Board is currently exploring the possibility of collaborating with Zero to Three to host an intensive training in Ohio next spring that would serve as the first of what is intended to become annual IMH Institutes sponsored by OAIMH. Board members Kate Merrilees, MSW from the Cincinnati area and Jeffrey Rosenbaum, Ph.D. from Cleveland area will be coordinating these efforts.

One of the stated purposes of the Association is to "provide a forum for interaction and study among mental health, public health, education and social services professionals and others regarding scientific, educational, and clinical relationship-based work with infants and their caregivers." The development of an ongoing Institute is a major effort on the part of the Board to support best practices and academic excellence in Ohio.

Chapters Are an Open Book

Increasingly OAIMH members are finding benefit in forming a chapter with others in their home area. Local chapters typically arrange for persons interested in infant development to come together periodically for collaborative office rounds, for easy-to-get-to training, for networking, for lunch, or for all of the above.

Wherever five or more members gather, a chapter can be formed. Non-members are free to attend chapter functions, though OAIMH membership is encouraged. Each chapter has the authority to send a representative to take a voting seat on the OAIMH Board as well as share their experiences with others in *Chapter Chat* in **Baby Talk**.