Thomas P. Gullotta Robert W. Plant Melanie A. Evans *Editors* 

# Handbook of Adolescent Behavioral Problems

Evidence-Based Approaches to Prevention and Treatment

Second Edition



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Evidence-Based Approaches to Prevention and Treatment

**Second Edition** 

Research Assistant: Jessica M. Ramos

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Gerald R. Adams Scholar, Colleague, Friend 1946–2014

### **Foreword**

As we review the chapters that represent the work of the many talented scholars who contributed to this volume, we cannot help but reflect back on our own careers. We were educated at a time when the dominance of psychoanalytic theory was waning and the importance of the environment and learning was emerging. *Family* was the "buzz word." *Social justice* was the "buzz phrase."

During the late 1970s, we witnessed the reemergence of genetics and neurobiology, which were grounded not in eugenics but a new science that used CAT, MRI, and PET imaging and DNA unraveling as its methodologies. This interest would grow in subsequent years such that the buzz word of the 1990s would be *genes*, and the *decade of the brain* was the buzz phrase. During this time, we saw pharmacological treatment options grow from a small handful to a multitude of psychotropic drugs.

As the general public became increasingly focused on mental health issues, it expected managed health care companies to include coverage for services such as counseling and medications. Against this backdrop, our understanding of helping underwent a transformation (thanks to managed care) that is still in progress—no longer are we interested in the mental health of our clients, but in their behavioral health. Apparently, actions speak louder than thoughts and feelings. Whether this is indeed true is debatable.

Finally, across these decades, a small but vocal group within the helping professions questioned the noble but futile efforts of their clinical colleagues and dared to ask if there might be ways to reduce the incidence of mental illness/dysfunctional behavior and promote mental health/functional behavior. Looking at the epidemiological data, these pioneers, like Gerald Caplan, George Albee, Don Klein, and others, recognized that there would never be adequate treatment services available to help those who needed it. They envisioned a mental health care system built not upon treatment and rehabilitation but rather on the prevention of mental illness and the promotion of mental health.

As this new century moves into its second decade, these different tracks are converging as social science seeks to identify effective practices leading to successful treatment and prevention approaches. The new buzz words are bio-psychosocial theory. The new buzz phrases are gene expression and evidence-based practice. This handbook reflects not only this movement toward identifying best practices, it acknowledges that no single causal agent causes the pain of mental illness or the behaviors considered dysfunctional. Rather, most experts in the field agree that biology creates a susceptibility that can be exploited under certain circumstances. The growing consensus is

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that personality characteristics can enable an individual to handle adversity more effectively or to have a less-than-desirable, riskier reaction. And clearly, the environment matters.

Environment matters as a trigger for illness and a protective factor for health. We use environment in the broadest sense. Environment is the air we breathe that encourages the development of asthma, and it is the Clean Air Act. Environment is the media that exposes youth to desensitizing video games and sexually demeaning images on film and the Internet, and it is *Sesame Street*. Environment is impoverished high unemployment neighborhoods in which criminal activity is the employer not of choice but necessity. It is also efforts to improve housing and increase meaningful living wage jobs. Environment is family, friends, teachers, and others that nurture positive and less positive personality characteristics. These multiple elements merge to create the uniqueness that is found in each of us.

We hope that practitioners regularly use this reference work in their practices and that policymakers and human services directors use this state-of-the-art guide to pursue promising paths of helpfulness. For graduate students in the helping professions, we have provided a set of blueprints for fashioning intervention plans for addressing the needs of young people. We urge you to look beyond the immediate need of the client and to imagine how that client's issues might be prevented in others. If we work at it together, we can create a healthier society.

Thomas P. Gullotta Robert W. Plant Melanie A. Evans

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Reynolds. Her current programmatic interests are development and medication effects of brain function in pediatric psychiatry disorders using multimodal imaging and genetic methods. Her goal is to develop brain models of affective and cognitive domains, understand how impulsivity and emotion dysregulation lead to suicidal behavior and how biology interfaces with therapeutic factors in predicting outcome in pediatric disorders.

Gary W. Peterson is Professor and Chair of Family Studies and Social Work at the University of Miami in Oxford, Ohio. His areas of scholarly interest are parent—child/adolescent relations, cross-cultural influences on adolescent development, and family theory. His publications have appeared in numerous academic journals and edited book chapters. He is editor or coeditor of books on fatherhood, cross-cultural parent—adolescent relations, and adolescent development in families. Dr. Peterson's current research is concerned with how aspects of parent—adolescent relationships influence dimensions of adolescent social competence using samples from several countries, with a special focus on Mexican parent—adolescent relations. He is a past Coeditor of the Handbook of Marriage and the Family (2nd Ed.), the Senior Editor of the Handbook of Marriage and the Family (3rd Ed.), and a previous Editor of Marriage and Family Review. Dr. Peterson is a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations.

Ms. Kathleen Morrissey Pinkerton wrote in her career essay in the sixth grade her goal of being a social worker, and she never wavered from that goal. She earned her BSW and her MS in Family Studies and Marriage and Family Therapy from Iowa State University. She has 30 years of experience working with children and families as both a practicing clinician and a researcher looking at evidence-based practice in the human service field in the State of Iowa. Kathy has experienced adversity first hand as a young widow with very few financial resources. She is the mother of five children, and she has spent many, many months in hospitals with her youngest child who has Tuberous Sclerosis and is extremely autistic. Not surprisingly, she is very interested in resiliency, and she has helped develop a variety of initiatives to improve services to families. In 2012, she started a nonprofit business with four other economically disadvantaged women to further support families towards self-sufficiency.

**Niva Piran** is a Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Dr. Piran is coeditor of the following: A Day Hospital Group Treatment Program for Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa (with Kaplan), Preventing Eating Disorders: A Handbook of Interventions and Special Challenges (with Levine and Steiner-Adair), and Preventing eating-related and weight-related disorders: Collaborative Research, Advocacy, and Policy Change (with McVey, Levine, and Ferguson). She is a Fellow of the Academy for Eating Disorders and the Prevention Editor of the Eating Disorder Journal. Dr. Piran is internationally recognized for her innovative work in the prevention and treatment of eating disorders and her research in the area of women's health.

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Angie Querim graduated with her master's degree from Northeastern University in 2006, and accepted a position at the University of Florida's Behavior Analysis Services Program conducting parent training with caregivers of children in the state foster care system. This new experience inspired Angie to further her graduate studies, and she began her Ph.D. at the University of Florida. Since beginning her career in behavior analysis, Angie has had the opportunity to work with various populations in clinical and research settings, and she has greatly enjoyed these experiences. Following graduation, Angie completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Munroe-Meyer Institute. Angie is now an assistant professor at Ball State University.

Jessica M. Ramos received her B.A. in Psychology from Eastern Connecticut State University. She is a Research Assistant at Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut. Jessica has assisted in the editorial process of 19 books on the topics of primary prevention and health promotion in the last 17 years employed at Child and Family Agency. She enjoys working for the Agency and has not used a sick day for nine consecutive years; since 2005. She is involved in agency research and reviews clinical cases for Quality Assurance.

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dependent. He has been quoted in all major newspapers and magazines, appeared on Larry King NOW, CNN's Newsmakers, National Public Radio, as well as many other programs and led the development of the Recommendations for Media Reporting on Suicide and served on the task force for Media Recommendations on Bullying. He is the recipient of Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans Award, B. Warren Hart Award for service to humanity, Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Award, and "Champion of Change" by the Obama Administration.

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