

Family Service Agencies Supporting Families with Young Children

- Fraser Mustard pointed out at a conference in Peel in 2000, when parents are suffering from serious interpersonal conflicts or intrapsychic problems and they do not get the help that they need, their young children will not be able to benefit significantly from the stimulation of child focused programs.

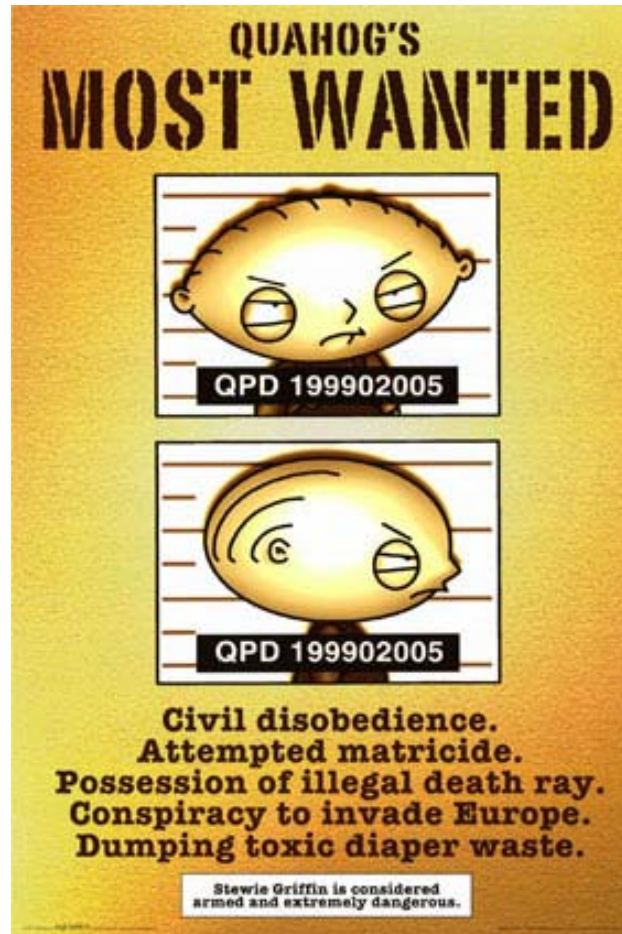
Families at Risk

- 50% of couples will experience serious conflicts in their relationship and 33% will separate permanently (Stats Can, 2001)
- 29% of women will experience violence in an intimate relationship (Stats Can, 2005)
- Between 11% and 23% of Canadian Children will witness violence against their mothers in the home (PCAWA, 2000)
- In Peel, this translates to 11,000 to 24,000 children between 0-6 will be exposed to woman abuse in their families

Families at Risk

- The Ontario Health Survey Supplement (1990 -91) found 3.9% of males and 11.1% of females reported severe sexual abuse before the age of 17.
- Only 6% of all sexual assaults are reported to police (Stats Can 1993)

Kids don't live alone



How FSAs Support families with Young Children

- Individual, Couple and Family Counselling
- Partner Abuse Services for men, women and the children exposed
- Counselling for Adult Survivors of Childhood Abuse
- Credit Counselling

How FSAs Support Families with Young Children

- Family Life Education Programs
- Specialized groups for Parents at Higher Risk
- Training for Child Care Staff and Teachers regarding high risk children and high risk parents
- Advocacy

Outcomes

- 85.5% of clients who received couple counselling reported their relationship with their spouse or partner was better than before counselling
- 94.6% of woman abused by their partners reported having developed new ways to deal with the effects of the abuse
- 91% of men in the Partner Assault Response program said they were able to develop and implement alternative, non-abusive or controlling behaviours
- 87% of their partners reported that while the men attended the 16 week PAR group the physical abuse stopped

Outcomes continued

- At the beginning of the Helping Mothers and Children Survive Abuse Together (HMCSAT) program 57.5% of mothers reported that they felt either “confident” or “very confident” in their parenting abilities. At the completion of the group parenting confidence increased substantially by over 30% to 88.2%. ($p < .05$)
- 92.6% of the children in the HMCSAT group said the group helped them talk about abuse and violence
- 88.9% said the group helped them deal with feelings about abuse
- 81.5% said that the group helped them have a safety plan

Outcomes continued 2

- 93% of adult survivors of childhood abuse reported having developed new ways to deal with the effects of their abuse

FSAs Offering Service at HUBS

- At a minimum 10 to 15% of families using the HUBs will demonstrate indicators of high risk
- Without help children from these families will not be able to make good use of Best Start programs
- FSAs have the skills to serve these families
- FSAs already have waiting lists

FSAs Offering Service at HUBS continued

- HUBS need a budget to purchase counselling services for these high risk families