



# OVERVIEW for The Prevention Social Worker

*by Laura Seigel, M.S.W.*

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# On the one hand, there are many social problems<sup>1</sup> in the United States.



- Between public and private United States jails and prisons, just under 2.4 million people are incarcerated in United States. Based on that number alone, we incarcerate more than any other country. The tab U.S. taxpayers pay is \$75 billion per year for those almost 2.4 million people. When adding in the cost for probation and parole, that figure jumps to \$90 billion. (Source: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-3445\\_162-57418495/the-cost-of-a-nation-of-incarceration/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-3445_162-57418495/the-cost-of-a-nation-of-incarceration/).)
- During 2011, 329,797 babies were born to teenagers aged 15-19 in the United States. In Miami-Dade County, Florida alone, two high schools are teaching 192 pregnant teenagers during the 2010/2011 school year.
- Although it is higher for some minorities, the United States also holds the highest high school dropout rate (currently at 25.3%).
- There are equally alarming statistics for other social problems like crime, delinquency, DUIs, family and other violence, substance abuse, suicide and more.

<sup>1</sup> Social problems are interrelated in that one leads to another and another for a horrible downward spiral.

**On the other hand,  
there are lots of people who have  
lots of money in the United States.**



- Approximately 475 billionaires and 5,231,000 millionaires live in the United States.
- If only a small handful of these people - who are not hurting for money - were to share a small fraction of their wealth, there is no doubt that the United States would see a tremendous lessening of our social problems.



# How Is This Possible You Might Be Thinking?



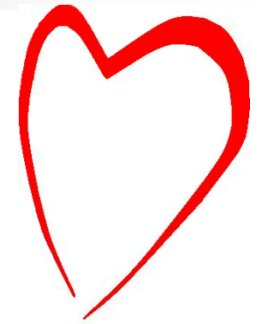
Here Are a Few Concepts To Better Understand the Situation:

- When one social problem like child abuse is prevented, usually one, but more likely several other social problems, are also prevented as well.
- There are several highly successful on-going projects around our country which are helping many people.
- While these wonderful projects are helping hundreds of people, unfortunately, they are not reaching the thousands of people who need the help and don't even know about these programs. Consequently, those programs end up helping only a drop in the bucket for the present need.



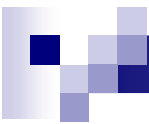


# Here Is One Great Program That Reduces Child Abuse



- Healthy Families America (HFA) is a perfect example of an excellent national program that promotes positive parenting and enhances child health and development which ultimately ends up preventing child abuse, neglect and other poor childhood outcomes.
- This initiative is specifically designed to give expectant and new parents the help they need to give their children a healthy start. Families participate voluntarily in this program and receive home visiting and referrals from trained staff.
- The annual cost per HFA family is \$1,950-\$5,768 depending on region with an average of \$3,348. Ninety percent of all the families who are invited to participate in the program accept services and they have an astounding success rate.
- Nationally each day, almost three children die from child abuse and neglect. That's three children too many. To date, HFA exists in over 450 communities in 38 states across the United States, Washington, D.C. and Canada.
- HFA absolutely needs to be scaled up to benefit the masses!

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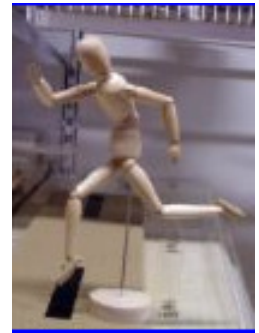


## There Are Other Wonderful Programs Working Equally Diligently To Catch People Where They Are At Before A Small Problem Develops Into A Huge Problem

- Another example is AMIkids (f/k/a Dade Marine Institute), a youth rehabilitative services program in Miami, Florida, which catches juveniles on a secondary level of prevention.
- It costs approximately \$88,000 per year to incarcerate a juvenile. Juveniles who go through the standard system typically return to crime 50-70%.
- AMIkids, which costs approximately \$3,500 per individual, is significantly more effective than the standard system since AMIkids consistently earns an outstanding 25% recidivism rate.
- In other words, as a society, we spend more and receive substantially less with how we are handling youth offenders.
- HFA and AMIkids are two examples of highly effective and cost-efficient programs and there are many other examples as well.
- When we catch people, hopefully as early as possible, and give them the assistance they need, we not only treat them more humanely, but we also save money in the long term.

# What Can You Do?

- You can talk about these concepts with your family and friends. As more and more people understand the link between social problems and how those social problems can be prevented, they will share this information.
- Then, people who are in a position to step forward financially will assist so that we aren't running in place anymore.
- Billionaires and millionaires who are interested in making a significant difference can donate money through one of the two prevention programs or Catalyst Miami → Human Resources Coalition. Read more in the Overview document on this Website and click on the TAKE ACTION tab.





# Realizing Everyone's Dream!

- What a great nation this would be when everyone can stop getting caught in a web of problems and troubles and instead realize their dreams and full potential.
- To make a comment, please sign the Guest Book of the website ([www.tpsw.org](http://www.tpsw.org)). To send in a question, e-mail [info@tpsw.org](mailto:info@tpsw.org). To reach The Prevention Social Worker by phone, call 786-423-2205.
- Thank you for utilizing your precious time to read this website!