

The International Journal for School-Based Family Counseling

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

In last year's Annual Report, I described the various roles of the Journal in promoting SBFC, while noting that publication throughput was slow. At the 2013 Symposium's discussion session on that report, the publication process was affirmed. It was suggested that the Journal's prominence could be enhanced by the maximization of citations, and by its promotion to professional organizations and associations. It was also suggested that it could be expanded by having different sections, include book reviews and case studies, and incorporate letters to the editor. The suggestion was also made to produce a special issue, with focus on supervision.

Since August 2013 three articles have been accepted for publication, and a fourth is under review. All are based on presentations made to Symposia, two in 2012 and two in 2013. True to the international nature of the SBFC movement, the accepted articles come from different parts of the world, and span a wide range of pertinent topics. From South Carolina, Karen Cooper-Haber and Sarah Sanchez present a multi-systemic approach to reducing suspensions and expulsions in schools in the USA. From the UK and New Zealand, Stephen Adams-Langley and Hans Everts discuss Place2Be in the inner city, a school-based mental health service in the United Kingdom. Stephen then follows this up with a detailed case study, illustrating principles of Place2Be in action. This is the first time that the Journal has combined an article which focuses on rationale with one that demonstrates pertinent practice – a salutary principle that exemplifies all aspects of the scientist practitioner in action. Finally, from South Africa and New Zealand, Antoinette Ah Hing, Tilla Olivier and Hans Everts address parental challenges in coping with autistic spectrum disorder, and the role of SBFC.

At the 2013 Symposium, I spoke with various presenters about the possibility of working up their papers for submission to the Journal. After the Symposium, I followed this up with further correspondence with several attendees. All responded positively, but remain "in the process of preparation". In May this year, Brian Gerrard wrote to several other colleagues, encouraging them to write up their projects for the Journal. All these are also "in the process of preparation". On other matters, nothing more has been heard from Thomson/Reuters in response to our request in March 2013 to have the Journal included in the Web of Science. So, what are we at? As the bard intones "It has been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon". Indications are that the process of encouraging submissions and supporting writers' progress through the formal publication process are appropriate. Why are not more articles forthcoming? People are very busy, publication is not a top priority for many, SBFC is a specialized area of professional work, and the Journal is not accredited. As things stand, I see no justification for expanding the Journal's scope, promoting it to professional organizations, considering a special issue, or pressing for accreditation. However, its core raison d'être remains pertinent and powerful. I congratulate those who have published, sincerely thank those who have reviewed, and encourage those "in preparation". I recommend that we continue as we are, in anticipation that the past drought of articles will be followed by a flood of those in the pipeline.

Hans Everts, Senior Editor. November 2014