



“Why do some kids do well in school, have good family and peer relationships and are free from behavioral and emotional problems even though they live in difficult situations?”

Community Forum Positive Development Programs for African American Families



Gene Brody, PhD
Distinguished Research Professor of Child and Family Development at the University of Georgia and Director of the Center for Family Research



Velma Murry, PhD
Professor of Human Development and Betts Chair, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

Since 1995, Dr. Brody has served as director of the University of Georgia’s Center for Family Research (CFR). Dr. Murry served as co-director from 1995 until 2008, when she accepted an endowed chair position at Vanderbilt University. Under Brody and Murry’s leadership, CFR designed family-based prevention programs designed to deter adolescents from becoming involved in activities that derail positive development by helping:

- **Families explore the strengths on which they can draw upon** as they face the hardships associated with poverty
- **New parents adjust to their new role** and learn how to provide safe, nurturing contexts for their children’s growth
- **African American adolescents delay the onset of alcohol use** and prevent the use of illicit substances and engagement in risky sexual behaviors
- **African American teens successfully transition to adulthood**

Central to their work is identifying what families are doing well and then sharing those findings with other families. An overview of their work will be discussed during the community forum.

Drs. Brody & Murry will participate in this Community Forum in conjunction with their presentations as a part of the USF FMHI Distinguished Guest Lecture Series.

**Thursday,
March 26,
9:00-10:30 a.m.**

Children’s Board of
Hillsborough County
1002 East Palm Ave.
Tampa, FL 33605



**Children’s Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**

Dreams Worth Growing



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