

QEC 5th Biennial International Conference 2008
ABSTRACT

<p>Title of Abstract</p>	<p>Treating Parent Infant Relationship Problems: Strategies for Intervention</p>
<p>Presenting Author's name/s, Organisation/s and State/s</p>	<p>Susan C. McDonough, Ph.D., MSW University of Michigan School of Social Work and Center for Human Growth and Development</p>
<p>Co-Author's name/s, Organisation/s and State/s</p>	
<p>Abstract</p>	<p>The Interaction Guidance therapeutic treatment model incorporates principles of a family system theory into a multigenerational transactional preventive intervention. The resulting approach focuses therapeutic treatment on the infant-caregiver relationship rather than either on the infant or the caregiver. Caregiver interactions with the infant are understood both as reflection of family structure and caregiving nurturance and as a reflection of the caregiver's and baby's representational world. Because many overburdened families are preoccupied with everyday life challenges, observable interactions between baby and caregiver serves as the therapeutic intervention focus.</p> <p>The Interaction Guidance treatment approach was created specifically to meet the needs of infants and their families who previously were not successfully engaged in mental health treatment or who refused treatment referral. Many of these families could be described as being "overburdened" by poverty, poor education, family mental illness, substance abuse, inadequate housing, large family size, lack of a parenting partner, or inadequate social support. The Interaction guidance treatment approach invites families to take an active role in the creation and evaluation of their family's treatment and is sensitive to each family's strengths and vulnerabilities. The use of videotape in treatment allows for immediate feedback to the parent(s) or family regarding their own behavior and its effect on the infant's behaviour.</p> <p>In this interactive workshop, Dr McDonough will provide an introduction to the structural and process elements involved in Interaction Guidance. Clinical case vignettes will be presented to illustrate how the therapist engages the family in a therapeutic alliance and how the treatment process evolves through the strength of the therapist-family relationship. Examples of intervention strategies used by the Interaction Guidance therapist are provided and explained through these case examples</p>