External Factors: Public policy impacts individuals and families. Stressors can impact individuals and families negatively knocking them off course (at least temporarily) for positive development. Poverty makes it difficult for individuals and families to thrive. Limited resources of individual agencies make it difficult to meet increasing needs.

Assumptions: Individuals and families can gain the knowledge and skills needed to enhance quality of life. The knowledge and skills needed to enhance quality of life are not innate, they must be learned.
Knowledge Area 802: Human Development and Family Well-Being

KA 802 - Major Themes

- Rural Family Life
- Parent Education
- Child Care
- Marriage and Couple Relationships
- Family Caregiving Across the Lifespan
- Military Family Life
- Balancing Work and Family Life

Accomplishments

- In the Rural Families Speak longitudinal research project, one study of impoverished, rural mothers (n=307) contributed findings focusing on the connection between supportive relationships and mental health to a database being created to improve the limited knowledge base on this subject matter.
- Studies show that parents who use Just-In-Time parenting newsletters feel reassured about their child’s development and their ability to identify emerging problems, and learn how to find appropriate help.
- The Better Kid Care Program provided educational opportunities for child care workers, including direct trainings, distance education via video & web-based learning, newsletters & other publications, and full-day conferences.
- The Healthy Couples, Healthy Children project has helped to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect and promote child well-being by fostering healthy couple and co-parenting relationships.
- The Alliance for Family Caregiving provided training, educational resources, & support and facilitated linkages and networking opportunities to enhance the knowledge & quality of life of caregivers & families throughout Wisconsin.
- Since the Army Substance Abuse Program began at Fort Hood, Texas Cooperative Extension Agents have briefed 100% of the Units and over 85% of the 45,000 soldiers on Fort Hood on prevention resources.
- More than 4,000 people in three states accessed the publication Work and Family: Balancing and Weaving, over 600 individuals learned about managing family meals while dealing with busy schedules, and more than 3,500 individuals learned about how to effectively handle stress.

Areas in Need

- Expand collaborations in all areas of rural family life work
- Enhance standards/indicators for parent education programing & evaluation
- Expand work/professional development in child care
- Expanded collaborations in decreasing divorces
- Expansion of work/professional development in adult development/aging
- Expand collaborations in all areas of military family life work
- Working with employers on caregiving and work/life balance issues