

## PERMANENCY FOR OLDER YOUTH

### **Families for Teens: Key Questions**

This guide for social workers active in the challenging area of permanence for teens was developed by Bob Lewis and from Alexandra Lowe, Special Council, New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS). It contains 5 pages of questions and checklists for professionals about their work on permanency for adolescent clients. Also on this page: Questions to ask teens and questions to ask parents.

<http://www.rglewis.com/Bob%20Lewis%20Training%20and%20more.htm>

### **Youth Permanency**

The Children's Bureau and the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information have developed a whole section of the CB website devoted to Youth Permanency, with sections on Strategies and Programs, Spotlight on Adoption, Supporting Youth in Foster Care, Youth Perspectives, and Outcomes for Emancipated Youth.

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/topics/responding/youth/>

### **Recruitment is Everyone's Business**

This presentation from Robert G. Lewis encourages us all to make "permanence as intuitive as safety" by thinking about and working on connections for our children in care. It was developed for a residential treatment center that offered it to all of their staff from maintenance to executive staff and from child care to clinical consultants. Reconnecting youth and family is recruitment; reconnecting youth and community is recruitment. [http://www.rglewis.com/new\\_page\\_2.htm](http://www.rglewis.com/new_page_2.htm)

### **Coping With Parental Loss Due to Termination of Parental Rights**

Adolescents who lose their parents because of a termination of parental rights (TPR) may respond with a variety of coping strategies, some of which may not promote good mental health. Despite their parents' maltreatment, these children often grieve the parental loss and may need specific help in developing coping strategies that help them heal and move forward.

Mental health practitioners who treat children grieving the loss of their parents due to TPR may want to shift their focus away from the expression of emotions to a more concrete focus that includes:

- Answering children's questions about the situation
- Helping the children develop problem-solving skills
- Working toward increasing self-esteem
- Developing the children's interpersonal skills
- Increasing the children's social network

This study, "Coping with Parental Loss Because of Termination of Parental Rights," by K. M. Schneider and V. Phares is available at [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

### **Placement Stability Resources**

The new Hot Topics web page from Hunter College focuses on placement stability in foster care. Look here for research, state resources, web casts, curricula, and links to websites on this outcome area. [http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info\\_services/placement-stability.html](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/placement-stability.html)

## **POLICIES and TRENDS**

**7 Skills Employers Want Students to Develop (from Education Planner)** Your students' future job prospects depend on the skills they offer to an employer. High school and college years are a great time to develop the skills that are in demand by employers.

1. **Strong Work Ethic**  
Employers want employees who are reliable, dependable, and self-motivated.
2. **Time Management Skills**  
Time management involves planning and following a schedule; listing what tasks need to be accomplished, estimating how long it will take, and in what sequence the tasks will be done. Good time management skills are needed in every profession.
3. **Problem-Solving Skills**  
Virtually all employers look for employees who can identify a problem, develop solutions and implement them.
4. **Verbal Communication Skills**  
Verbal communication skills include both speaking and listening skills. Communication is a two-way street; you must be able to listen to communicate effectively.
5. **Written Communication Skills**  
The ability to write clearly and concisely is vital in the workplace. Writing in the work world often comes in response to a request for information or to brief others.
6. **"People" Skills**  
The ability to work well with others and build good working relationships is important in any field. Good working relationships are built on trust and mutual respect and help employees work more efficiently and effectively.
7. **Technical Skills**  
Technical skills include the use of a word program (like Microsoft Word) and a spreadsheet program (like Microsoft Excel) to organize data. The ability to search the Web to gather reliable information is also important.

### **Migration: A Critical Issue for Child Welfare**

In July 2006 American Humane and Loyola University Chicago Graduate School of Social Work hosted a roundtable to discuss migration in the Americas and its impact on child well-being and child welfare policy, systems, and services. This report presents the results of the roundtable discussion and summarizes the emerging issues that participants identified as requiring attention by child welfare systems in order to facilitate positive child welfare outcomes of child safety, permanency of placements and relationships, and child and family well-being. Suggestions for further research and implications for policy and practice are also presented.

[http://www.americanhumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pc\\_initiatives\\_migration](http://www.americanhumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pc_initiatives_migration)

### **Measuring Outcomes For Children And Youth In Out-Of-School Time Programs: Moving Beyond Measuring Academics**

Research shows that children who attend after-school programs not only benefit academically, but also in areas such as: health and safety, social and emotional development and self-sufficiency. To read, visit

[www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends\\_2006\\_10\\_01\\_FS\\_Outcomes.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends_2006_10_01_FS_Outcomes.pdf).

### **The Second Edition of Psychological First Aid Guide Released**

Knowing first aid techniques can save lives should disaster strike and children and families in danger need your help. But first aid is not just about knowing how to clear airways and give chest compressions. Administering psychological first aid is also critical for addressing mental health needs. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), in collaboration with the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, has recently released the second edition of the *Psychological First Aid Field Operations Guide*, available at [www.nctsn.org](http://www.nctsn.org) under "New Resources."

According to NCTSN, Psychological First Aid is "an evidence-informed post-disaster acute intervention for children, adolescents, adults, and families to reduce initial distress and promote adaptive functioning." The guide, NCTSN states, "is supported by many disaster mental health experts as the acute intervention of choice for those affected by mass disasters."

### **Links to legislative and policy resources:**

Chafee - (Pages 1-23) <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/programs/pdfs/hr3443.pdf>

ETV (starting on Page 10) <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/programs/pdfs/hr2873.pdf>

Child Welfare Policy Manual -

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/j2ee/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/index.jsp?idFlag=0](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/j2ee/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/index.jsp?idFlag=0)

Regarding Youth Homelessness:

<http://www.about.chapinhall.org/conferences/urban/feb2007/presentations.html>

Click on this link for a map of the PA counties with links to census information.

[http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/maps/pennsylvania\\_map.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/maps/pennsylvania_map.html)

## **CROSS-SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIPS**

### **New Voices at the Civic Table: How Six Human Service Organizations are Supporting the Civic Engagement of Community Members**

"Human service organizations are often required to negotiate the intersection of service delivery and social policy; each impacts the other and the children and families being served." This brief from New Voices at the Civic Table -- a project of the Alliance for Children and Families -- looks at how six organizations built strategies to engage their clientele in the public arena. There are plenty of tools, ideas, and information on crafting a "citizen-centered" approach.

[www.alliance1.org/newideas](http://www.alliance1.org/newideas)

### **Teaching and Assessing Students With Disabilities**

The Department of Education is offering a site and CD designed to help parents and caseworkers work with schools, and understand the services available for their children. It includes tools to help parents understand assessment and instruction and get even more involved in IEP discussions and other decision-making meetings. [www.osepideasthatwork.org/parentkit](http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/parentkit)

### **Call to Action: An Integrated Approach to Youth Permanency and Preparation for Adulthood**

This document from Casey Family Services and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, addresses the complex needs unique to adolescents in foster care. It describes an integrated and collaborative approach to achieving family permanency and comprehensive preparation for adulthood.

[http://www.caseyfamilyservices.org/pdfs/casey\\_permanency\\_0505.pdf](http://www.caseyfamilyservices.org/pdfs/casey_permanency_0505.pdf)

### **Supporting Youth as They Transition From Care**

The following website provides links to an interesting poll funded by Pew and Casey showing strong support for supporting youth as they transition out of care. This may help in presentations to stakeholders and those influencing public policy on IL issues.

[www.jimcaseyyouth.org/docs/poll1.pdf](http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/docs/poll1.pdf)

### **Report Describes Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of "Guidelines for Juvenile Information Sharing." This online report outlines a course of action for States and local jurisdictions involved in efforts to improve information sharing among key agencies that work with at-risk youth and juvenile offenders. The guidelines integrate the three critical components of juvenile information sharing—collaboration, confidentiality, and technology—into an effective developmental framework.

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=237372>.

### **Making a Difference: Helping Teens Help Themselves: A National Blueprint for Expanding Access to Supportive Housing Among Pregnant and Parenting Teens Exiting Foster Care**

This national blueprint from the Health Teen Network represents a multi-year, multidisciplinary approach to increase supportive housing options for pregnant and parenting teens exiting foster care. <http://www.healthyteennetwork.org/>

## **IL CURRICULAR RESOURCES**

### **National Youth Development Learning Network**

Check out the free materials for youth development and after-school activities, from the National Youth Development Information Website. Don't miss the competencies and assessment tools for frontline youth workers [www.nydic.org](http://www.nydic.org)

### **Life Books On-Line**

The Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association created these life book pages to allow a child to pick the pages that fit his or her style. Each page can be printed separately which allows a child the ability to hand-select a preferred page. <http://www.ifapa.org/resources/publications.asp>

### **National Youth Service Day Celebrates Contributions of Youth**

On April 20–23, 2007, millions of young people will take part in National & Global Youth Service Day. The observance is being coordinated by Youth Service America, a consortium of nonprofit and youth development organizations. The goals of National Youth Service Day are to:

- Mobilize youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service.
- Support youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement.
- Educate the public, media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders.

To obtain additional National Youth Service Day information and resources, visit

<http://www.ysa.org/nysd/index.cfm>.

### **Career Planning Begins with Assessment: A Guide for Professionals Serving Youth with Educational & Career Development Challenges**

This revised edition of the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth guide has information for youth service practitioners on selecting career-related assessments, determining when to refer youth for additional assessment, and issues such as accommodations, legal issues, and ethical considerations. Administrators and policymakers will find information on developing practical and effective policies, collaboration among programs, and interagency assessment systems. <http://ncwd-youth.info/assets/guides/assessment/AssessGuideComplete.pdf>

### **Envisioning My Future: A Young Person's Guide to Health Care Transition**

This booklet introduces adolescents and their families to the issue of transition and provides some first steps in developing a health care transition plan. In both English and Spanish, it focuses on how staying healthy can help adolescents achieve their dreams of being more independent, going to college or getting advanced training, getting a job, living independently, and doing all the other things they want to do. <http://hctransitions.ichp.ufl.edu/resources.html>

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

### Foster Care Month Website

The National Foster Care Month Partnership is proud to announce the official re-launch of the foster care month web site. May is National Foster Care Month - a time to make a lasting difference in a child's life. Visit to find information, ways you can get involved, and tools for implementing a successful Foster Care Month campaign. <http://www.fostercaremonth.org>

### Youth Making Change in Their Communities

The theme of youth making changes in their communities is the focus of the December 2006 issue of *Youth Worker News*. The e-newsletter provides several examples of ways that youth development organizations are working to nurture the skills of youth and instill habits of community engagement. Program resources, research, and funding information are also featured. [www.nydic.org/nydic/programming/YouthMakingChange.htm](http://www.nydic.org/nydic/programming/YouthMakingChange.htm)

## POST-SECONDARY RESOURCES

### SAT Fee Waivers

The SAT Fee Waivers for 2007-2008 as well as the College Fee Waivers are available at the IL Project. If you need application forms for your youth, please contact Ann Molsky at [akm9@pitt.edu](mailto:akm9@pitt.edu) or 717.795.9048. You can duplicate the application form as often as needed. Youth can register for spring SAT dates now. Keep in mind that SAT and College Fee Waivers are specific to each youth, therefore a separate application for each youth must be completed.

### Education Planner

Education Planner from PHEAA offers a number of different preparation tools for those exploring career or post-secondary education options. Your college-bound students are worried about getting into college while you are probably more concerned about how they will pay their college costs. The 'Paying' module of Education Planner can help students find the funding for college.

The 'Paying' module includes:

- A financial aid timeline
- A financial aid literacy quiz
- FAFSA information
- A free scholarship search, that offers 1.8 million scholarships, grants and awards worth nearly \$8 billion
- Tips to spot scholarship scams
- Information on work-study programs, loan forgiveness programs, low-cost federal student loans, and more!
- If your college-bound students have questions related to their aid package, they should contact the financial aid office at the colleges they're most interested in attending. The financial aid office works with students and their families to help them find the best way to finance their college education.

[EducationPlanner.org](http://EducationPlanner.org) has an Award Analyzer feature to help families compare award packages from different schools.

## RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

**Measuring Youth Program Quality: A New Report from the Forum** examines nine program observation and quality improvement tools and explains their purpose, history, structure, methodology, and technical properties, to help you decide whether they're right for your program. [www.forumfyi.org](http://www.forumfyi.org)

**Building Quality Improvement Systems** looks at assessment and improvement efforts underway in three networks, and provides a preliminary framework for thinking about key questions when planning any kind of program quality improvement work. [www.forumfyi.org](http://www.forumfyi.org)

**Overview of Adult and Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment**, which is from The Center for Sex Offender Management, which has published "Understanding Treatment for Adults and Juveniles Who Have Committed Sex Offenses." The center is a project of the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Office of Justice Programs, in collaboration with DOJ's National Institute of Corrections, the American Probation and Parole Association, and the State Justice Institute. The report provides a board overview of current research, professional literature, and practice trends related to treating adults and juveniles who have committed sex offenses. To access the report, visit [http://www.csom.org/pubs/treatment\\_brief.pdf](http://www.csom.org/pubs/treatment_brief.pdf)

### **Enhancing Permanency for Older Youth in Out-of-Home Care**

This bulletin addresses the specific challenges of permanency planning with older youth and highlights successful strategies and programs from across the country.

HTML: [www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/focus/enhancing/index.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/focus/enhancing/index.cfm)

PDF: [www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/focus/enhancing/enhancing.pdf](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/focus/enhancing/enhancing.pdf)

### **Search Proven Interventions**

A new searchable database with reliable, up-to-date information on interventions for the prevention and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders is now available online.

Custom features of the new NREPP include

- custom searches based on desired outcomes, target populations, and service settings;
- details on each intervention, including a descriptive summary, types of outcomes achieved, costs of implementation, and contact information for the intervention developer; and
- two independent expert ratings for each intervention.

Developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) allows users to perform custom searches to identify specific interventions based on desired outcomes, target populations, and service settings. NREPP was originally created in the 1990s, but was redesigned based on input from the scientific community, service providers, and the public. [www.nrepp.samsha.gov](http://www.nrepp.samsha.gov)

### **Mental Health Care for Children and Adolescents in Foster Care: Review of Research Literature**

This review from Casey Family Programs surveys major findings gleaned from studies about the evidence base for mental health care and about related class action law suits. The review also outlines steps that will improve the mental health services delivered to children and youth in foster care. <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/MentalHealthReview.htm>

The STAR-Center works with children and youth who have mental health treatment needs. The website below is a great source of valuable information for families, clinicians and researchers who are interested in child and adolescent mental health issues. This website serves as a national resource for youth with mood and anxiety disorders by developing and testing innovative treatments and disseminating these innovations to patients, families, and practitioners. <http://www.moodykids.org>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Diversity Task Force of the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program would like to invite Child Welfare Professionals from across the Commonwealth to its Annual Training Event. The theme for the training event is, "**Engaging Fathers to Promote Permanency: The Other Part of Me.**" Workshops are designed to raise awareness of the safety, permanence, and well-being issues that must be planned for when ensuring permanency for children and to stimulate dialogue on the critical issue of permanency for children of color. Participants will engage in discussions designed to surface solutions and utilize promising practices.

Engaging Fathers to Promote Permanency: The Other Part of Me is being held at the Child Welfare Training Program on **Thursday, April 26, 2007 from 8 am to 4:30 pm.** There are three sessions being presented at the event:

- **The Paternity Puzzle** - presented by Eleanor Bush, Esq.
  - This session examines the legal implications of fatherhood in the child welfare system.
- **Fatherhood: A Cultural Perspective** - presented by Robert Brinker
  - Different cultural viewpoints on fatherhood are explored and discussed during this session.
- **Engaging Fathers: A Youth Perspective** - presented by the PA Youth Advisory Board
  - Hear directly from youth in the child welfare system about their experiences.

The cost for this training event is \$12.50. Lunch is included. **To register, please contact Amy Holmes at 717-795-9048 extension 265.**

**The Nineteenth Children's Interagency Training Conference** will be held **April 24-27, 2007**, at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College. The theme is "**How Does Your Garden Grow? Cultivating Cross-System, Family-Driven, and Youth-Guided Partnerships.**" There are more than 100 workshops and institute topics to choose from, plus three general sessions featuring nationally known speakers, a youth track planned by and for youth, and—for the first time—a poster session featuring more than 25 presentations on current research and innovative programming in children's human services. This conference represents a true interagency partnership, as many cross-systems partners have been involved in helping to plan presentations for folks in all the child-serving systems. This year we have also planned specifically for several content areas of concentration, including school-based behavioral health, early childhood mental health, transition, trauma, family issues, and others.

HTML text: <http://pacassp.psych.psu.edu/docs/2007conferenceoverview.htm> (with additional links to more information)

**Pathways to Adulthood National Independent Living/Transitional Living 2007 Conference** provides a forum for participants to build skills, learn about effective programs and best practices based upon the Administration for Children and Families' priorities and the focus of programs of the Children's Bureau (Independent Living, Transitioning to Self-Sufficiency, Permanency, and Youth Adoptions), and the Family and Youth Services Bureau (Transitional Living Programs, Mentoring Children of Prisoners, Abstinence Education, and Human Trafficking), and to share their own experiences with others in their field. The conference will be held May 9-11, 2007, in Minneapolis, MN. Register online: <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/conferences/npta07/about.htm>

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**IL/SWAN Summer Statewide Meeting on July 10-11, 2007.** The Statewide Meeting will be held at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg. More details will be available shortly.

**2007 Pennsylvania Permanency Conference on July 11-13, 2007.** The conference will be held at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg, PA. This year the keynote speakers will be George

Duvall, from the University of Kentucky and Dr. Robert Brooks of Harvard Medical School. More information can be found soon at [www.diakon-swan.org](http://www.diakon-swan.org).

## IL PEOPLE IN TRANSITION

**Carrie Moore**, IL caseworker at Cen-Clear Child Services, has accepted a position at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. She will be a vocational specialist on staff there. Best wishes, Carrie!

**Dan Chadwick**, the Interdependent Living (IL) program supervisor at Family Services of Northwest Pennsylvania has accepted a new position at his agency. Best of luck, Dan!

Welcome to IL! **Tracy Mari** has joined the staff at Fayette County CYS and serves as the IL caseworker.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

### UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH IL PROJECT

Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program  
403 East Winding Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
717.795.9048

<b>TODD LLOYD</b> , IL Unit Lead	Ext. 207 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tel11@pitt.edu">tel11@pitt.edu</a>
<b>JUSTIN LEE</b> , IL Specialist	484.553.6343 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jml75@pitt.edu">jml75@pitt.edu</a>
<b>STEPHEN EIDSON</b> , IL Specialist	814.598.2747 E-mail: <a href="mailto:see13@pitt.edu">see13@pitt.edu</a>
<b>ANN MOLSKY</b> , IL Administrative Assistant	Ext. 231 E-mail: <a href="mailto:akm9@pitt.edu">akm9@pitt.edu</a>

#### David Derbes

Grant Programs Supervisor  
Division of Program Development  
OCYF/DPW  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bertolino Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
717.705.2911  
[dderbes@state.pa.us](mailto:dderbes@state.pa.us)