

August 2005

Youth in the Child Welfare System

National Curriculum for Case Management in Juvenile Dependency Cases Involving Foster Care

This curriculum, developed by a partnership of national judicial organizations, is aimed at improving the court system's ability to oversee the movement of foster care cases in order to shorten the time needed for children to reach permanency. It emphasizes the need for state courts and child welfare agencies to work together to improve outcomes for children and is designed to foster collaboration between these two key entities.

<http://jeritt.msu.edu/whatsnew.asp>

Improving Quality of Care for the Most Vulnerable Children, Youth, and Families: Finding Consensus

Vulnerable families are often the most in need of multiple services and community supports to address their behavioral health needs. These needs are often exacerbated by larger social conditions such as poverty, racism, violence, and untreated trauma. The solution lies in an integrated response because no one child- or family-serving system has the resources to address person-specific issues and the larger social conditions that affect them. This is the first of two monographs to be released to support a consensus agenda for systems-culture change. It addresses what we know and what we are learning to improve the quality of care for our most vulnerable children, youth and families. <http://www.cwla.org/programs/bhd/qualityofcare.htm>

Asking the Right Questions: A Judicial Checklist to Ensure That the Educational Needs of Children and Youth in Foster Care are Being Addressed

This Technical Assistance Brief from the Permanency Planning for Children Department of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Justices provides a field-tested checklist that judges can use to make inquiries regarding the educational needs of children and youth under their jurisdiction with the goal of positively impacting their educational outcomes and preparing them for adulthood.

<http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/340/322/>

Facilitating Permanency for Youth

This book is the third in a series of Child Welfare League of America "Toolboxes for Permanency." It focuses on promising practices and approaches shown to promote permanency for youth. Contents include a current literature and research review; highlights of promising strategies, partnerships, and innovative public policies; case review prototypes; strategies for including the adolescent in the service planning process; definitions of outcomes for adolescent permanency; and many other areas. This book will provide practitioners with the vision and the practical guidance needed to facilitate and support permanency for youth and thus improve youth chances for safety, permanency, and well-being. <http://www.cwla.org/pubs/pubdetails.asp?PUBID=10048>

Social Costs: The Effects of Child Maltreatment

The Australian Institute of Family Studies provides an overview of research on the connection between child maltreatment and a wide range of immediate and long-term negative outcomes. <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/sheets/rs9.html>



Critical Issues in Independent Living

Understanding Substance Abuse and Facilitating Recovery: A Guide for Child Welfare

To help child welfare workers recognize the impact of substance abuse on families, the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare has released this new publication, which discusses the relationship of alcohol and drugs to families in the child welfare system; provides information on the biological, psychological, and social processes of alcohol and drug addiction; describes strategies to facilitate and support alcohol and drug treatment and recovery; and explains the benefits of partnering with substance abuse treatment and dependency court systems to improve outcomes for children of parents with substance use disorders.

<http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/products.asp>

Methamphetamine and Family-Centered Child Welfare Practice

More and more states are experiencing a rise in child welfare cases related to the production and/or use of methamphetamine. This issue of Children's Service Practice Notes from the North Carolina Division of Social Services and the Family and Children's Resource Program of Jordan Institute for Families and the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is devoted to information about meth and responding to its challenges in an effective, family-centered way. http://www.practicenotes.org/vol10_no2.htm

The Methamphetamine Epidemic

This National Public Radio site <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4726336> provides information about the growing crisis caused by methamphetamine, which is being faced by both law enforcement and child welfare in many states. In addition, it links to a study from the National Association of Counties on the effects this drug's manufacture and use is having on children. The New York Times also published an article on this subject on July 11:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/11/national/11meth.html?>

Suicide Risk Assessment Protocols Study Available

"American Indian Suicides in Jail: Can Risk Screening Be Culturally Sensitive?" (16 pp.) (NCJ 207326) suggests that suicide risk assessment protocols tailored to the cultural backgrounds of detainee populations might be more effective than an impersonally administered approach. In view of American Indians' high incarceration rate and risk for suicide, a more culturally sensitive risk assessment protocol could be designed. <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/207326.pdf>

Working with Youth in Transition

SAT and College Application Fee Waiver Requests

The Independent Living Project provides fee waivers for the SAT for juniors and seniors as well as fee waiver requests for college admission applications. Youth must be registered in PILOTS to qualify for the waivers. Forms are available from Ann Molsky at the Independent Living Project. Contact her at akm9@pitt.edu or 717.795.9048, ext. 231.

Enhancing State Child Welfare Services for Immigrant and Migrant Children

At the 15th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), convened a roundtable to provide an opportunity for child welfare providers to share their experiences and expertise and discuss the issues and recommendations for care. http://www.brycs.org/brycs_resources.

Independent Living and Special Needs Youth

Youthhood Website Launched

The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) has launched its new Youth Web site, www.Youthhood.org, where "childhood meets adulthood." The site is a welcoming community for young adults with disabilities -- transition-aged youth can start thinking about what they want to do with the rest of their lives. In addition to developing goals for their future, other activities provide opportunities for young people to connect what's important to them to their learning experiences. Designed primarily for teenagers, the site also provides students and their teachers, mentors, and parents with an online, research-based transition curriculum focused on preparing for life after high school. The site's organization uses the metaphor of a neighborhood, with each content area reflecting a place in the neighborhood that youth can "visit." There are seven main content areas:

- The Homepage: orienting to and registering with the Web site in order to maximize its usefulness;
- The High School: current schooling and planning for postsecondary education;
- The Job Center: career exploration and employment;
- The Community Center: youth leadership and community involvement;
- The Hangout: knowing yourself, having friends, having fun, and methods of dealing with teasing and bullying;
- The Health Clinic: staying healthy and making good health choices;
- The Government Center: knowing your rights and responsibilities as a teenager, and getting help; and
- The Apartment: being independent – finding a place to live, transportation, finances, family, safety, and more.

Investigate this distinctive website by going to <http://www.youthhood.org/>.

Disability Mentoring Day Announced

Disability Mentoring Day, a national effort to promote the employment of students with disabilities through personal mentoring, will be held on October 19th this year. Disability Mentoring Day promotes career development for students and job-seekers with disabilities through job shadowing and hands-on career exploration. It is a partnership between the Office of Disability Employment Policy of the US Department of Labor and the American Association of Persons with Disabilities. In 2004, 9,000 youth with disabilities from all 50 states, Washington DC, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico gained a first-hand look into career opportunities as they spent the day in over 1,500 businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations. In addition, Disability Mentoring Day activities expanded internationally to more than 20 countries.

This is an excellent opportunity to kick off a year round mentoring initiative in your community. To participate in Disability Mentoring Day activities visit <http://www.dmd-aapd.org/>.

Disability Disclosure Workbook Available

A new publication of NCWD/Youth, *The 411 on Disability Disclosure: A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities* is now available online at http://ncwd-youth.info/resources_&_Publications/411.html. This workbook will help young people make informed decisions about whether or not to disclose their disability and understand how that decision may impact their education, employment, and social lives. Based on the premise that disclosure is a very personal decision, the *Workbook* will help young people think about and practice disclosing their disability.

People in the News

Snyder County is getting a new IL worker. **Donna Shriver** will be moving into the IL worker position late this summer; she has worked for the agency for a number of years. You can reach her at dshriver@snydercounty.org

The new IL coordinator/supervisor for Snyder County is **Natalie Chesney**. She has worked for the county for a number of years and can be reached at nchesney@snydercounty.org.

Welcome to the IL community, **Donna** and **Natalie**!

Michelle Finn, the Lycoming County IL coordinator is leaving for CWEL. Good luck, **Michelle**!

If you have news to share, please e-mail Steve Eidson for inclusion in the next UPDATE.

Professional Development Opportunities

Daniel Memorial's National Independent Living Conference, "**Growing Pains**," will be held on September 21-24 at the Westin Peachtree Hotel in Atlanta. www.danielkids.org

SAVE THE DATES! Independent Living and SWAN are going to partner for combined training opportunities starting this fall. More details and information will be available soon, but save these dates for fall regional meetings:

- Thursday, October 6, Radisson Expo Mart, Pittsburgh.
- Friday, October 7, Holiday Inn, Beaver Falls,
- Wednesday, October 12, Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg.
- Monday, October 24, Radisson Lackawanna Station, Scranton.
- Tuesday, November 1, Radisson Valley Forge, Trevoese.
- Wednesday, November 2, Embassy Suites Airport, Philadelphia.

Symposium on Law and Adolescence. Co-Sponsored by the Law Review of the Temple University Beasley School of Law and Juvenile Law Center, March 17-18, 2006 in honor of the Juvenile Law Center's 30th anniversary, the symposium will examine society's treatment of state-involved adolescent youth (i.e., youth involved in the child welfare, juvenile or criminal justice systems). More information is available at www.jlc.org

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