

Improving Access to College and Employment

Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)

Youth planning to enroll in college this spring or next summer should complete the Chafee ETG application in addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) worksheet. Chafee ETG applications for the 2008-2009 academic year are still available at www.pheaa.org. If your youth or you have questions about current Chafee applications or a youth's status, please contact PHEAA at 1-800-831-0797. If you have Aftercare youth who plan to move to another state and enroll in a college or university there, they can find information on the ETG programs in other states at: www.statevoucher.org

SAT Fee Waivers are available from the IL Project

You can obtain SAT fee waivers for juniors and SAT fee waivers/college application fee waivers for seniors entered into PILOTS from Janice Coplin at jtc30@pitt.edu or 717.795.9048, ext. 231.

A Superintendent's Guide for Planning Multiple Pathways to Graduation

District leaders in cities around the country are creating promising strategies to re-engage students who are slipping off-track to graduation and get them on their way to a diploma. This guide from the Youth Transition Funders Group helps districts plan a comprehensive reform process to increase graduation rates for all students.

www.ytfg.org/documents/closingthegraduationgapfinal13October2008.pdf

Helping Youth Succeed in School or the Workforce

From Corporate Voices for Working Families, this paper outlines four types of policy recommendations: increase and broaden learning opportunities, create alternative pathways to work, value higher education and lifelong learning and improve the coordination of programs for disconnected youth. With these policies, leaders can ensure all young people are ready to enter the workforce. www.cvworkeingfamilies.org/download



Youth Voices – Resources and Advice for First Generation College Students

The youth-generated site, What Kids Can Do (WKCD) has expanded its "First in the Family" site. Now, in addition to first-hand multimedia resources and advice for high school students, there's a major new section designed to help those in college make it to a four-year degree.

www.firstinthefamily.org/collegetyears/index.html

Transitions to Permanency

Emancipated Youth Connections Project (EYCP)

In 2005, funding was obtained from the Stuart and Zellerbach Family Foundations to develop a model program to seek and sustain permanent lifelong connections for older youth who have already emancipated from foster care without a permanent connection to a caring adult. Service was provided through June 2007 to twenty young adults who have emancipated from the child welfare system and who have been instrumental in promoting the idea that permanence for foster youth is critical. This project used lessons learned from other programs nationally that have been successful in establishing permanency connections for youth before they left the child welfare system. EYCP adapted these lessons in order to develop a model of service to young adults who have now left the child welfare system. EYCP made significant changes to existing models in order to address the needs and the current developmental stage of this young adult population. This process has led to the creation of a new model which will be made available to "After Care" programs and to others who are interested in providing service to this population group. Information on the project's toolkit and other resources are available at www.cpy.org

Children's Cabinets and Councils – Working to Improve Well-Being for Young People

State and local children's cabinets and councils help to foster the well-being of young people -- so just what is a children's cabinet? It typically includes agency and program leaders who meet on a regular basis to coordinate services and funding, develop common outcomes and manage a plan for child well-being. In this series, the Forum for Youth Investment looks at the emerging lessons and experiences of children's cabinets and councils. www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/node/54

Permanency through Collaboration between Delinquency and Dependency Courts

This paper, from The Center on Children and the Law, describes efforts in Idaho to bridge the gap between child welfare and juvenile justice proceedings to assist youth with cases pending simultaneously in each system. This paper includes tips for creating a dual issue system.

http://www.abanet.org/child/08_05_Vol10Iss2.pdf

Reconnecting Youth

2009 Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) and Restorative Conferencing for Youth Justice (RCYJ) Webinar Series

Through this webinar series offered by American Humane, participants will be able to: Hone their FGDM and RCYJ skills; Talk with other coordinators, facilitators or workers who are engaged in the implementation of FGDM or other family engagement approaches; Form a peer network; Learn and reflect more on the nuances of using family engagement in their work. Further details, including registration information and the dates, times, and topics of each webinar, are available online. <http://site.americanhumane.org/site/DocServer/2009...>

Size of Drug Problem in Juvenile Justice Depends on Where You Look

Chapin Hall research fellow Jeffrey Butts is now a regular contributor to Reclaiming Futures Every Day, an initiative to disseminate news, research, and information on juvenile justice reform and teen drug treatment. In this entry he discusses how drug behaviors of youthful offenders at the earliest stages of justice involvement resemble those in the general population, but increase in severity among youth more deeply involved in the juvenile justice process. www.chapinhall.org

Youth-Adult Partnerships in Public Action (Study)

The Forum partnered with the University of Wisconsin's Center for Nonprofits to publish Youth-Adult Partnerships in Public Action: Principles, Organizational Culture and Outcomes. This study focuses on how organizations translate principles of youth engagement into practice and build a culture of partnership, as well as the outcomes - for young people, institutions and communities - that can result when they do. The research focuses on two organizations, Austin Voices for Education and Youth and Oasis Community IMPACT in Nashville, TN, but the lessons can help any organization committed to meaningful youth engagement advance their efforts in concrete ways. <http://forumfyi.org/node/581>

Supports for Youth with Disabilities: Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network (PYLN)

Each month join the PYLN for a lively chat for youth and young adults on topics that are important to their future. These calls are led by youth and young adults who are excited about sharing their experiences and insights with participants. During each call we will have time for youth to share their stories and ask questions. Calls are based upon a new resources developed by youth for youth called the PYLN Secondary Toolkit. Please visit the PYLN website at www.pyln.pbwiki.com for additional information.

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

7 to 8 P.M. EST

Call 1-309-946-5255

Enter the access code 376191#

Audio Recording: The Real Costs of Teen Pregnancy

This child public policy forum in Chicago explored the many costs and varied policy implications of teen motherhood. Chapin Hall research fellow Robert Goerge discussed the increased risks that children of teen mothers face of being maltreated and placed into foster care. Other panelists analyzed additional challenges, such as higher levels of incarceration. Private and public programs that reduce teen pregnancy and help teen mothers avoid bearing a second child were also explored. Chapin Hall executive director Matthew Stagner moderated the discussion.

Listen to the recording from October 23rd at www.chapinhall.org

Educational Needs of Homeless Youth

This study examines a group of homeless children enrolled in the Chicago Public Schools who received shelter from Inner Voice, an agency that provides services to chronically homeless families. Overall, homeless children were found to have high levels of school mobility, academic difficulties, and special education needs. The study includes discussion of policy implications for public schools and homeless shelters to work together to better address the educational needs of homeless children. Read the report, **Educating Homeless Children in Chicago: A Case Study of Children in the Family Regeneration Program** by Amy Dworsky at www.chapinhall.org

Engaging Fathers

Engaging Fathers in Early Childhood Education (ECE) Programs

Parents as Teachers National Center has a new resource which can be used when working with fathers. Funded through the Missouri Office of Head Start, *Focus on Fathers* is a FREE curriculum which can be downloaded from the Parents as Teachers National Center website. Focus on Fathers addresses universal parenting concerns and can be used with all types of fathers. It contains 12 facilitated group meeting plans on topics ranging from discipline and ways to play to self-esteem and choosing child care. www.parentsasteachers.org

The Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System (QIC-NRF) Announces First Newsletter

QIC-NRF is proud to announce its first quarterly newsletter! This newsletter will share the most current information and activities of the QIC-NRF and its fatherhood project sites. The newsletters will feature articles that relate to the themes of the model curriculum, explain the project, share lessons learned and highlight QIC-NRF's various partners' and fathers' success stories. Newsletters will be posted quarterly on the QIC-NRF's website. The first edition includes an introduction to the project, a description of each site, an overview of the model curriculum, tips for non-resident fathers, and a feature biography on a dad/project member from the site in Seattle, Washington. <http://www.abanet.org/child/fathers/qicnewsletter.html>

Involved in the Criminal Justice System

Between 1991 and 1999, the percentage of children with an incarcerated father increased by 58 percent. There is more interest in developing programs that specifically address the needs of fathers in the criminal justice system. A new National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse brief authored by Child Trends, "*What Works*" in Programs Serving Fathers Involved in the Criminal Justice System? *Lessons from Evidence-Based Evaluations*, identifies eight common features of "model" programs for fathers involved in the criminal justice system. These features are derived from four experimentally-evaluated programs; only these four programs, out of the 20 reviewed for this brief, fit the criteria as "model" programs.

<http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/64277.pdf>

Note: A more detailed report, *Elements of Promising Practice in Programs Serving Fathers Involved in the Criminal Justice System*, provides additional information about the 20 fatherhood programs, including the four that fit the criteria as "model" programs.

<http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/library/docs/fatherhd/Blob/64589.pdf>

Training Program Staff: Five Tips for Fatherhood Programs.

This publication from the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse promotes the view that effective implementation of fatherhood programs requires staff who are knowledgeable about the program and its participants. Training can provide program staff with the knowledge to become competent in program content, sensitive to participants' cultural backgrounds, and aware of fathers' instructional preferences. This brief provides five tips for training fatherhood program staff successfully. <http://www.fatherhood.gov>

Program Resources

Expanded Child Welfare Workforce and Training Resources from the Child Welfare Information Gateway

Child Welfare Information Gateway has expanded its website to offer separate web sections on workforce and training. With increased resources, now organized by topic, the two new sections take a broader look at the issues to better meet the information needs of child welfare and related professionals. The Workforce section covers: the workforce crisis; leadership development; managing an effective organization; supervision; recruitment and hiring; retention, including worker safety. The Training section points to State child welfare training models, provides topically organized training materials in English and Spanish, and links to resources on various aspects of training, including: professional development; training for administrators, supervisors, caseworkers, families, and community partners; assessment and evaluation; education and training organizations, including social work programs. Both new web sections provide a special page featuring Workforce and Training tools, such as checklists, guidebooks, and other concrete aids for strengthening the workforce and enhancing training.

Workforce section: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/workforce>

Training Section: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/training>

Sharing Family Strengths Activity Booklet

Family & Children's Service in Minneapolis has published the Sharing Family Strengths Activity Booklet, a resource being made available at no cost to families, teachers, mental health professionals, social workers, and community professionals who work with kids and families. The 16-page hands-on guide is designed with the goal of helping parents and children identify and nurture family strengths through fun activities and helpful ideas. The Sharing Family Strengths Activity Booklet is available free while supplies last. To request a hard copy or download an e-copy in PDF format, visit their website. <http://www.everyfamilymatters.org>

Systems of Care Publications from the National Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center

The National Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center for the nine Children's Bureau Systems of Care grantees has published its latest *A Closer Look* publication, in which each edition focuses on one of the systems of care principles. This edition focuses on the principle of Interagency Collaboration. This edition and other editions, which are focused on the principles of an Individualized, Strengths-Based Approach to Child Welfare and Family Involvement, are accessible on the Child Welfare Information Gateway website.

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/service/soc/communicate/initiative/closerlook/>

Family Group Decision-Making (FGDM) Toolkit

The FGDM Leadership Team, with assistance from the Child Welfare Training Program, developed a new FGDM resource entitled, *Pennsylvania Family Group Decision Making Toolkit: A Resource to Guide and Support Best Practice Implementation*. The Toolkit includes 400 pages of organizational assessments, FGDM forms, PowerPoint's, comments from FGDM participants, and many more resources related to transition planning for older youth and FGDM conferences that will help communities as they implement, sustain, and expand their FGDM practice. The Toolkit is available on the PACWTP website at

http://www.pacwcbt.pitt.edu/FGDM_Resources.htm.

FGDM trainings are also regularly scheduled through the Child Welfare Training Program and can be found in the Training Calendar. Statewide Implementation Teams are held regularly in Mechanicsburg and open to anyone for learning and networking opportunities. Contact the Child Welfare Training Program for more information about FGDM.

Assessment and Intervention Strategies

Review of Tools Assessing Independent Living Programs

The Independent Living Program (ILP) helps youth in foster care transition to independent living by equipping them with the skills they need to live as adults. To advance evidence-based practice in this area, researchers conducted a study of tools designed to evaluate the effectiveness of ILPs. Using a "rapid instrument review" process, eight tools were identified in the IL Resources – December 2008

literature. These were organized into two groups: life skills instruments and ILP service assessments. Only four instruments reported any statistical properties, and only one showed fair to excellent reliability for measuring outcomes of ILPs. The study's authors discuss the results in the context of evidence-based practice in child welfare. To identify what works best for children and families, researchers need to develop and test evaluation tools, and the statistical properties of these tools must be reported. Tools need to be administered across populations and across time, and information about reliability and validity needs to be readily accessible.

"A Rapid Instrument Review (RIR) of Independent Living Program (ILP) Evaluation Tools" was published in the *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, Vol. 2(2), and is available at:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15548730802312818>

Funding Opportunities and Sustainability

HUD Announces \$20 Million NOFA for Family Unification Program (FUP)

Yesterday, November 24, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued the 2008 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Family Unification Program (FUP). Public housing authorities across the country are invited to apply to receive a portion of \$20 million in new Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers under FUP. FUP provides dedicated housing vouchers to families involved in the child welfare system. The vouchers are used to help reunify or preserve families at risk of separation primarily due to a lack of appropriate housing. FUP vouchers are also available to be used to help prevent homelessness among youth ages 18 to 21 aging out of the foster care system. Applications to receive FUP funding are due by January 28, 2009. www.nchcw.org.



Strengthening Out-Of-School Time Nonprofits: The Role of Foundations in Building Organizational Capacity

Commissioned by the Wallace Foundation as part of a three-part series on strengthening out-of-school time (OST), this paper looks at the role that foundations can play in building OST nonprofits' organizational capacity. In it, we suggest seven possible approaches to strengthening OST organizations, including methods to ensure that providers become stronger partners with other groups and more adept advocates for their field.

■ OST Nonprofits as Change Agents

In the national debate over how to reframe learning opportunities, many agree that it is not enough to simply lengthen the school day and year. Central to this new vision for learning is the role that OST nonprofits play in operating after school and summer learning programs throughout the country. These nonprofits have the potential to be powerful change agents in developing, implementing, evaluating, and advocating for a new vision of learning in which all children get the opportunities they need to succeed in the 21st century.

■ Developing High-Impact Organizations

What supports will enable OST nonprofits to become a powerful collective "force for good" working together to support access to an array of integrated learning supports for all children? This paper answers that question by provoking a broad discussion about what is necessary to meet the challenges of developing high-impact nonprofits that work together and with others to create a system of diverse and quality learning opportunities from prekindergarten through high school. Not available from HFRP but can be downloaded from The Wallace Foundation at

www.wallacefoundation.org/wallace/whitepaper_weiss.pdf

Effective Advocacy Handbook for Nonprofit Organizations

Effective advocacy, especially at the local and State levels, can help promote a nonprofit organization's mission and enhance services and funding. A new online booklet, *Effective Advocacy at All Levels of Government*, is designed to prepare nonprofit organizations for engaging in advocacy by exploring the following elements: generalized processes and principles of how to influence public policy; guiding questions that will help translate an understanding of general principles into appropriate strategies; case stories and sample advocacy plans. This publication also provides an extensive list of advocacy resources, and users may find it helpful to view sample advocacy plans from the Montana Nonprofit Association and Des Moines Public Schools. *Effective Advocacy at All Levels of Government* was developed through a partnership between the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest.

<http://www.wkkf.org/advocacyhandbook/index.htm>

Grant: GTECH After School Advantage Program

GTECH, a gaming and lottery company, offers funds to provide nonprofit community agencies and public schools with state-of-the-art computer labs. **Deadline: open.**

www.gtech.com/about_gtech/proposal_guidelines.asp

Positive Youth Development**WA State Survey of Hundreds of Youth in Foster Care**

The most extensive single-state survey of foster youth anywhere in the country was recently released by Washington State officials as part of the state's efforts to reform its foster care system. It is one of the only surveys of foster youth in which they were questioned directly about their experiences. More than 700 youth aged 15 to 18 were surveyed by phone on a range of issues, including education, caseworker relationships, health and safety, contact with parents and siblings, overall treatment, and plans for the future. Additionally, about 35 current and former foster youth ages 14 to 20 were also interviewed face-to-face in discussion groups, where they talked about the same issues raised in the survey. The survey participation rate was high: 706 of the 879 youth and/or caregivers successfully contacted agreed to be interviewed. This reflects what interviewers experienced in conducting the surveys- foster youth are very interested in offering their views and sharing their experiences. The full survey report, survey outcomes report, summary of survey results, and summary of youth discussion groups are available online on the National Center for Youth Law website. <http://www.youthlaw.org/publications/yln/2008...>

Professional Development Opportunities**IL/SWAN Winter Statewide Meeting**

Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, January 28-29, 2009 More information is coming your way soon. **Carlos Ojeda**, a former foster youth and now an educator at Kutztown University is confirmed as the opening keynote speaker.

**Power Through Knowledge: 8th Independent Living Disabilities Conference
April 2-4, 2009. Harrisburg**

Independent Living advocates from across the state will gather in Harrisburg on April 2-4, 2009 for the 8th Power Through Knowledge Independent Living Conference. The 3-day event is the largest cross-disability conference in the state and is hugely popular with IL veterans and newcomers. The conference will feature more than 25 amazing workshops with topic for the experienced conference attendees and the first-timers! Plus, entertaining dinners, a national disability history exhibit, a march to the state Capitol and rally, an Independent Living Expo feature produces and services that promote independence. www.PaSILC.org

STAR-Center Training:**March 9, 2009 - King of Prussia,**

"Cognitive Behavior Therapy: Techniques for Today's Troubled Teens"

Conducted by Kim Poling, LCSW, Clinical Program Manager, STAR-Center, and Monica Yeater, Psy.D., STAR-Center Clinician.

"Evidence-Based Practices for Educating Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders"

Conducted by Mary Margaret Kerr, Ed.D., Director, STAR-Center Outreach, Associate Professor of Education and Psychiatry

May 15, 2009 - Pittsburgh, PA

"Helping Teens and Families Manage Self-Injurious Behaviors"

Conducted by Kim Poling, LCSW, Clinical Coordinator, STAR-Center, and Tina Goldstein, Ph.D.,

"Evidence-Based Practices for Educating Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders"

Conducted by Mary Margaret Kerr, Ed.D., Director, STAR-Center Outreach, Associate Professor of Education and Psychiatry

Complete details and registration forms will be posted to www.starcenter.pitt.edu as soon as they are available.

IL/SWAN Summer Statewide Meeting

Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, June 23-24, 2009

17th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference

Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, June 24-26, 2009

Independent Living Project Updates:

Pennsylvania Independent Living Statewide Youth Retreat

Next year's statewide IL Youth Retreat is being planned for July 13-17, 2009 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The theme, "DREAM -- (Determine, Realize, Educate, Achieve, and Motivate) was suggested by Ivory Bennett, a high school senior from Allegheny County. The banquet speaker on July 16th is going to be Jaia Johns. More information will be sent to IL programs in the coming months.

Know Your Rights Manual Trainings

The Know Your Rights manual, which was developed by the Juvenile Law Center, Kids Voice and the Youth Advisory Board, has been recently updated. Training is available in your area from the Juvenile Law Center, Kids Voice or the IL Project staff at the University of Pittsburgh. If you have not already submitted a request for training, please contact your IL specialist at Pitt and we'll arrange for one of the groups to provide training for your youth, staff and/or partners.

Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) training

Justin Lee and Steve Eidson recently completed a three-day training from Casey Family Programs are certified to train programs about the ACLSA and its many advantages and resources for youth and programs. If you'd like to learn more about the ACLSA and how it could be used (or better utilized) by your program, please let either Justin or Steve know.

People in Transition – Congratulations to:

Cindy Love, who has been named to the new position of IL coordinator at Greene County CYS.

Emily Straitiff, who is the new IL coordinator for Clarion County CYS. **Todd Kline**, the former coordinator, who is now the IL supervisor.

Doug Ponzer, who has been named the IL program supervisor at Family Services of Northwestern Pennsylvania in Erie County.

Heather Finnegan, who is the new IL coordinator for Sullivan County.

Mike Alston, long-time IL supervisor for Beaver County CYS, who is retiring at the end of January, 2009.

Debbie Ross, who has resigned her position with the Valley Youth House IL program in Montgomery County.

Becky Birenbaum, who has been hired as the supervisor for the Valley Youth House IL program in Montgomery County and to **Chaz Carr** and **Rebekah Fleming**, who have joined the program staff.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU FROM:

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH IL PROJECT

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