

**FEBRUARY 2005  
THINK SPRING!**

## **Preparing Youth for the Workforce**

### **EEOC YOUTH WEBSITE OPENS**

Youth At Work, the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) has created a website for youth in the workforce. The goal of the EEOC is to eliminate illegal discrimination from the workplace for all workers. This website is designed to teach youth about their rights and responsibilities as an employee and can be found at <http://youth.eeoc.gov>.

### **WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) has two resources that can be helpful in your exchanges with individuals with disabilities.

A section on the NCWD/Youth website called "Disability Basics" can help you work with people with disabilities. It includes language and etiquette tips as well as information on specific disabilities. It can be found at [http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources\\_&Publications/disability\\_Basics/index.html](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&Publications/disability_Basics/index.html).

The second resource is an Info-Brief, also found on the website, called "Disability Inquiries in the Workforce Development System." This publication is for those youth and transition to adulthood service providers who interact with individuals with disabilities. It is designed to help clarify what you can and cannot ask about someone's disability. The Info-Brief can be downloaded at [http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources\\_&Publications/disability\\_inquiries.html](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&Publications/disability_inquiries.html).

## **Working with "At Risk" Populations**

### **GUIDE OFFERS SCREENING ASSESSMENT RESOURCES**

"Screening and Assessing Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Among Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: A Resource Guide for Practitioners" (84 pp.) (NCJ 204956) offers information on screening instruments, selection guidelines, and best practices. It is available only online. **Access full text at:** <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11936>

### **PROMISING PRACTICES IN MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**

The National Mental Health Association has published "Mental Health Treatment for Youth In the Juvenile Justice System: A Compendium of Promising Practices" (23 pp.), which features information about special populations and youth with co-occurring disorders: <http://www.nmha.org/children/JJCompendiumofBestPractices.pdf>

### **TRUANCY RESOURCES FROM THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

OJJDP announces the availability of many truancy resources on its Web site. Users will find publications and Web resources <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org>.



### **ARIZONA DUAL JURISDICTIONAL STUDY**

For this study of cases in Arizona in which children were involved with the court system both as a result of maltreatment and through juvenile delinquency, the National Center for Juvenile Justice was asked to examine barriers to effective court handling of dual jurisdiction cases. The final report provides a number of recommendations to address the challenges in working with these youth and their families. <http://www.supreme.state.az.us/>

### **THE VILLAGE EXPERIMENT: RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FOR FAMILIES**

The Village South, Inc., in Miami, Florida, offers comprehensive substance abuse treatment and prevention services to adults, adolescents, and children. Their Families in Transition program, launched in the early 1990s as one of the Nation's first 11 federally funded programs for women with children, has provided services to nearly 800 parents and approximately 2,000 children. This article in NIDA Science & Practice Perspectives discusses the philosophy behind FIT's family-focused residential treatment program, characterizes its participants, describes its challenges and successes, and points out research needs that have come to light through experience with mothers and children in treatment. <http://www.nida.nih.gov/Perspectives/vol2no2.html>

## **Expanding IL: Going Beyond Chafee Dollars**

### **YOUTH TRANSITION FUNDERS' GROUP**

The Youth Transition Funders' Group was formed in 1995 by advocates from foundations dedicated to improving the lives of our nation's most vulnerable young people. Foundations involved in the YTFG are committed to achieving a common mission – ensuring that this nation's young people are successfully connected by age 25 to institutions and support systems that will enable them to succeed throughout adulthood. The YTFG is focusing explicitly on young people ages 14-24 likely to be disconnected from positive personal, family, community, and/or societal involvement because they dropped out of school; had a baby before age 20 without being married; are deeply involved in the juvenile or adult criminal justice system, and/or dropped out or "aged out" of the foster care system. <http://www.youthtransitions.org/>

## **Working with Youth in Transition**

### **SAT and COLLEGE FEE WAIVER REQUESTS FOR 2004-05**

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

### **THE EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF FOSTER CHILDREN**

This issue brief, based on two Chapin Hall studies – one of youth aging out of the children welfare system in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa, and the other of Chicago Public School students in substitute care – describes the educational status of these children and examines some of the challenges confronting child welfare and educational systems in their attempts to develop strategies to work together more productively to improve educational outcomes for them. [http://www.chapinhall.org/article\\_abstract](http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract)

### **RESOURCES FOR WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT FAMILIES**

The School of the 21st Century has developed a web site devoted to resources for immigrant families with young children and the professionals serving them. <http://www.yale.edu/21c/imresources.html>

## **FAIRWEATHER LODGES: A COMMUNITY LIVING OPTION FOR MH CLIENTS**

The Community Lodge Program helps people reintegrate into the community. Its goal is to provide emotional support, a place to live, and employment for its members. The program was developed by Dr. George Fairweather in California in 1963 as a result of extensive experimental research. In his studies, Dr. Fairweather found that people with serious mental illness are less likely to return to the hospital when they live and work together as a group, rather than live and work individually. His research also showed that the Lodge Program helps people stay in the community longer, provides more employment opportunities, and costs less than conventional treatment programs. Because of the success of the original groups, the Community Lodge Program has expanded considerably during the past 25 years, and there are now Lodges across the nation. For additional information visit: <http://thecccl.org>

## **Avoiding Common Mistakes on Financial Aid Applications**

If your IL youth are in the process of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; you can help them avoid some common mistakes which can delay the award process:

1. Leaving a question blank - all questions must be completed, including the income questions. If the answer is zero or isn't applicable, write 0.
2. Using the student's nickname on the FAFSA - students should use their legal name as it appears on their Social Security card (Step 1).
3. Skipping the questions about the highest grade level their father and mother completed (Step 1). The purpose of these questions is to qualify students for state scholarships for first generation college students.
4. Answering 'no' to the questions that ask if students are interested in work-study and student loans (Step 1). Answering 'no' to these questions will not get students more grant aid. . .and students are not obligated to take out a loan if they answer 'yes.'
5. Reporting income taxes withheld instead of the student's (Step 2) and their parent's (Step 4) actual income tax liability. This figure can be found on IRS 1040, line 60; 1040A, line 38; 1040EZ, line 10.
6. Reporting home equity as a parental asset (Step 4). Home equity is not considered an investment. Parents should also not include the cash value of life insurance, the value of retirement plans and the value of prepaid tuition plans as investments.
7. Not signing and dating the FAFSA (Step 7). An unsigned FAFSA will not be processed.

## **Staff Training Materials**

### **GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED YOUTH: RESOURCES FOR IL**

The current issue of the NYU Child Study Center Letter attempts to provide clarification about the developmental and social issues that confront GLB youth. It discusses myths and misconceptions, the specific developmental challenges for GLB youth in establishing their own identity, as well as risk factors affecting their health, social and emotional adjustment. Also discussed are the ways in which parents, teachers and other adults may be supportive and specific resources are listed. <http://www.aboutourkids.org/aboutour/letter/>

## **BRIDGING THE GAP: REFUGEE FAMILIES AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

BRYCS is a national technical assistance project working to broaden the scope of information and collaboration among service providers - in order to strengthen services to refugee youth, children and their families. The Publications section of its website contains several useful titles regarding foster care, family-centered, culturally relevant practice and permanency planning for refugee children. <http://www.brycs.org>

## **People in the News**

**Lisa Buratty-Kaltenbaugh** from the Somerset County IL program is expecting a baby in July. Congratulations!

**Heather McQuay** has joined the IL program in Snyder County. Welcome, Heather!

**Grant E. Collins II** will be joining Arbor E&T in Media on March 1st as Vice President. He is currently working in the Washington, DC area and will serve on the Leadership Team at Arbor E&T. Please welcome him to IL.

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

## **Professional Development Opportunities in 2005**

**Independent Living Statewide Meeting, "Building Bridges to Adulthood,"** Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, 28-29 April 2005.

**CASSP Children's Interagency Conference,** Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, 3-6 May 2005. Web site: <http://pacassp.psych.psu.edu>.

Daniel Memorial's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Foster Care Conference, **"Soaring to New Heights,"** will be held 18-20 May at the Omni Hotel in Jacksonville, FL.

**"Pathways to Adulthood: Independent Living/Transitional Living Conference,"** 18-20 May 2005. Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. Sponsored by US Department of Health and Human Services. For information: [www.nrcys.ou/nrcyd](http://www.nrcys.ou/nrcyd).

Pennsylvania IL Youth Retreat: **"Freedom, Focus, Future: Mission Independence,"** Penn State Mont Alto, 11-15 July 2005.

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

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