

January 2005
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Positive Youth Development: Practical Measures for IL

"SCARE TACTICS" DON'T HELP – AND MAY EVEN HURT – YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORTS

A special panel convened by the National Institutes of Health to assess currently available youth violence prevention programs has concluded that scare-tactic approaches are ineffective and possibly harmful. "The good news is that a number of intervention programs have been demonstrated to be effective through randomized controlled trials," said Dr. Robert L. Johnson, panel chair. The independent panel, which consisted of 13 members representing practitioners and researchers in health, economics, justice, and other relevant fields, presented their findings in a public session in mid-October. For more information, go to:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/oct2004/od-15.htm>

LEARNING AND LEADING: A TOOL KIT FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIC ACTIVITISM

This tool kit is a hands-on resource to apply civic engagement as a strategy for developing personal, community, and organizational leadership. Based on research conducted by Social Policy Research Associates and tested in communities across the United States, this tool kit addresses three areas of youth leadership development: Personal Leadership, which is tied to identity formation, Organizational Leadership, which expands on the role of young people as decision makers, and Community Leadership, which focuses on youth organizing as a catalyst for community change. For more information, go to: <http://www.theinnovationcenter.org>

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO SCHOOL REENTRY

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of "Overcoming Barriers to School Reentry." This 2-page Fact Sheet describes a model for overcoming barriers to school reentry developed by how the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES) in New York City. For more information, go to: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications>

GETTING PAID AND STAYING PAID: HOW TO MANAGE MONEY

This guide will help young people identify their own personal beliefs about money and their habits with it. The guide includes helpful, youth-friendly information on understanding a paycheck, saving money, filing taxes, the benefits and pitfalls of using credit, and more. The guide is accessible to a broad range of youth who are learning about finances independently or in a



classroom setting. A Facilitator Tips page is included to aid programs in incorporating it in their curricula. <http://www.nyec.org/financial>

Working with "At Risk" Populations

HUD RELEASES GUIDE TO COUNTING UNSHELTERED HOMELESS PEOPLE

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced the availability of a new guide to assist communities in collecting data on the number and characteristics of people who are homeless but living outside the housing continuum. The guide lays out the steps involved in three possible approaches and provides examples of their use by different communities. It includes relevant HUD definitions and standards, sample surveys and forms and other reference information. For more information, go to:

www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/library/countinghomeless/countingguide.pdf

IDEA PASSES WITH HOMELESS YOUTH PROVISIONS

On November 17, Congress passed H.R. 1350, the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004." The President signed the bill on December 3, 2004. H.R. 1350 contains numerous provisions related to the special education needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness. For more information, go to: <http://www.naehcy.org/IDEAfinalsummary.pdf>

Networking for the Casey Life Skills User

CASEY LIFE SKILLS LISTSERV NOW AVAILABLE

Intended for anyone in an administrative or clinical role with a public or private institution/agency, the listserv will periodically inform you about the latest Casey Life Skills (CLS) tools and updates. It will also be a place to share ideas and suggestions on how to use the CLS tools in clinical practice. If you would like to join, write to acls@casey.org and put **SUBSCRIBE ME: CASEY LIFE SKILLS LISTSERV** in the subject line.

Expanding IL: Going Beyond Chafee Dollars

Developing Quality Grant Proposals

Considering applying for a federal grant? This PowerPoint document makes a useful first step. In easy-to-read language, it outlines the basics of a quality proposal.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/quality_proposal.pdf

Justice Grants

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has a funding site and a list of state contacts for funding opportunities.

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/statecontacts/resourcelist.asp>

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/funding/funding.html>

Working with Youth in Transition

SAT and College Application Fee Waiver Requests for 2004-2005

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 or 717.795.9048, ext. 231.

Internet Resources

Gary Shuey, CYS Director in Cumberland County, shares two really interesting web sites designed for or of special interest to IL youth: www.fyi3.com and www.fosterclub.com. Please pass the information along to your youth.

SocialLearning.com is a catalog and secure online shopping website that provides several thousand quality training resources for **foster and adoptive care providers, independent living coordinators, juvenile justice counselors, schools, and social services professionals**. Now available on CD or DVD are two new series: HIV/STI Prevention and Healthy Steps for Teen Parents (Volumes 1-3.

After-school Program for Teens

Moving Beyond the Barriers

Would you like more kids to come more often to your after-school program? You're not alone. In this issue brief, the Harvard Family Research Project reviews the common barriers to youth participation – including students' desires to relax and "hang out" with friends, work and family responsibilities, boredom or disinterest, and transportation/safety challenges – and how to address them.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/afterschool/resources/issuebrief6.html>

MENTOR Launches Online After-School Program Clearinghouse

If you want to add a mentoring component to your after-school program, the new After-School Program Clearinghouse from MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership can give you guidance and tools to get started.

<http://www.mentoring.org/afterschool/index.adp>

Experience After School: Engaging Older Adults in After-School Programs

Community organizations can develop and enhance meaningful roles for older adults in after-school programs with the help of this Experience Corps toolkit.

<http://www.experiencecorps.org/news/afterschoolreport/index.html>

Staff Training Materials

Families for Teens: A Toolkit for Focusing, Educating and Motivating Staff

This toolkit was developed to guide discussions on key permanence concepts and issues. It is available for purchase, either as a print volume or as units for downloading. Each of the 40+ topics was first published as an issue of the online newsletter on adolescent permanence and includes a case study about actual teens in the child welfare system. Each topic ends with questions that will facilitate discussion. <http://www.thetoolkit.org/>

People in the News

Nicole Kovschak recently became the new IL coordinator in Mifflin County. She replaces Shannon Knisely. Welcome to IL, Nicole!

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

Professional Development Opportunities in 2005

2005 CASSP Children's Interagency Conference, Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, 3-6 May.

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

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

2005 Communities of Practice Transition Conference, Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, 20-22 July.

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