

July 2004

IL Statewide Meeting

The 2004 Independent Living Statewide Meeting was held June 3-4 at the Days Inn Penn State in State College. 125 people attended including representatives from county agencies and private providers, staff from the Department of Public Welfare/OCYF, Center for Excellence and CBT. Five youth from IL programs also attended and participated in a Youth Leadership track, which was conducted by Jodi Wadel from CBT. Other highlights of this year's meeting, "Systems of Care: Youth-Centered Partnerships," included general sessions with Dr. Harry Shallcross, noted expert on the Systems of Care philosophy; Jerry Sopko, Director of the Center for Excellence; and a Conversation with DPW/OCYF, which featured Terry Clark, Lorrie Deck, Angelo Santore and Dave Derbes.

A special thank you goes out to workshop facilitators: Todd Lloyd (Systems and Assessment, Planning and Service Delivery); Kerin Kohler (Working Together: Partner Agencies and IL); Jennifer Pokempner (Legal Issues for Youth and Young Adults); Dot Everhart (Do You Hear What I Hear? Re-tooling Listening Skills for Systems of Care Partners); Bernadette Bianchi, Gary Shuey and Ellis Carle (Creating Public and Private Partnerships) and Bill Motsavage and Tracy Eisenreich (Youth Advisory Board presentation.) Thanks, too, to the housing solutions panel, which was coordinated by Jennifer Pokempner of the Juvenile Law Center.

Pennsylvania IL Practice Standards

The work group, which has met since October 2003, held its last meeting for the summer on Monday, 21 June. The group made significant process toward the goal of developing practice standards for delivery of IL services to the youth and young adult population and in complying with requirements for the CFSR Program Improvement Plan. The workgroup's subcommittees are now finishing tasks and the co-chairs are preparing a first draft of standards in each area, which is to be completed by 31 July 2004. OCYF and the Child Welfare League of America will then review the draft documents for consistency and language in order for the workgroup to resume its meetings in the fall.

Destination Future Application Deadline Reminder

Destination Future 2004: National Youth Leadership Conference Uniting The Voices of Youth

Applications should be submitted by 16 July, to Idotress Joseph of the Independent Living Project if you would to attend the Destination Future 2004: National Youth Leadership Conference, which will be held August 20-22 in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Four youth and two staff members will be chosen. Destination Future allows youth and adults from across the country to come together to discuss and address issues around national initiatives like the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Transitional Living Programs. Youth learn and practice leadership skills, and become advocates for themselves and others. Youth who attend this conference not only make the system better for themselves, but also pave the way for those to follow.





CONGRATULATIONS SANDY GALLAGHER!



Sandra Gallagher at DPW's OCYF has been promoted to Acting Director, Program Development Section. She has been working as the Director of the Statewide Adoption Network and is a long-time advocate for the rights of children and youth in foster care and adoption. If you see her, please join us in offering congratulations!

2004 – 2005 Independent Living Scholarship Recipients

The Independent Living Project is pleased to announce the following scholarship recipients for the 2004-2005 academic year. More than seventy applications were received this year; thirty-one \$1000 scholarships were awarded to:

Renewal Awards:

B. Bruce	-	La Salle University
N. Cooper	-	University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
D. Hartman	-	University of Pittsburgh
D. Mehlman	-	West Chester University
V. Pistoia	-	Mansfield University
B. Wunder	-	Allentown Business School

First-time Awards:

J. Beaver	-	Bloomsburg University
A. Boganski	-	Millersville University
T. Boyd	-	Carlow College
T. Bullock	-	Community College of Philadelphia
Y. Clatterbaugh	-	Penn State - Altoona
B. Dugan	-	Culinary Institute of America
B. Edsall	-	Shippensburg University
S. Freydlin	-	Albright College
S. Friddle	-	Lycoming College
S. Heckman	-	South Hills School of Business
J. Hudak	-	California University
J. LaJoie	-	Allegany College of Maryland
J. McCullough	-	IUP
Q. Morant	-	Duquesne University
R. Morgan	-	Slippery Rock University
A. Olson	-	Clarion University
L. Rickabaugh	-	Penn State - Capitol
C. Riley	-	Lehigh Carbon Community. College
J. Schirra	-	Art Institute of Pittsburgh
E. Sifinski	-	IUP
K. Starkes	-	Cheyney University
J. Tenalio	-	Penn State - Altoona
J. Walker	-	Pennsylvania Culinary Institute
D. Weinberg	-	New York University
S. Zazueta	-	Montgomery Co. Comm. College



Hot Jobs for the Future

As the work force changes to embrace new technologies, there are some career fields that are expected to be really growth-oriented for the foreseeable future. As you counsel youth who are in high school, you might want to help them explore their interests in the following fields:

Surgical Technologist - works in operating room, hands tools to surgeons, sets up instrument tables and observes patient's vital signs. Associate Degree. Average salary is \$35,000. www.ast.org.

Registered Nurse - about 13% of nursing jobs are currently vacant and the number is likely to grow. Great opportunities for women and men. Associate Degree or Bachelor's Degree. Average salary is \$49,000. www.nursingworld.org.

Computer Troubleshooter - maintain and fix computers or work in computer systems security. Average salary is \$30,000 with 12-15 month certificate. www.comptia.org.

Security-equipment Installer - growing demand for those who can install, monitor and maintain security systems. Certification is a plus. Average salary is \$23,000 - \$50,000. www.nicet.org.

Working with Youth in Transition

The Quest for Equity: Class in American Higher Education

In a lecture at the University of Virginia, William G. Bowen, head of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, called on top colleges and universities to give low-income students admission preferences akin to those granted to recruited athletes and the children of alumni. Such affirmative action, he said, is necessary if the top colleges are to be "engines of opportunity" rather than "bastions of privilege."

<http://www.virginia.edu/topnews/releases/headlines.html>

Family Literacy: Family Involvement and School Success

Family literacy programs can serve as models of family-school involvement, showing how families can build on the work of the school and also provide opportunities for educational success for parents and children. www.ascd.org/publications/ed,

Youth Serving Ideas

Many congregations and agencies are planning summer service projects for young people. Serving others is not only a core mandate of faith for people in all religious traditions; it is also a critical developmental experience for young people. The Search Institute newsletter has information, ideas, and opportunities designed to help congregations and agencies find ways to engage young people in serving others as part of youth asset-building efforts. <http://www.search-institute.org>.

Teens Speak out on Gay Marriage

Teens who have been raised by openly gay parents have a unique perspective on the contentious issue of single-sex marriage. <http://www.connectforkids.org/>

Recruiting and Selecting Staff for Youth Programs

Attracting dedicated, skilled and creative people to lead organizations and run high-quality programs requires a combination of good recruitment strategies, interviewing and selecting -- as outlined in this Professional Development newsletter from the National Collaboration for Youth. http://www.nydic.org/nydic/documents/Prof_Series

Keeping it Simple

For more than 10 years, Agnes Stevens has kept her School on Wheels program tightly focused on doing one thing well: helping homeless children keep up with their schoolwork by providing volunteer tutors. <http://www.connectforkids.org>.

College Planning

Virtual College Tours

As you start to talk with your college-bound youth about college visits next fall, you may want to visit a website first. It's a great way to learn about a college before you take a trip in person. Virtual tours are available at: www.ecampustours.com.

Dates to Remember

Communities of Practice Secondary Transition Conference, July 13-16, Penn Stater Hotel. For more information or to register: www.pattan.k12.state.pa.us.

PA IL Youth Retreat, July 26-30, Lock Haven University. For more information, contact: Bill Motsavage or Tracy Eisenreich at Valley Youth House. Telephone: 610.317.0721.

2004 Fall Regional Independent Living Meetings

- Friday, 1 October, 4 Points Sheraton Pittsburgh North, Mars
- Friday, 8 October, Best Western/Genetti Lodge, Hazelton
- Friday, 15 October, Days Inn Penn State, State College
- Friday, 22 October, Radisson/Valley Forge Conf. Center, King of Prussia

17th Annual National Independent Living Conference, "Growing Pains."

29 September – 2 October 2004, San Antonio, Texas. For more information: www.danielmemorial.org.

2004 National Youth Development Conference, "Unleashing the Power of Youth and Community Potential." 10-12 October 2004, Holiday Inn Allentown. For more information or to register: contact Lee Rush at lrush@enter.net or click on www.justcommunity.com.

IL Update On-Line

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