

Mentoring Resources

Tools for Mentoring Adolescents

For new approaches and insights, ideas for engaging community members, and resources for building stronger mentoring relationships with teens, check out these 10 free tools from the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota and the Search Institute. Printed copies of the tools are available by calling 877/343-0300 or from the following website:

www.mentoringworks.org/training_institute_tools_and_resources.html

Preparing Youth for Careers and Employment

Employment for Out-of-School Youth

In the 1980s, the Center for Employment Training (CET) in San Jose, California increased out-of-school youth's employment and earnings by using work-like settings and engaging local employers. But a recent follow-up study by MDRC found that CET participants were no more likely to find work or better pay than youth on their own, despite short-term benefits for women. Sites now serve a broader "and perhaps more employable group of youth" and the labor market is stronger than in the 1980s, which may increase opportunities for out-of-school youth overall. A related paper examines three barriers to employment for youth: lack of a high school diploma, having children, and having an arrest record.

The Challenge of Repeating Success in a Changing World: Final Report on the CET Replication Sites. www.mdrc.org/publications/453/overview.html

Barriers to Employment for Out-of-School Youth: Evidence from a Sample of Recent CET Applicants. www.mdrc.org/publications/454/full.pdf

Youth Readiness Web Conference

Training program providers, employers, and schools share the same fundamental goal: ensuring that the next generation is ready for success in the workforce -- yet often struggle to work effectively together. This free web conference on June 20th will examine the challenges and what works to bring all players together. Space is limited; please register today.

www.about.chapinhall.org/conferences/charting/conference.html



Toolkit: Ending Segregation in Career and Technical Education

The National Women's Law Center released its *Tools of the Trade* report in 2005, documenting the under-representation of girls in careers that have some of the highest earning potential. This latest state toolkit (on Wisconsin) gives parents, advocates, teachers, and program staff a roadmap for boosting girls' access to nontraditional career and technical education. The *Tools of the Trade* report and 12 other state toolkits (as well as a general template for any state), are on the NWLC site at www.nwlc.org.

Financing for Youth in or Transitioning from Foster Care

Young people in foster care may find themselves abruptly "aging out" of public supports when they turn 18. The Finance Project's Vulnerable Children and Youth Practice Group has three recent publications that examine the landscape of players, funding sources, and strategies that can help support asset-building, financial education, entrepreneurship, and training for youth in or leaving foster care. You can access all three publications below at www.financeproject.org:

Financing Entrepreneurship Programs for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Financing Asset-Building and Financial Education Programs for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Financing Workforce Development Programs for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Negotiating the Curves Toward Employment: A Guide About Youth Involved in the Foster Care System

The Guide was developed to encourage collaborative efforts between workforce development, child welfare, mental health, schools, and other community institutions to improve opportunities for youth in foster care to successfully transition into adulthood. The youth involved in the foster care system represent one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. Of the more than 500,000 children in foster care, 30 to 40% are also in special education. However, this number does not capture all youth with disabilities in the foster care system. In one study, it was estimated that between 20 to 60% of young children entering foster care have a developmental disability or delay. These types of disabilities include cerebral palsy, mental retardation, developmental delays, and learning disabilities, as well as speech, hearing, and vision impairments. This compares with an estimate of about 10% among the general population.

Building upon the NCWD/Youth organizing framework known as the *Guideposts for Success*, which details what research says all youth, including youth with disabilities, need to successfully transition to adulthood, this new publication applies the *Guideposts* to meeting the needs of youth in foster care with and without disabilities. In addition, the Guide provides facts, statistics, and contextual information about youth involved in the foster care system; gives examples of states and communities that are changing policy and practices; identifies areas requiring further attention by policy makers and providers of services; and identifies resources and tools to assist cross-system collaborative efforts.

Read *Negotiating the Curves Toward Employment: A Guide About Youth Involved in the Foster Care System*. http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&Publications/foster_care.html

Legal Issues and the Child Welfare System

Advancing the Right to Counsel for Children

The Juvenile Law Center last month revisited an issue that the U.S. Supreme Court resolved 40 years ago. In May, 1967, the Court heard the case of *In re Gault* and declared that all children accused of delinquent acts have the right to counsel in the proceedings against them. Despite this clear mandate, too many children today appear in court without the benefit of well-resourced and well-trained legal counsel, and too many appear with no counsel at all.

The JLC was asked to help a 15-year-old girl, Hillary, from an upstate Pennsylvania county, who was accused of creating a My Space webpage about her school's assistant principal. Months after the My Space webpage appeared over the internet, Hillary—who had never been in trouble before—was arrested and charged with harassment. She was tried without a lawyer, adjudicated delinquent, removed from her home, and ordered to spend months in a residential facility. Court officials had Hillary's mother sign papers that, unbeknownst to her, waived her daughter's right to a lawyer. Without a lawyer, both Hillary and her mother were uninformed and ill-prepared for the very brief "hearing" that led to Hillary's incarceration. JLC filed motions to challenge Hillary's placement. A week later the judge vacated the conviction and sent Hillary home to her parents. Hillary's case shows that fundamental fairness doesn't come easily. In 2007, many youth go unrepresented. Others have lawyers who have too many cases, too little time or too few skills to provide the kind of help that any parent would want for her child. The JLC works in jurisdictions where the right to counsel in delinquency cases is ignored, or where attorneys lack resources to provide meaningful representation.

Should Kids Serve Time for Skipping School?

Do detention, suspension, or -- as some counties are trying -- jail time work to curb truancy? What about home visits from guidance counselors to literally wake kids up? This May 9 *Seattle Times* article looks at some approaches and their (intended and unintended) impacts, and also at a promising strategy in California, Florida, Rhode Island, and Maryland that delays driver's license eligibility for students who skip school. www.seattleweekly.com/2007-05-09/news

Transitions to Permanency

Aging Out and On Their Own: More Teens Leaving Foster Care Without a Permanent Family

In 2005, more than 24,000 teens left foster care without a safe, permanent family of their own. This report from the Kids Are Waiting project presents state-by-state data on the rising numbers of youth aging out without a safe, permanent family and describes the challenges they face. <http://kidsarewaiting.org/reports/files/AgingOut.pdf>

Finding Permanency for Youth: Resource Handbook

This booklet from the Fresno County Department of Children and Family Services is designed to give youth, caregivers, staff, and community partners' information about permanency and ways to facilitate the establishment of permanent connections. <http://www.fresnohumanservices.org/ChildrenandFamilyServices/YouthPermanencyHandbook>.

Building a Future Together: Issues and Outcomes for Transition-Aged Youth

This report from the Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare in Canada outlines the eight areas where youth need support to ensure a smoother transition to adulthood: relationships, education, housing, life skills, identity, youth engagement, emotional healing and financial support. The first seven areas are referred to as pillars while the final area, financial support, is considered to be the foundation on which all of those pillars are built. Each of these areas are interrelated and work together to create the necessary supports for a successful transition to adulthood. National and international examples are used to illustrate innovative programs and policies that are making the difference for youth. <http://www.cecw-cepb.ca/files/file/en/BuildingAFutureTogether.pdf>

Helping Teens Help Themselves: Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Teens in Transition

Each year 20,000 foster youth ages 16 and older exit the child welfare system and suddenly find themselves on their own -- responsible for finding housing, getting jobs, and becoming adults. This transition is especially challenging for pregnant and parenting teens. A new blueprint from the Healthy Teen Network has ideas to help organizations and communities raise awareness about the issue, and work together to increase housing options and supports for parenting teens. www.healthyteennetwork.org

Youth Service-Learning, A Family-Strengthening Strategy

Service learning prepares young people for college, work, and adult responsibilities -- and it also strengthens families as it improves communities. This brief from the Family Strengthening Policy Center looks at strong programs, their impact, and how human services leaders can play a role. www.nassembly.org

Volunteering Really is Good for Your Health

"It'll be good for you" -- turns out, it just might. A new study by the Corporation for National and Community Service looks at the science behind this common parental platitude and finds that volunteers have greater longevity, higher functional ability, and lower rates of depression and heart disease. www.nationalservice.gov

Changing the Paradigm: Positioning Foster Care Youth as Community Assets and Resources

This edition of the Youth Service Journal is intended to be a starting point for understanding some of the promising practices for engaging foster youth in community service. The ideas expressed in this document reflect the dialogue among participants at the Working Group. All young people have a lot to gain from community involvement activities that will last throughout their lives. http://ysa.org/Portals/0/PDF%20Documents/Changing_ppfcy_community_assets_resrces.pdf

Assessment and Intervention Strategies

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with At-Risk Families

This bulletin from the Child Welfare Information Gateway is intended to build a better understanding of the characteristics and benefits of this family-centered approach. It was written primarily to help child welfare caseworkers and other professionals who work with at-risk families make more informed decisions about when to refer parents and caregivers, along with their children, to PCIT programs. This information may also help biological parents, foster parents, and other caregivers understand what they and their children can gain from PCIT and what to expect during treatment. This brief also may be useful to others with an interest in implementing or participating in effective parent-training strategies. www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_interactbulletin/

Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

This assessment tool was developed at Northwestern University. It is an open domain resource for use in service delivery systems that address the mental health of children, adolescents and their families. This tool, which is in use in several states, is free. It is distributed by the Buddin Praed Foundation. <http://www.buddinpraed.org/cans/>

Parenting with a Mental Illness: Programs and Resources Guide

Research has shown that mothers with a serious mental illness were almost three times more likely than mothers without a serious mental illness to have been involved in the child welfare system or to have lost custody of their children. This Guide, developed by the University of Pennsylvania Collaborative, is a comprehensive resource to help parents, providers, and advocates find information about possible programs in their area; it will be continually updated as more programs are identified. http://www.upennrrtc.org/resources/view.php?tool_id=128

Information on Preventing Youth Drug Use Available

The National Institute on Drug Abuse has released a second edition of "*Preventing Drug Use among Children and Adolescents: A Research-Based Guide for Parents, Educators, and Community Leaders.*" The new edition includes information on risk factors for youth drug abuse, guidance for planning community drug abuse prevention programs, and descriptions of core elements of effective prevention programs. www.drugabuse.gov/prevention

Methamphetamine and Child Maltreatment

The Virginia Child Protection newsletter, volume 70, Spring, 2007 provides an in-depth look at child welfare issues related to the use of methamphetamine, including impact on pregnancies, use of drug courts as an intervention, and links to additional resources and evidence based treatment. <http://psychweb.cisat.jmu.edu/graysojh/>

Ideas for Dads and Daughters

A new book by Joe Kelly, "The Dads & Daughters Togetherness Guide: 54 Fun Activities to Help Build a Great Relationship" has tons of ideas -- and so does the Web site. www.dadsanddaughters.org

Report Provides Data on Youth Depression and Substance Abuse

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has released "*Depression and the Initiation of Alcohol and Other Drug Use among Youths Aged 12 to 17.*" The 3-page report draws on data from the National Survey on Drug Use & Health to provide information on the prevalence of major depressive episodes and the initiation of alcohol or illicit drug use among youth.

The report indicates that among youth aged 12 to 17 who were at risk for alcohol or illicit drug initiation; those who had experienced a major depressive episode were more likely to have initiated such substance abuse. To access the report and related resources, visit: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7/newUserDepression/newUserDepression.cfm>.

Screening and Assessment for Family Engagement, Retention, and Recovery

The SAFERR monograph was developed in response to frequent requests from managers of child welfare agencies for a "tool" that caseworkers could use to screen parents for potential substance use disorders in order to make decisions about children's safety. Although research findings and practical experience have established that no single checklist yields the kind of information caseworkers need to make difficult decisions about whether children are safe, they have identified an array of screening instruments and practice principles that, if used appropriately, can provide timely information to guide those decisions. It also provides guidance on developing collaborative efforts to improve outcomes for families.

<http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/catalog/productDetails.aspx?ProductID=17633>

The Forty Developmental Assets for Adolescents

Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets[®] are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people. These assets have the power during critical adolescent years to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. <http://www.search-institute.org/assets/>

Reconnecting Youth

School Engagement and Youth Who Run Away from Care

To better understand the complex factors that influence school engagement for youth in care, Chapin Hall researchers interviewed Illinois youth who ran away from their foster placements and adults who care for or work with these youth. Findings reveal missed opportunities in helping to support the educational aspirations of a vulnerable group of youth--missed opportunities for foster parents and professionals, for the child welfare and education systems, and most important, for the youth themselves. http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1454

Educating Newcomers: Helping Immigrants Succeed in School

As the immigration debate heats up in Congress, the latest issue of *Voices in Urban Education*, from the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, looks at what various proposals might mean for the 8 million U.S. students who are immigrants or children of immigrants. The articles examine issues ranging from English language acquisition, high-stakes testing, and funding to building on students' assets and working with children from war-torn areas.

www.annenberginstitute.org/VUE



Migration: A Critical Issue for Child Welfare

The Migration and Child Welfare National Network recently issued a report which contains an analysis of issues impacting immigrant families and children, using the framework of the national child welfare goals of safety, permanency and well being. Also presented is an analysis across the domains of research, workforce and training, cross-systems collaboration and field integration, policy, and advocacy. You can download the report at www.americanhumane.org

Our Story, Our Words

In a new publication, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy asked youth to share what they want to know about teen pregnancy. *Our Story, Our Words: Youth Speak Out on Sex, Love, and Teen Pregnancy* gives youth a voice in offering advice to future generations that will spend time in foster care. This publication offers tips from foster youth, facts about sexuality, and information on where to find further resources and support. To view the document:

www.ncrcys.ou.edu/yd/eupdate/pdfs/our_story/pdf

Funding Opportunities and Sustainability

Grant: Staples Foundation for Learning - For programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth.

Eligibility: 501(c)(3) organizations. Deadline: Aug. 3. Amount: \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Contact: www.staplesfoundation.org

Grant: Public Welfare Foundation - The Youth program supports projects in employment, training and alternative education; early intervention; youth leadership development; violence prevention;

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and advocacy and policy development. Eligibility: 501(c)(3)s. (Some exceptions are made for organizations without such status.) Deadline: Open. Amount: \$20 million across all grant areas; average grant in 2006 was nearly \$49,000. www.publicwelfare.org/news/news/fund_2007.asp.

Creating Dedicated Local and State Revenue Sources for Youth Programs

Finding funding to support increased demand for youth programs and services is a continuing challenge. This audio conference outlines strategies for youth programs, intermediary organizations, local policymakers and youth advocates to create dedicated local and state revenue sources for youth programs, provides guidance and information on the capacity, funding, and community support required for these strategies, and profiles these strategies at work in different states and communities. Access The Finance Project's Website at: http://financeproject.org/publications/DLR_PM.pdf.

Community Fundraising for Expanding and Sustaining Youth Programs

Current funding for youth programs is fragmented and fluctuates according to the state of the economy and constantly changing funding priorities. Critical to the long term success of youth programs is the ability to adapt to these changing conditions by devising creative strategies for raising revenue. This audio conference provides strategies for accessing resources through a variety of fundraising strategies. Youth programs currently employing these strategies will share their insights and lessons learned. The Community Fundraising: A Guide for Youth Programs is due to be published in summer 2007. For more information on the audio conference series, please visit our [Youth Programs Resource Center](http://www.youthprogramsresourcecenter.org) or contact Soumya Bhat at sbhat@financeproject.org.

Funding Announcements from the Children's Bureau

The Children's Bureau has announced the availability of several new opportunities, including Targeted Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Methamphetamine or Other Substance Abuse; Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect Through Nurse Home Visitation; and a cooperative agreement establishing a National Child Welfare Leadership Institute. Access information on all these grants and more at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/grants_cb.html

Finding Funding: A Guide to Federal Sources for Youth Programs

This guidance book is part of a series of books published by the Finance Project to provide policymakers and after-school providers with tools and strategies to finance and sustain programs for youth. To read, please visit www.financeproject.org/publications/findingfunding.pdf

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

IL/SWAN Summer Statewide Meeting on July 10-11, 2007. The Statewide Meeting will be held at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg. Registration information is available at www.diakon-swan.org

2007 Pennsylvania Permanency Conference on July 11-13, 2007. The conference will be held at the Eisenhower Hotel in Gettysburg, PA. This year the keynote speakers will be George Duvall, from the University of Kentucky and Dr. Robert Brooks of Harvard Medical School. Workshop and session information as well as registration materials are available at www.diakon-swan.org.

IL/SWAN Fall 2007 Quarterly Meetings:

Thursday, 11 October – Best Western East Mountain Inn, Wilkes-Barre

Tuesday, 16 October – Radisson Hotel, Monroeville

Wednesday, 17 October – Holiday Inn, Beaver Falls

Monday, 23 October – Holiday Inn, New Cumberland

Tuesday, 30 October – Fort Washington Hotel and Conference Center, Fort Washington

Wednesday, 31 October – Embassy Suites Airport, Philadelphia

Growing Pains National IL Conference, Denver, CO; Sept. 19-22, 2007; Adam's Mark Hotel.
For more information: www.danielkids.org

Casey My Life Conference; 30 September- 2 October in Atlanta. More details will be available soon.

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