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IL Resources – May 2009

Improving Access to College and Employment

Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)

Youth planning to enroll in college this summer or next fall 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 2009-2010 academic year are on the www.pheaa.org website.

For 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 establish residency there, they can find state information on the ETG programs at: www.statevoucher.org Each state has individual application processes.

Common Good Forecaster

If your community cut its high school dropout rate in half, how much would that improve life expectancy or median personal earnings outcomes? This new United Way tool, The Common Good Forecast, tracks how improving the education profile of the nation, a state or local community is linked to wide-ranging ripple effects in ten critical social and economic indicators. www.liveunited.org/forecaster/



School-Based Behavioral Health Website Launched at Pitt

The University of Pittsburgh School Of Education has launched a School-based Behavioral Health (SBBH) Web site, www.sbbh.pitt.edu, to promote the behavioral health of children and adolescents by providing free resources for children and teens who face emotional and behavioral challenges, their families, and the professionals who work with them.

For Professionals:

The site provides administrators and teachers with various free professional development resources, including slide presentations and accompanying study guides, handbooks, forms, newsletters, and pod casts for your use. Topics include anxiety, bullying, conduct disorder, good behavior game, keeping your classroom safe, truancy, and many more.

Example: A professional development resource found on the Web site is a PowerPoint on student noncompliance in the classroom. Administrators and teachers can learn about what defines student noncompliance, possible reasons for noncompliance, and how to intervene with the behavior. In addition to this presentation, an accompanying study guide asks questions about information in the presentation. Each study guide features a case study for discussion.

For Families:

Family members will find information on this page to help them understand mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, conduct disorders, and autism. The site features reader-friendly brochures about different disorders. There are pod casts (radio shows) for adults to learn about emotional and behavioral disorders.

For Youth:

Youth can learn about emotional and behavioral disorders that they, friends, or family members may face. There are podcasts to download and listen to, along with guides and handouts about the disorders.

Preparing Students for College and Work

Two new Child Trends briefs draw on research across the fields of college readiness, workplace readiness, and youth development to identify the skills and competencies high school students need to master for future success. Available from www.childtrends.org are:

A Developmental Perspective on Workplace Readiness: Preparing High School Students for Success

A Developmental Perspective for High School Practitioners on College and Workplace Readiness

Transitions to Permanency

Family Routines and Relationships Strengthen Poor Families

Although poor families experience socioeconomic disadvantages, these families may be strengthened by their family routines and relationships, according to a new Child Trends brief. **The Strengths of Poor Families** analyzes data for more than 100,000 families from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health to find the similarities and contrasts between poor and more affluent families. www.childtrends.org

Among the findings:

- Poor families do not differ from more affluent families in many ways, such as in the closeness of their relationships and the frequency of outings together or attending religious services.
- Poor families are at a disadvantage when it comes to having health and dental insurance, and are more likely to express concerns about their neighborhoods. In addition, poor children have fewer stories read to them at home.
- While parents in poor households express concerns about neighborhood safety in general, they are just as likely to report feeling that their child is safe at home or at school as are parents who are better off.
- Families in poverty are somewhat more likely to eat meals together, a family routine that contributes to child well-being.

RELATED WORK FROM CHILD TRENDS: **Exploring The Links Between Family Strengths and Adolescent Outcomes** (Child Trends Research Brief) www.childtrends.org

"Now What? Leaving the System: A Special Issue on Permanency"

The March/April issue of Represent Magazine, "Now What? Leaving the System: A Special Issue on Permanency" offers stories by young people on adoption, reunification, and independent living. The Association of Educational Publishers (AEP) named *Represent's* "Now What? Leaving the System: A Special Issue on Permanency" a finalist in the category of Best One-Theme Issue in this year's Distinguished Achievement Awards.

<http://www.youthcomm.org/Publications/FCYU.htm#represent0308>

Represent is a national magazine written by and for young people in the foster care system. Through personal narratives and reported stories, their teen staff provides an inside look at life in the system that other teens in care can connect with. Teen readers report that the magazine makes them feel less alone and gives them practical insights into handling the challenges they face. The magazine is also an invaluable resource for adults. Staff, policymakers and foster parents report that reading *Represent* helps them understand the lives of young people in care in new ways.

<http://www.youthcomm.org/Publications/FCYU.htm>

Guidebook for Youth With Disabilities Aging Out of Foster Care

A partnership between the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities and Florida's Children First, Inc. has produced a guide to services and information for Florida youth with disabilities who are transitioning from foster care to independent living. *Passage From Youth to Adulthood* provides practical information on the legal rights of students with disabilities as they transition to adulthood. While the guide is geared toward Florida students, much of the planning and information (especially about Federal laws) is applicable to youth in other States.

The guide reviews the necessary components of a transition plan, including goals related to education, work, and community integration. Some of the specific components of the transition plan include:

- Student's desired postsecondary school outcome
- Adult living arrangement
- Training and services needed to achieve the outcome
- Practical life skills that have yet to be mastered
- Guardianship options for adults who cannot manage their own affairs
- Specific technological devices (supplied by agencies)

The guide also highlights the role of the State's vocational rehabilitation program in providing job training, assistive technology (if needed), and employment-related assistance. The report includes a glossary and a list of State and national transition resources. [Passage From Youth to Adulthood](#) is available for download on the Florida's Children First website: http://floridaschildrenfirst.org/pdf/Foster_Final_Proof.pdf

Supporting Youth in Transition to Adulthood: Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

The Georgetown Public Policy Institute's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative have collaborated to publish a paper entitled, "Supporting Youth in Transition to Adulthood: Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice." The paper, describes case assessment, case management, and other practices implemented in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems that have shown promise in improving outcomes for the transition-age population. This publication was presented at a symposium on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at Georgetown University. http://www.jimcaseyouth.org/docs/cjir_transition_apr09.pdf

Resources and materials from the "Supporting Youth In Transition to Adulthood: Lessons Learned from Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice" symposium, including a participant packet, several PowerPoint presentations, and a guidebook called "Recommended Practice for Young Adult Teens" are also available online on the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform website. <http://cjir.georgetown.edu/resources.html>

Summary - 2008 National Convening on Youth Permanence: From Inspiration to Action

The 2008 National Convening on Youth Permanence: From Inspiration to Action, held in May 2008 in Washington, D.C., and hosted by the Annie E. Casey Foundation/Casey Family Services and Casey Family Programs, drew more than 600 child welfare leaders, youth, parents, and community stakeholders from over 45 states, counties, and selected tribal nations, as well as representatives from an array of national advocacy organizations with an interest in improving family permanency outcomes for youth in foster care. In this publication, you will find examples of promising state, county, and tribal initiatives that advance youth permanency practice; strengthen the courts' role in supporting youth permanency; realign agency structures and increase collaboration; address racial disproportionality and disparate permanency outcomes for youth of color; and build public will and promote policy change. In the coming weeks, a representative from one of the Casey organizations will be connecting with state, county, and tribal child welfare leaders to learn more about progress in each jurisdiction. http://www.youthpermanence.org/pdf/materials/mat_2008/summary_2008.pdf

Reconnecting Youth

Parents Most Likely to Discuss Alcohol, Marijuana, and Cocaine Use with Their Children; Less Likely to Discuss Inhalants and Prescription Drugs

Parents are most likely to discuss the risks of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine use with their children, according to data from the 2008 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS). The majority of teens (78%) reported that their parents had discussed the risks of using beer, other alcoholic beverages, or marijuana with them. Forty-four percent of teens reported that their parents had discussed the dangers of cocaine and crack use with them. Significantly fewer teens, however, reported that their parents discussed the risks of inhalant (25%) and prescription drug abuse (24%), despite the fact that these substances were the most prevalent substances used by teens, after marijuana. Other substances less commonly discussed included performance enhancing drugs used without a prescription (such as steroids and human growth hormone), ecstasy, and over-the-counter cold or cough medicines used to get high.

Adapted from The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, *The Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS): Teens 2008 Report*, 2009. Available online at http://www.drugfree.org/Files/full_report_teens_2008. For more information, contact the Partnership at 212-922-1560.

Study Explores Experiences of Youthful Offenders Reentering Their Communities

This Chapin Hall report describes the extent of system involvement among Illinois youth released from correctional facilities, tracking a population of youth under age 18 in Illinois following their release. Using administrative records, researchers develop profiles of reentry experiences across the many systems that serve youth and their families. Researchers examined their involvement with school, public assistance, foster care, and government-assisted services for health, mental health, and substance abuse needs. Because involvement in multiple services as part of the reentry experience is likely to impact the chances of reoffending, this body of information will be valuable to policymakers, practitioners, teachers and social service providers.

Read the report, **From Corrections to Community: The Juvenile Reentry Experience as Characterized by Multiple Systems Involvement**, by Gretchen Ruth Cusick, Robert M. Goerge, and Katie Claussen Bell. www.chapinhall.org

Program Resources

The Source Spring 2009: Fostering Father Involvement

The Source is a biannual magazine published by the National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center that focuses on themes related to substance abuse, HIV and child welfare. The Spring 2009 issue is devoted to fathers in families affected by substance abuse and/or HIV, and their role in the lives of their children. <http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/docs/protecting-children/PC-fatherhood-source-spring-09.pdf>

Reaching Nonresident Fathers in the Child Welfare System: Understanding Male Help-Seeking Behaviors

This American Bar Association publication, authored by Mark S. Kiselica, is part of a series that gives attorneys and judges tools to better engage nonresident fathers in child welfare cases. The document discusses individual and institutional and professional barriers to male engagement and provides practice tips for addressing these barriers.

<http://www.abanet.org/child/fathers/jan09.pdf>

The document includes a link to the "Father Friendly Checkup for Child Welfare Agencies and Organizations" by The National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System, National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), American Humane Association, and American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, which was developed to help organizations assess how well they welcome and encourage fathers in several areas.

<http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/>

Funding Opportunities and Sustainability

Building Out-of-School Programs That Last

A number of U.S. cities have been building high-quality citywide after- and out-of-school time systems. This Wallace Foundation conference report suggests forging closer ties with schools, using new data systems to inform budget decisions and making the recession an opportunity for bold changes to make sure these systems endure.

www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/

Also: The Wallace Foundation's Financial Strategies to Support Citywide Systems of Out-of-School Time Programs describes four financing strategies cities have used successfully to support out-of-school time system-building.

www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/

Forum for Youth Investment's Program Landscape Mapping Webinar

Landscape mapping helps communities take inventory of existing youth services and organizations. This presentation looks at how states and localities are using mapping to identify gaps, create connections and use their limited resources more efficiently. For more information, contact the Forum for Youth Investment. www.forumfyi.org

Community Connection Asset Mapping Process (CCAMP), another mapping tool from the Connecticut Assets Network, is a multifaceted, internet-based, community-building system of strategies and technologies to help groups create supportive environments and reports for strategic planning. www.forumfyi.org

A New Website for Youth-Serving Agencies

A new website, FindYouthInfo.gov, offers tools and resources to help Federal agencies, youth service providers, and the youth-serving community build partnerships to support youth. Easy to navigate and attractively designed, the site is sponsored by the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, a collaboration of 12 Federal agencies. The website's tools and resources can help organizations form effective partnerships, assess community assets, understand risk and protective factors, find local and Federal resources, and identify evidence-based youth programs. Users can also subscribe to receive email updates and RSS feeds of Federal youth news. Access the site here: <http://FindYouthInfo.gov>

Brighter Future for Children and Youth Grants

The Women's division of The United Methodist Church offers grants for projects and programs addressing the needs of children and young people between the ages of 5 to 18 in the areas of violence prevention, anti-abuse and relationship abuse. **Deadline: July 1.**

<http://hbs.qbgm-umc.org/umw/money/grants/abrighterfuture/>

Strengthening Communities Fund

The objective of SCF is to enable nonprofit organizations to contribute to the economic recovery. The program aims to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations to address the broad economic recovery issues in their communities, including helping low-income individuals secure and retain employment, earn higher wages, obtain better-quality jobs and gain greater access to state and Federal benefits and tax credits, including those in the stimulus package.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/scf/index.htm>

Professional Development Opportunities

National Pathways to Adulthood 2009 Independent Living/Transitional Living Conference June 3-5, 2009 in San Diego, CA This Conference will provide important opportunities to hear about promising practices from across the country and for participants to work together to explore effective transition solutions for young people. Connect with your colleagues and take advantage of networking and collaboration opportunities. <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/conferences/np09>

IL/SWAN Summer Statewide Meeting

Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, June 23-24, 2009 Workshop and registration information is available at www.diakon-swan.org

17th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference

Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, June 24-26, 2009 Workshop and registration information is available at www.diakon-swan.org

Pennsylvania Communities in Transition Conference, Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, July 22-24. Workshop and registration information is available from Mary Gordon at mgordon@pattan.net

Growing Pains - National Independent Living Conference

September 1-4, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee. www.danielkids.org

Independent Living Project Updates:

Pennsylvania Independent Living Statewide Youth Retreat

This summer's statewide IL Youth Retreat is 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. Ivory also submitted the winning logo for the week. The banquet speaker on July 16th is going to be Jaiya Johns. Registration materials are due on June 1st. If you have any questions, please contact your CWTP IL program specialist.

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Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) Training

Justin Lee and Steve Eidson 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. Look for workshop information later this summer.

CWTP Training Calendar

If you'd like to know what courses are offered to counties and providers, the Encompass database has been updated so that you can view all of the training opportunities at the CWTP. The following website will provide access to trainings at: <http://www.encompass.pitt.edu/>

People in Transition – Congratulations to:

Bruce Faloon has been appointed the IL supervisor for Indiana County CYS. .

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH IL PROJECT

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