

May 2005

## Focus on Housing

### OVERCOMING OPPOSITION TO AFFORDABLE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Civil rights lawyers Michael Allen and Sara Pratt have announced the availability of a new toolkit and training program to help organizations and developers overcome community resistance to developing affordable and supportive housing. The print resource, "Addressing Community Opposition to Affordable Housing Development: A Fair Housing Toolkit," provides practical tips and information on: confronting common NIMBY concerns, launching a successful community campaign, advancing fair housing while protecting free speech, when local government is not on your side and opposition to housing for people with disabilities. It also provides information on cases pursued under the Fair Housing Act and a list of resources for developers and advocates. For a copy of the toolkit, go to: <http://www.knowledgeplex.org/showdoc.html?id=68549>

### NEW MANUAL ON COMMUNITY MODEL FOR HOUSING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Shelter Partnership, in collaboration with Lamp Community, OPCC (formerly Ocean Park Community Center), and the RAND Corporation, has recently published "Ending Chronic Homelessness Among People with Mental Illness: The Community Model." This training manual explains the philosophy and structure of the Community Model, a high-tolerance, low-demand service philosophy developed by Lamp Community in Los Angeles over the past two decades that has shown dramatic success in serving chronically homeless persons with mental illness. The manual is intended to assist service providers and policymakers to understand the Community Model approach and use it to more effect than traditional mental health and housing programs. For more information, go to: <http://www.CommunityModelLA.org>

### FIRST STEP

First Step is an easy-to-use, interactive tool for case managers, outreach workers, and others working with people who are homeless. The information on this web site will help you assist your clients to access benefits from Federal mainstream benefit programs. First Step was developed through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicaid/homeless/firststep/index.html>

### ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS REQUIRES A COORDINATED COMMUNITY APPROACH

Communities cannot end homelessness without addressing the needs of homeless youth. Using Chicago's efforts to end homelessness as an example, the Alliance has developed a policy paper highlighting the needs of homeless youth and urging communities to develop a variety of safe and stable housing options and comprehensive support services. For more information, go to: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/pol/papers/youthplanning.pdf>



## Cross-Systems Resources for Independent Living

### **A ROAD MAP FOR LEARNING: IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH**

This guide from Casey Family Programs is for everyone working towards successful educational outcomes for youth in foster care or out-of-home care. The book provides a modular framework for achieving collaboration across the federal, state, and local legal, educational, and child welfare systems. Emphasizing the needs of K-12 students, it contains resources for parents, caregivers and workers. <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/RoadMapForLearning.htm>

### **PROJECT ACHIEVE: EDUCATION ADVOCACY FOR YOUTH IN SUBSTITUTE CARE**

This report from Advocates for Children of New York documents an extraordinary success rate in removing barriers to education for children in foster care. Project Achieve employs three key strategies: providing individual case assistance and advocacy to all clients of a child welfare agency with unmet education-related needs; building the capacity of agency service staff, caseworkers and supervisors to help them identify and solve routine school-related issues; and empowering and educating parents and, young people, to navigate the New York City Department of Education (DOE), and other agencies providing educational services. <http://www.advocatesforchildren.org/>

### **STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DISPROPORTIONATE CONTACT**

This guidebook from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center discusses disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the context of a seven-step evaluation approach, focusing especially on the first two steps: identifying the problem and implementing an evidence-based intervention. The approach has applicability to child welfare, as well. [http://www.jrsa.org/jjec/about/dmc\\_guidebook.html](http://www.jrsa.org/jjec/about/dmc_guidebook.html)

## Toward Common Ground: Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare

### **NEW REPORT CONFIRMS SUBSTANCE ABUSE, CHILD ABUSE LINK**

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse released a report March 29 that focuses on substance abuse within U.S. families. Family Matters: Substance Abuse and the American Family provides new research showing "the route to a drug-free America is through our children." The report notes that half of all children (35.6 million) are in a home where an adult uses tobacco, drinks heavily, or uses illicit drugs. For more information: [www.casacolumbia.org/supportcasa](http://www.casacolumbia.org/supportcasa)

### **DIRECTORY AVAILABLE FROM FAMILY AND CORRECTIONS NETWORK**

"Serving Children and Families of Adult Offenders: A Directory of Programs" (84 pp.) (ACCN 020200). This update to the 2001 version lists programs in the United States and provides a link to programs in Canada that offer services specifically for children and families of adult offenders. (NIC) For more information, visit: <http://www.nicic.org>

## **TRAUMA AMONG YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Four new fact sheets are available on the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Web site. Trauma Among Girls in the Juvenile Justice System, Victimization and Juvenile Offending, Assessing Exposure to Psychological Trauma and Posttraumatic Stress in the Juvenile Justice Population, and Trauma-Focused Interventions for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System For more information, go to: [www.nctsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr\\_tool\\_educ\\_juv](http://www.nctsnet.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr_tool_educ_juv)

## **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE – NEW STUDY**

Rural and urban gangs differ in many respects, and researchers suggest in this journal issue that policies and practices related to urban gangs may not apply to rural ones. Other articles discuss ways to ensure successful collaboration among law enforcement agencies, the Campbell Collaboration's review of criminal justice research, and NIJ's Data Resources Program. The At-a-Glance section summarizes recent research on child custody mediation and domestic violence, effects of child abuse, hung juries, problem-oriented policing in public housing and frugal program evaluations. For more information, go to: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/jr000251.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/jr000251.htm)

## **NEW REPORT LAUNCHES PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY ACTION**

On Tuesday, March 15th, the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation released "Advocating for Children of Prisoners", its first report to the community identifying the losses experienced by children of prisoners - a population representing 15% of Allegheny County in which the city of Pittsburgh is located. PCGF conducted a two-year study as the initial phase of its six-year initiative to mobilize community support for children of prisoners. Research methods included surveying prisoners, conducting focus groups, interviewing professionals and reviewing current research. For more information, go to: [www.pittsburghchildguidancefoundation.org](http://www.pittsburghchildguidancefoundation.org)

## **Working with Youth in Transition**

### **SAT AND COLLEGE FEE WAIVER REQUESTS**

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

### **TODAY'S ADOLESCENTS FACE A LONGER, MORE DIFFICULT PASSAGE TO ADULTHOOD THAN THEIR GRANDPARENTS**

Transitioning from adolescence to adulthood takes about 10 years longer for today's youth compared to prior generations, according to sociologists from Case Western Reserve University. "Although pinpointing the onset of adulthood is not easy, it's most certainly not the magic legal ages of 18 or 21," said Richard Settersten Jr., chair of Case's sociology department and co-editor of the new book *On the Frontier of Adulthood: Theory, Research, and Public Policy* (University of Chicago Press, 2005). The book, which is based on more than four years of research, addresses how institutions and policies need to be revamped in response to changing social and economic conditions. For more information, go to: <http://www.case.edu/news/2005/2-05/adulthood.htm>

## YOUTH MEDIA WEBSITE

The Open Society Institute today launched Youth Media Reporter, a web journal documenting the growing role of youth-produced television, radio, film and print reporting. The website provides a forum for youth media professionals to share and discuss their work, and provides insight into the lives of young people, particularly those most at-risk and isolated. For more information, go to: <http://www.YMReporter.org>

## People in the News

**Cathleen Kiser** is the new IL coordinator in Tioga County. Welcome to IL!

**Nathan Humes** and **Jason Alm** have joined the staff of the Glade Run Lutheran Services SAIL program. Congratulations to Nathan, who is the new supervisor and Jason, who is the assistant supervisor!

**Danielle Hilliard** and **Michelle Dornin** have been named IL caseworkers at the Greensburg YMCA. Congratulations!

**Sara Sichi**, caseworker, has joined the IL staff at Try-Again Homes in Washington. Welcome!

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

## Professional Development Opportunities

Pennsylvania IL Youth Retreat: "**Freedom, Focus, Future: Mission Independence**," Penn State Mont Alto, 11-15 July 2005. Applications will be available soon from Valley Youth House.

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) conference is at the Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh, 3-6 August. SWAN is partnering with NACAC this year. More details are available at [www.nacac.org/conference](http://www.nacac.org/conference)

Daniel Memorial's National Independent Living Conference, "**Growing Pains**," will be held 21-24 September at the Westin Peachtree Hotel in Atlanta. [www.danielkids.org](http://www.danielkids.org)

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