

Improving Access to College and Employment

Financial Aid Workshops sponsored by PHEAA – Register Now

Each fall, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) sponsors counselor workshops in each region of the state. These free workshops provide valuable information and insight into the financial aid and scholarship process and changes for the next academic year. You can register for a session in your area by longing on to www.pheaa.org; then click on K-12 counselors, then training. Sessions begin in November in most areas.

Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG)

Youth planning to enroll in college this winter or spring should complete the Chafee ETG application in addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) 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. (Note: there are no deadlines for the federal Pell Grant or Chafee ETG; it's not too late to submit a FAFSA application for winter or spring classes.)

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.

Foster Youth Who Have Succeeded in Higher Education: Common Themes.

Author(s): Lovitt, Thomas.;Emerson, John. Published: 2008

Journal Name: NCSET Information Brief v. 7, 1, April 2008,

Available from: National Center on Secondary Education and Transition

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

Document available online at: <http://www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=4195>

Printable version (PDF): http://www.ncset.org/publications/info/NCSETInfoBrief_7.1.pdf

Abstract: All young people, including foster youth and youth with disabilities, can succeed academically given adequate support and advocacy from educators, professionals, and their caregivers. Casey Family Programs interviewed eight former foster youth who recently graduated from college. Their perspectives on going to college and obtaining a degree despite numerous barriers presents an opportunity learn how other young adults like them might be better supported.

Strategic Use of Individualized Learning Plans: Preparing Students with Workforce Readiness Skills for 21st Century Jobs

The recent Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) movement offers a unique opportunity for documenting and communicating workforce readiness skills. ILP definitions vary from serving as a high school course planning strategy to helping students align course planning with post-secondary career aspirations. The purpose of this Research Brief is to expand the definition and scope of ILPs, describe the range of workforce readiness skills that can be effectively communicated within ILPs, and demonstrate how ILPs can be used to design quality learning experiences that result in tangible workforce skill indicators. www.ncwd-youth.info/research-brief.02

Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation

Facing a variety of challenges, 41 percent of Latina students do not graduate with their class in four years -- if they graduate at all. The National Women's Law Center and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund spoke with Latina students and the adults who work with them to identify key causes and actions needed to improve Latina graduation rates.

www.nwlc.org

Connecting Foster Youth to Career Development Opportunities in High School

New Ways to Work has developed a guidebook on learning more about career opportunities in high schools so that foster youth can get the most out of their high school experience.

www.newwaystowork.org



Transitions to Permanency

Mission Transition: A Valuable Tool for Foster Youth Aging Out of Care

Ohio State Bar Foundation in collaboration with the state-wide Public Children Services Association of Ohio and the members of the Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board developed this website to guide youth who are aging out of care. The site provides tools and helpful links to education, finance, health, housing, job, legal, parenting, responsible citizenship and other resources. <http://www.mymissiontransition.com/>

Examining Judges' Perspectives on Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption

A new Child Trends research brief explores the issues that judges consider when making decisions about termination of parental rights and adoption of foster children. The brief, [The Timing of Termination of Parental Rights: A Balancing Act for Children's Best Interests](#), is based on interviews with 20 judges from 18 states. The federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 shortens the timeframe for terminating parental rights (TPR) as a way to facilitate timely adoptions for children in foster care who cannot be reunited with their birth parents. The interviews suggest that while judges are concerned about terminating birth parents' rights to a child before an adoptive family has been identified, recent innovations in case practice have helped to address these concerns and have made for a less divisive decision-making process.

This research brief also presents the study's implications for juvenile and family court policy and practices: the advantages of judges and caseworkers exploring children's views about TPR and adoption; ways for foster children to maintain birth family connections to support their well-being while in foster care and after adoption; the importance of judges having familiarity with adoption recruitment efforts to inform their decisions; and the importance of seeking consultation and guidance for judges on the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act. Family Involvement in RTF: www.childtrends.org

New OMHSAS Guidelines for Family Involvement in Residential Treatment Facilities

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has developed best practice guidelines for family involvement when youth are placed in residential treatment facilities. This information may be of use to your colleagues and you as you work with youth. www.dpw.state.pa.us/PubsFormsReports/NewslettersBulletins/003673169.aspx?BulletinId=4442

Youth Aging Out – National Survey Results

In an effort to better understand and utilize state and local strategies and practices around youth residing in and aging out of the public child welfare system, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators' (NAPCWA) Youth Aging Out Workgroup developed a survey. The survey captures information in multiple issue areas related to youth so that states can access and utilize model programs and practices that have been implemented in other states. The survey was completed by either a child welfare director or a designated individual in each state. The results of the survey have been synthesized and presented in full as a dedicated section of the NAPCWA website and will serve as a learning tool to help states meet and respond to the needs of youth residing in and aging out of foster care. http://www.napcwa.org/Youth/practice_areas.asp

New Research Explores the Sometimes Rough Road to Adulthood

Low-income African American youth engage in fewer risky behaviors than low-income white youth, a new Urban Institute analysis of federal data reveals. And, a companion analysis shows second-generation Latinos make a more successful transition into the labor market than black and third-generation Latino youth. Adolescent blacks in low-income households (those below twice the federal poverty level) are less likely than low-income whites to use alcohol by age 13, sell drugs, destroy property, or run away. However, blacks are more likely to report having sex by age 16. The two groups have similar high school graduation rates, but blacks have lower median annual incomes after graduation.

This research on young blacks and Latinos is part of a collection of eight brief studies on vulnerable youth, risky behavior, and the transition to adulthood. The other briefs examine school and work participation for young men and women, youth from troubled neighborhoods, youth from low-income families, and those suffering from depression/anxiety. Data came from a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics survey that followed a sample of adolescents from 1997 into young adulthood in 2005.

Analyzing school and work participation, the Urban Institute researchers found four patterns:

- 60 percent are employed or enrolled in school almost continuously between ages 18 and 24. These consistently connected youth engage in considerably fewer risky behaviors than other youth.
- 15 percent have relatively low levels of connection to school or work at age 18, but by age 24, approximately 90 percent of them are studying or employed. Overall, this group has relatively low earnings, possibly because they have less education and job tenure.
- 15 percent are students or job holders at age 18 but become disconnected by age 24. Some milestone event, such as the birth of a child or incarceration, may cause these youth to leave their jobs or school.
- 10 percent are persistently disconnected from school or employment, have substantially higher dropout rates, engage in more risky behaviors, and have higher crime rates than consistently connected youth.

“Youth transitioning to adulthood are in many ways a hidden population,” says Jennifer Macomber, the research project’s co-leader. “Most service systems focus on children through age 18, but many youth, particularly those who do not enjoy support from their families or the structure of higher education may not get the help they need to sustain stable employment and schooling.” Read the entire collection of studies at: (www.urban.org/publications/411948.html)

Report Highlights the Needs of Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth

Because pregnancy and childbearing remain significant issues for foster youth, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services asked Chapin Hall to examine the experiences and needs of pregnant and parenting youth in their care. Key findings of this study include: at least 30 percent of the female foster youth had been pregnant more than once; and having more than one child was a significant barrier to educational attainment, with each additional child reducing chances of earning a high school diploma or GED by 45%. The report, *Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth: Their Needs, Their Experiences*, by Amy Dworsky and Jan DeCoursey is available online. (2009)

<http://chaphin.org/research/report/pregnant-and-parenting-foster-youth-their-needs-their-experiences>

New NRCFCPPP Information Packet: Rural Issues in Child Welfare

The National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning (NRCFCPPP) recently posted the following Information Packet on our website:

Rural Issues in Child Welfare. By Teija Sudol (August 2009)

http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/Sudol_Info%20Pack_Rural%20Issues_Aug%202009.pdf

Reconnecting Youth

Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published "[Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact: Preparation at the Local Level](#)." The bulletin, the first in OJJDP's new DMC series, describes strategies that states and communities can use to reduce disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system. A companion to OJJDP's [Disproportionate Minority Contact Technical Assistance Manual](#), the bulletin includes guidance drawn from the manual and provides useful information on the context in which local preparation to address disproportionate minority contact takes place. Resources:

"Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact: Preparation at the Local Level" (NCJ 218861) is available online at ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=240604.

Print copies may be ordered online. The DMC Technical Assistance Manual may be accessed at www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojdp/dmc_ta_manual/index.html.

Helping Runaway and Homeless Youth

The American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness and Poverty is pleased to announce the release of two new manuals related to runaway and homeless children and youth.

Runaway and Homeless Youth and the Law: Model State Statutes is a unique publication that provides guidance for policymakers, advocates, attorneys and service providers on how state laws can assist homeless and runaway youth. The laws were developed by experts in the field with input provided during two national conferences. The comprehensive resource provides not only model statutes, but background information and research to provide context for each issue. Additionally, the authors have provided commentary to assist in the implementation of the law. Runaway and Homeless Youth and the Law: Model State Statutes is a necessity for any person or agency interested in improving state laws so that these vulnerable youth can find safety, services and stability. The book addresses legal issues faced by runaway and homeless youth and their service providers.-

Educating Children Without Housing: A Primer on Legal Requirements and Implementation Strategies for Educators, Advocates and Policymakers, 3rd Edition, provides innovative strategies for educators and school administrators, state coordinators and policymakers, and advocates and attorneys to play a role in ensuring the education rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness. The revised edition includes new sections on creating access to early childhood education opportunities, the Head Start Act, IDEA, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, financial aid and college access and support programs. This third edition contains strategies designed to assist communities to exceed compliance and move toward greater commitment -- to embody not only the letter but also the spirit of the law -- including a new section on collaborating with community agencies. The book also includes a directory of resources for educators, advocates, and policymakers.

Drafted by Barbara Duffield and Patricia Julianelle of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, and Laurene Heybach of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the book is the most comprehensive resource on the education of homeless children and youth available. Both publications are available for \$14.95 each through the ABA Web Store at <http://www.abanet.org/abastore/index.cfm> or by calling the ABA Service Center at 1-800-285-2221.

Young Adult Outcomes and Mental Health Problems Among Transition Age Youth Investigated for Maltreatment During Adolescence.

Author(s): Southerland, Danna.;Casaneva, Cecilia E.;Ringeisen, Heather.

Published: 2009

Journal Name: Children and Youth Services Review v. 31, 9, September 2009, p. 947-956

Available from: Elsevier <http://www.elsevier.com/>

Abstract: This study examines the young adult outcomes of a nationally representative cohort of transition age youth who were involved with the Child Welfare System (CWS) during adolescence. We report on the demographic and psychosocial characteristics, risk of mental health problems, and developmental milestones related to young adult outcome among these transition age youth. We also examined the effect of risk for mental health problems on young adult outcomes, over and above other psychosocial risk factors. Many youth were living in poverty, getting married early and already parenting, involved with the criminal justice system and had high levels of mental health need. Being at risk for a mental health problem increased the likelihood of criminal justice system involvement for these youth. Youth transitioning to adulthood with a history of CWS involvement appear to be at risk for negative developmental outcomes. Our findings are consistent with previous findings and highlight the risks associated with the transition to adulthood for youth who were involved with the CWS in adolescence.

Fathering with Multiple Partners Associated with Poor Outcomes in Early Childhood

Young children whose fathers also have children with other women experience greater behavior problems and poorer physical health, according to a new Child Trends study published in the August issue of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. The study, "Fathering with Multiple Partners: Links to Children's Well-being in Early Childhood," finds that paternal depression partially

explains the association between fathers' multiple partner fertility and children's behavior problems. Fathers' multiple partner fertility also influences children's poorer physical health through lack of father involvement. The study is based on the Fragile Families and Child Well-being Study, a longitudinal study of births occurring between 1998 and 2000 in U.S. cities with populations over 200,000. www.childtrends.org

60% of Juvenile Justice System Youth Have Three or More Mental Health Disorders

According to a study from the National Centers for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice over 60% of youth in the juvenile justice system meet criteria for three or more mental health disorders, per a 2006 multi-state study by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. And 60.8% of youth who meet criteria for a mental health disorder also meet criteria for a substance abuse disorder. You can download the study at <http://blog.reclaimingfutures.org.htm>.

Professional Development

IL/SWAN Fall Quarterly Meetings – register now at www.diakon-swn.org

Thursday, October 1 – Best Western East Mountain Inn, Wilkes-Barre

Wednesday, October 7 – Holiday Inn, Clarion

Thursday, October 8 – Holiday Inn, Monroeville

Thursday, October 14 – Central Penn Conference Center, Enola

Wednesday, October 28 – Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport, Philadelphia

Thursday, October 29 – Holiday Inn, Fort Washington

Mid-Atlantic Network for Youth and Family Services (MANY) Comes to Bedford

The 21st Annual MANY Conference, Celebrate Networking! is being held October 19 and 20, 2009, at the historic and beautiful Bedford Springs Resort in Bedford, PA. Please contact the MANY office with questions: 412.366.6562 or many@manynet.org

IL/SWAN Winter Statewide Meeting, Penn State Hotel and Conference Center, State College, January 27-28, 2010.

Pennsylvania Permanency Conference, Lancaster Host Hotel and Conference Center, June 23-25, 2010.

Free Positive Youth Development Training

You can train your staff in Positive Youth Development while avoiding travel costs and registration fees! This new self-paced online course, [Introduction to Positive Youth Development](#), will familiarize your staff with the theory and practice of this positive approach to working with young people. And it's completely free. Staff members who take the course's two modules will learn:

- The internal and external influences that help young people thrive
- How to build individual strengths in youth
- How to create positive places for young people

They'll also receive certificates showing they have completed 1 hour and 45 minutes of training. For more information, contact the National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth at <http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/>

Booster Club Supports Adults Working with Youth in Foster Care

Foster Club, a national online community serving current and former foster youth, has designed a new section for its website—Booster Club, for caring adults who wish to improve the lives of children in foster care. Booster Club highlights various initiatives to raise awareness and generate resources for children and youth in care. The new section covers:

- Foster parenting
- Online training
- Child welfare tools
- Message board for grownups

In addition, Booster Club offers concrete ways for adults to support youth in foster care. For more information, visit the Booster Club section of the Foster Club website:

<http://booster.fosterclub.com>

Independent Living Project Updates:

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 and dates later this summer.

CWTP Training Calendar

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

Know Your Rights Training

The Juvenile Law Center, Kids Voice and the IL Project offer Know Your Rights training for youth, foster parents, casework staff and partner/community agencies. Know Your Rights Part 2: How to Conduct Yourself in Court is an addition to the original training which provides scenarios, role play and practical advice for youth as they prepare for hearings/reviews and advocate for themselves in court. If you have not had the original training and/or you are interested in a session with Part 2, please contact the IL Project specialist for your county or Neha Desai at the Juvenile Law Center: ndesai@jlc.org

People in Transition:

Debbie Kissell, the long-time IL coordinator in Bedford County, moved on to a new position at Children's Behavioral Health on 18 September. Best wishes, Debbie!

Matt Tecza has been named as an IL coordinator for Beaver County. Welcome to IL, Matt!

Leah Bayer is now working with the IL program in Beaver County on a part-time basis. Please welcome, Leah, when you see her.

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