



The Technical Assistance and Training Program for Mentoring System Involved Youth welcomes you to our monthly E-Newsletter.

We hope the information will be useful to you and we encourage you to share this newsletter with other staff and agencies that are also mentoring system involved youth.

If you find a particular Web site, research article, or helpful fact, we encourage you to send them to us and we will disseminate to the listserv.

Quote of the Month:

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered with failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in that grave twilight that knows no victory or defeat.

~ Teddy Roosevelt



January is National Mentoring Month

National Mentoring Month (NMM) highlights mentoring and the positive impact it can have on young lives. Spearheaded by the [Harvard Mentoring Project](#), MENTOR, and the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#), the first ever NMM was held January 2002. This month-long outreach campaign focuses national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us—individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits—can work together to increase the number of mentors and assure brighter futures for our young people. For more information and a great PSA, please visit http://www.mentoring.org/mentoring_month/.

Mentoring Immigrant Youth

Depending on where your program is based, many of your mentors might be working with a high percentage of immigrant youth. The following is a list of recommendations from the National Mentoring Partnership for working with immigrant youth and for matching mentors with this population.

Matching Mentors with Immigrant Youth

1. *Mentee Preferences* – Immigrating to the United States is extremely stressful and involves a lot of change; youth may be feeling powerless and isolated. Thus, it is important to include youth in the matching process and have them discuss whether they want a mentor and why.
2. *Family Preference* – The family must be included in the discussion for their consent and so that they understand the role of the mentor and program. Staff should fully explain/translate the necessary paperwork. It is important to note that some parents may be hesitant to sign forms (based on past experiences) or may feel that their parental authority is being undermined by the mentor. All of these fears should be acknowledged and discussed together.
3. *Ethnicity* – Having mentors of the same ethnicity as your population, while often beneficial, is not essential.

4. *Gender* – Understanding different cultures and gender relations is crucial to having successful matches. Some parents may be very uncomfortable having a male mentor for their daughter or a single female mentor. In making mentor matches, different cultural nuances should be respected and observed.

Working with Immigrant Youth

1. Build programming around the strengths of the youth, their families, and ethnic groups. Promote programming that addresses the challenges of the youth to be served.
2. Support and encourage youth in maintaining cultural, religious, and family values of their country of origin while helping them also to adapt to U.S. culture.
3. Create opportunities for youth to act as leaders, resources, and teachers of their culture and language.
4. Foster feelings of safety, inclusion, and belonging by creating close adult and peer relationships with children.
5. Be creative and flexible in meeting the needs of the youth and family.
6. As much as possible, recruit multicultural and multilingual staff and volunteers.
7. Become knowledgeable about and create links with cultural intermediaries and organizations that serve immigrant families.
8. Engage refugee and immigrant youth, family, and community leaders in designing, running, and/or guiding programs.



Supporting Youth by Strengthening Communities: Helping Children Grow and Preventing Problem Behaviors

This paper explains the DART Model, which provides a comprehensive framework to help communities use their resources to support children and develop healthy adults. The DART model builds on youth development and risk-focused approaches, with a particular emphasis on the importance of mobilizing community resources and activities to support the successful development of all young people as well as to meet the special needs of at-risk youth. This model may be useful for foundations, policy makers, community agencies, and others who wish to develop comprehensive programs, policies, and services for youth and build community capacity. To download the complete report, please visit <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/papers/CSPV-013.html>.

Debating Youth Justice: From Punishment to Problem Solving?

This reports calls for a fundamental overhaul of the current youth justice system in the United Kingdom. The report includes several reaction essays from international youth justice experts, including Chapin Hall's Jeffrey Butts. He notes the similarities between youth justice in the United Kingdom and the United States, and he argues that problem-solving justice is not new. "The emergence of problem-solving justice is not significant because it represents a revolutionary way of thinking. It is significant because it returns the justice system to its foundational principles and a focus on community safety rather than law and order." To view the full report, please visit http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1456.

Mentoring, Policy and Politics

In this Public/Private Venture policy brief, former P/PV President Gary Walker asks, "Is mentoring now a durable part of American social policy? If so, is this unalloyed good news?" Adapted from an article that first appeared in *The Handbook of Youth Mentoring*, this brief reflects on the effect and appeal of mentoring, addresses various critiques of the movement, and suggests future directions for the application of mentoring. To download the full report, please visit http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/publications_description.asp?search_id=7&publication_id=224.

Positive Support: Mentoring and Depression Among High-Risk Youth

This report examines potential benefits of matching high-risk youth with faith-based mentors. Drawing on surveys and interviews with young people who participated in the National Faith-Based Initiative, the report states that mentored youth were less likely to show signs of depression than the youth who were not matched with a mentor. This outcome in turn was related to a variety of other beneficial outcomes, including handling conflict better and fewer self-reported instances of arrests. The report concludes with a consideration of the challenges of implementing a mentoring program for high-risk youth and how the challenges might be overcome. To download the full report, please visit http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/publications_description.asp?search_id=3&publication_id=202.

Conferences and Events

Date: February 8–9, 2008

Location: Long Island University/ CW Post Campus in Brookville, New York

Title: 2008 Mentoring Matters Conference

Sponsor: Mentoring Partnership of Long Island

Description: This two-day conference offers workshops for coordinators, mentors, and mentees.

Workshop topics include development and grant-writing for mentoring programs; Be Inspired-Be Yourself – a leadership workshop for mentees; and more.

Web site: http://www.mentorkids.org/userfiles/File/Save_The_Date_and_Nomination.pdf

Date: March 17–19, 2008

Location: Denver, Colorado

Title: Blueprints for Violence Prevention

Sponsor: Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado, Boulder

Description: The goal of the conference is to disseminate science-based information on youth violence, delinquency, and drug prevention programs that are effective. This conference will motivate the prevention field to adopt evidence-based programs and provide support, guidance, and tools by program experts to help practitioners implement these programs successfully in their own communities.

Web site: <http://www.blueprintsconference.com/>

Date: October 30–November 2, 2008

Location: Baltimore, Maryland

Title: Concerned Black Men National Mentoring Conference

Sponsor: Concerned Black Men National Organization

Description: The CBM National Mentoring conference will be identifying action plans and best practices for mentoring youth. Seminar topics include how to start a mentoring program; finding male volunteers; effective male recruitment strategies; mentoring the hip-hop generation; girl gangs and how mentoring can compete; and supporting volunteers to retain the best mentors.

Web site: <http://cbmnational.org/news/new-date-cbm-national-mentoring-conference-2008>

Grant Opportunities

These are just a few grant opportunities that may be applicable to you or partner organizations.

Title: Mentor Grant Awards

Sponsor: California Mentor Foundation

Description: The California Mentor Foundation provides California youth mentoring programs a collective unified voice. When funds are available, CMF makes grant awards to mentor programs in California.

Award: Unspecified

Eligibility: California-based youth mentoring programs with 501(c)(3) status

Deadline: Rolling

For more information: http://www.calmentor.com/mentoringmovement_resources.fsp

Title: Violence Prevention Grant Programs

Funder: California Wellness Foundation

Description: Violence Prevention Grants are commonly given to organizations that provide services for youth (ages 12–24), including mentoring programs, gang intervention programs, reentry programs, community-based violence prevention programs, and after-school programs. An emphasis is placed on funding organizations that work with at-risk youth, including gang-affiliated and previously incarcerated youth. Grants are also made to organizations that provide leadership development activities to those working in the field of violence prevention, as well as organizations that inform policymakers and opinion leaders about the public health aspects of violence against youth.

Award: \$20,000–\$300,000

Eligibility: The Foundation funds nonprofit organizations in California with a 501(c)(3) status and government agencies. The Foundation rarely funds organizations that do not fall into either of these categories.

Deadline: Rolling

For more information: http://www.tcvf.org/grants_program/index.htm