



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

We hope the information provided 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 all.

Quote of the Month:

A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could. ~ *Unknown*

Mentoring Initiative for System Involved Youth Highlights

The National Conference on Mentoring System Involved Youth, sponsored by OJJDP and the Technical Assistance and Training Program for Mentoring System Involved Youth, will be in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the Hotel Monteleone, April 15–17, 2008. The conference will feature the four demonstration sites of the Mentoring Initiative for System Involved Youth grant and their unique programs. Other topics include mentor recruitment, retention, training, evaluation, and preparing mentors for emotional/attachment issues of their mentees. Please save the date! More information will be coming shortly.

The Technical Assistance and Training Program for Mentoring System Involved Youth has officially launched its Web site: <http://www.mentoringsiyouth.org>. Please check it out! If you have any suggestions, email Amanda Geller, Research Assistant at ageller@edc.org.

Useful Resources

New Model for Treatment of System Involved Youth

Up to 70 percent of the youth who cycle in and out of state and local juvenile justice systems each day suffer from mental health disorders that have gone undetected and untreated. While some juvenile justice systems have begun to form partnerships with the mental health system in order to address this problem, others have done little due to the scarcity of information available on how best to respond. As a result, the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice and the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) have developed a comprehensive model to fill this gap. *Blueprint for Change: A Comprehensive Model for the Identification and Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Needs in Contact with the Juvenile Justice System* provides a framework for juvenile justice and mental health systems to develop policies and programs aimed at improving mental health services for system involved youth. The full report can be accessed at <http://www.ncmhjj.com/Blueprint/default.shtml>.

Initiative Works to Improve Substance Abuse Interventions for Young Offenders

The Reclaiming Futures initiative was designed to improve the integration of juvenile justice and substance abuse services. In an evaluation of the initiative, Chapin Hall suggests that it positively changed the coordination and quality of efforts to reduce substance abuse among young offenders in 10 communities. To read the report, please see [Changing Systems: Outcomes from the RWJF Reclaiming Futures Initiative on Juvenile Justice and Substance Abuse](#), by Jeffrey A. Butts and John Roman.

Report Examines Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency has issued the report [Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Justice System: A Study of Differential Minority Arrest/Referral to Court in Three Cities](#). The report draws on information from delinquency studies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Rochester, New York, and Seattle, Washington, to examine disproportionate minority contact and factors that might affect it at the police contact/court referral level.



Date: March 2–4, 2008

Location: Baltimore, Maryland

Title: Black Administrators in Child Welfare 2008 Annual Conference

Sponsor: Black Administrators in Child Welfare

Description: The 2008 conference focuses on youth who transition from the child welfare system to independent living. BACW is currently seeking [workshop proposals](#) in a variety of categories about preparing youth for adulthood in the context of programs, practice, and policy. Proposals must be received by September 28, 2007.

Web site: http://www.blackadministrators.org/cfp/dsp_overview.cfm

Date: October 21–23, 2007

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Title: National Black Child Development Institute Annual Conference

Sponsor: National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)

Description: This year's theme for the NBCDI conference is The Journey Continues: Giving our Children a Chance. The conference will have more than 150 forums to expand participants' knowledge on child development issues. Keynote speakers include William C. Bell, president and CEO of Casey Family Programs; Dr. Asa Hilliard; and other child development experts. For more information on NBCDI and how to attend the conference, please see the NBCDI Web site listed below.

Web site: <http://www.nbcdi.org/conference>

Date: February 25–27, 2008

Location: Washington, D.C.

Title: Child Children 2008

Sponsor: Child Welfare League of America

Description: The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) is an association of nearly 800 public and private nonprofit agencies that assist more than 3.5 million abused and neglected children and their families each year with a range of services. [CWLA's 2008 conference](#) will focus on the relationship between outcomes, integration, and public policy. Attendees will discuss building public will and achieving positive change for children.

Web site: <http://www.cwla.org/conferences/2008nationalrfp.htm>



Title: Perry/Yonamine Unity Award

Funder: 49ers Foundation

Description: To celebrate the [San Francisco 49ers'](#) 60 year history of exemplifying the power of teamwork to accomplish goals, the team will honor a San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit agency for exceptional outreach efforts to promote unity in the community with the first annual Perry/Yonamine Unity Award. The awards are named after former 49ers players Joe Perry and Wally Yonamine. In addition to a monetary grant in the amount of \$10,000, the chosen nonprofit will receive recognition at a 49ers home game during the 2007 season, a Perry/Yonamine Unity Award plaque, and tickets for volunteers/employees to attend the game. The application packet will be available at the 49ers Web site.

Award: \$10,000

Eligibility: San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit agency that promotes community unity.

Deadline: November 1, 2007

For more information: <http://www.49ers.com/community>

Title: Fostering Healthy Connections Through Peer Mentoring: Foster Youth Give Each Other a Helping Hand

Funder: Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), FosterClub, New York Life Foundation

Description: CWLA, in partnership with FosterClub and the New York Life Foundation, is accepting applications for its Fostering Healthy Connections Through Peer Mentoring grant program. The purpose of the program is to improve educational outcomes, behavioral outcomes, and the number and quality of interpersonal relationships for current foster children and youth through mentorship by former foster youth. This initiative seeks to support eight CWLA member agencies, in geographically diverse areas, in developing or enhancing peer mentoring programs. These peer mentoring programs will be aimed at preparing current and former foster youth to develop healthy connections to improve educational and behavioral outcomes and strengthen the quality and number of interpersonal relationships.

Award: \$26,000–\$37,000

Eligibility: CWLA member agencies

Deadline: October 12, 2007

For more information: <http://www.cwla.org/programs/fostercare/peermentoringrfp.htm>